

“The governmental consensus process has been used to develop building safety codes for decades. Local and state governments use this process to develop their own laws. It protects against the influence of special interests, ensures fairness, and makes the issue of public safety the final deciding factor. That’s why it works so well.”

Lynn Underwood, C.B.O.

*Chief Building Official
Arlington County, VA*

“The ICC process is a much more open process and allows for more public input than any other current process. That’s why I like it, because it’s easier to go to the ICC hearings and, as an individual code enforcer, make a significant impact on the codes.”

Jackie Gibbs

*Chief, Marietta Fire Department
Marietta, GA*

“BOMA members will be best served by a proven set of codes that are ready for adoption across the country: The International Codes.”

2002 BOMA Annual Convention

“ICC follows a straightforward approach in the development and maintenance of its codes. The process is clear, consistent and conducted in an open forum that assures equal access for all interests.”

Jeffrey T. Inks

*ASVP, Codes and Standards
National Association of Home Builders*

“...ICC’s model building code was developed primarily by the building officials and code enforcement officers employed by cities and counties...”

As public servants under the general direction of city/county managers, local building officials have as their primary concern the broad general interest of local governments and the citizens they serve.”

ICMA web site, posted May 2002

“The strength of New York State’s building, fire prevention and energy codes is a direct result of the active participation of our building and fire officials. By adopting the International Codes and the ICC governmental consensus process, we are assuring that the knowledge and experience of our building and fire officials will continue to benefit the ongoing development of our code.”

Dottie Harris

*Assistant Secretary of State
State of New York*

“When I propose a code change at an ICC forum, I know what the results will be shortly after I have spoken. With the other code processes, I can be led to believe that I know the results, only to have those results later changed by another committee.”

Jim. W. Sealy, FAIA

*Architect
Dallas, TX*



*Setting the Standard
for Building Safety™*

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The ICC Governmental Consensus Process



*Setting the Standard
for Building Safety™*

In response to America's need for a single set of consistent construction regulations, the International Code Council® (ICC®) developed, through the governmental consensus process, the first set of coordinated and comprehensive construction and fire codes for use nationwide. Municipalities and states across America adopt and enforce the International Codes™.

ICC develops construction and public safety codes through the governmental consensus process. This system of code development has provided the citizens of the U.S. the highest level of safety in the world for more than 80 years.

The ICC governmental consensus process meets the principles defined by the National Standards Strategy of 2000; OMB Circular A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities (1998). It complies with Public Law 104-113 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995.

The following principles govern ICC's governmental consensus process:

OPENNESS:

- Participation in the development of the codes, including code hearings, is open to all at no cost.
- Anyone can submit a code change proposal or make a public comment.
- Code committees must consider all views before voting.

TRANSPARENCY:

- Evidence of committee vote, with reason, must be documented.
- Final decisions are made in an open hearing by public safety officials.

BALANCE OF INTEREST:

- Committee members represent general interests, user interests, producer interests, or multiple interests. One-third of the committee's members must be public safety officials.
- Committee members cannot vote on issues that are a conflict of interest.
- Membership on a committee is not conditional on membership in ICC.

DUE PROCESS:

- A code change proponent has the opportunity to rebut opponents and vice versa.
- Anyone who attends the hearing can testify.
- Committees are required to consider all views, objections and the cost impact of all code change proposals.



APPEALS PROCESS:

- Anyone can appeal an action or inaction of the code committee.
- ICC renders its decision on the appeal based on whether due process was served.

CONSENSUS:

- Committee members vote to approve the code change, make modifications to it, or vote against it.
- A simple majority from the committee decides the action of the proposed code change.
- ICC assembly action allows members to challenge the action of the committee.

THE INTERNATIONAL CODES:

- Are innovative and coordinated.
- Cannot be influenced by vested financial interests.
- Are efficient and effective.
- Are developed through the efforts of public safety officials.
- Are up to date and state of the art.
- Are revised every 18 months and new editions are published every three years.
- Are economically viable and practical.

GOVERNMENTAL CONSENSUS PROCESS:

- Leaves the final determination of code provisions in the hands of public safety officials who, with no vested financial interest, can legitimately represent the public interest.