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Green Construction Code Set for Spring 2012 Release

It's coming...after two years of refinement and public scrutiny, the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) will be officially integrated into the International Code Council's (ICC) I-Code family in early 2012.

The IgCC is a new approach to safe and sustainable construction created by the ICC and its Cooperating Sponsors. Similar in concept to the ADA's (Americans with Disabilities Act) code system, IgCC will provide a model code to outline minimum requirements for green building design and performance (e.g. energy conservation, water efficiency, waste, material and resource use, site impact, etc.) for new and existing commercial buildings. As it is a "model code," individual governmental jurisdictions will have the option to adopt it as law, adapting it to local conditions. Designed to complement and integrate with existing rating systems such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the IgCC documentation immediately allows "green" initiatives to be implemented into a building code.



The development of this code began in 2009 with the release of IgCC Public Version 2.0, created by a Sustainable Building Technology Committee. It was largely refined in 2010 as a result of eight days of public hearings held in Chicago, IL. Version 2.0 is still a developing document, but it has offered a resource for jurisdictions that have been ready to adopt and regulate a green construction framework before the code's finalization. The Final Action hearings held in November 2011 will wrap up final edits of IgCC Public Version 2.0, with full integration into ICC's code family targeted for March 2012.

The International Sign Association (ISA) states they are "focused on ensuring that the International Green Construction Code represents the best interests of ISA members and the sign industry." ISA testified and submitted comments at three of the public IgCC hearings to help protect the use of certain types of signage and avoid confusion. Their proposed changes are outlined at:
<http://www.signs.org/SignIndustry/TechnicalRegulatoryResources/BuildingCodes/InternationalGreenConstructionCode.aspx#chapters>.

To access IgCC Version 2.0 and download further information, visit the Code Council's website at <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/default.aspx>.

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