Foam plastic insulation is a state-of-the-art building material that plays a critical role in making buildings highly energy efficient while also satisfying fire safety standards. The fire safety standards in today’s building codes govern the use of foam insulation and are based on decades of experience, careful analysis, extensive testing and an inclusive public code development process managed by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC publishes and maintains a family of model codes that provide minimum safeguards for people at home, at school and in the workplace.

The Code Development Process

1. Code Change Proposal Submission
2. Committee Action Hearing
3. Public Comment Period
4. Public Comment Hearing
5. New Edition Published

- The ICC model code development process is based on the principles of openness, transparency, due process and consensus.
- The ICC process draws on an array of experts, including architects, builders, building code officials, contractors, building owners and government officials, as well as experts from industry, academia and product testing organizations.
- The ICC updates its model codes every three years.
- The ICC codes benefit public safety and support the need for regional building code consistency.
- Fifty states, the District of Columbia, multiple federal agencies and an increasing number of countries around the world use the ICC codes.
What Happens in Each Step of the Code Development Process?

1. **Code Change Proposal Submission** – Any person or organization can submit a proposal to add, delete or modify current code provisions. Technical arguments must support each proposal.

2. **Committee Action Hearing** – During this public hearing, the Code Development Committee hears expert testimony for or against each code change proposal. The Committee votes on the proposals, but its vote can be challenged by simple majority of voting ICC members.

   *ICC rules require that one-third of a Code Development Committee’s membership be comprised of public safety officials.*

3. **Public Comment Period** – The public comment period provides another opportunity to comment on the results of the Committee Action Hearing.

4. **Public Comment Hearing** – At the Public Comment Hearing, held in conjunction with the ICC Annual Conference each fall, experts present testimony for or against proposals that received public comment or were challenged by a majority of voting members. Then, ICC members vote on whether to affirm or deny the results of the Committee Action Hearing. The results from this vote serve as the basis for a ballot that is put forth to ICC governmental members after the hearing.

5. **New Edition Published** – The voting on the Public Comment Consent Agenda and the final, online ballot results serve as the basis for the next edition of the code.

The ICC Codes include:

- International Building Code
- International Energy Conservation Code
- International Existing Building Code
- International Fire Code
- International Fuel Gas Code
- International Green Construction Code
- International Mechanical Code
- ICC Performance Code
- International Plumbing Code
- International Private Sewage Disposal Code
- International Property Maintenance Code
- International Residential Code
- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
- International Wildland Urban Interface Code
- International Zoning Code

References


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