



# UCC Code Update

Contractor Resource  
Guide for  
implementation of the  
2021 ICC code series

# Overview

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PA updating UCC standards by adopting 2021 ICC codes effective January 1, 2026.



Key changes: accessibility, energy, mechanical, exclusions.

# Effective Dates & Code Applicability

Effective Date: JANUARY 1, 2026



If a **design *or* construction contract is signed before the new enforceable date**, it may follow the 2018 PA UCC, provided the building permit is applied for within **six months** of the new enforceable date.

If a **design *or* construction contract is signed after the enforceable date** or if the permit is not applied for within that six-month window, the project must comply with the **2021 PA UCC**.

# 2021 Codes Adopted without Modification

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**International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)**



**ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities (ICCPC)**



**International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)**



**International Mechanical Code (IMC)**



**International Plumbing Code (IPC)**



**International Fire Code (IFC)\*** Adopted by reference only

# Exclusions and Modifications

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Chapter 1 Scope and Administration excluded from many codes.



Adopted UCC modifications to: ISPSC, IBC, IEBC, IECC, and IRC



Reference Material: Review the September 14, 2024, UCC 2021 International Codes Adoption Report, prepared by the Review and Advisory Council (RAC)

# Contractor Impacts

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Plan for new accessibility requirements.



Energy reports needed.



Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP)  
coordination.

# International Building Code – Adopted with Modifications

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Structural and life-safety clarifications

Accessibility updated revising: reach ranges, clearances, restroom configurations and route requirements.

Some PA specific amendments carried forward.

# International Residential Code & International Energy Conservation Code – Adopted with Modifications

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Energy updates selective; some 2015 and 2018 sections retained

Mandatory Items: duct leakage testing, insulation values, and building envelope requirements

Quick Tip: Be sure to use the PA-adopted tables when preparing energy documentation

# International Existing Building Code – Adopted with Modifications

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Structural and life-safety clarifications

Accessibility updated revising: reach ranges, clearances, restroom configurations and route requirements.

Some PA specific amendments carried forward.

# International Swimming Pool and Spa Code – Adopted with Modifications

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New safety requirements

PA specific amendments keep administrative fee provisions.

# What Can the Industry Prepare Now?

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UPDATE DESIGN  
TEMPLATES



PREPARE COMPLETE  
ENERGY COMPLIANCE  
SUBMISSIONS



CONSIDER EARLY MEP  
COORDINATION



PLAN FOR INCREASED  
PLAN-REVIEW  
TIMEFRAMES

# Transition Steps

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USE 2021  
REFERENCES.



CHECK PA  
MODIFICATIONS.



SUBMIT  
COMPLETE DOCS.



WHEN IN DOUBT,  
ASK QUESTIONS.

# Kennett Township Planning & Zoning

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