

IRC 2015 Significant Changes	
Building Planning - Chapter 3	Change Type
Sec 301.2 Wind Design Criteria	
Ultimate design wind speed values replace basic values for 3-sec gust wind speeds in Section R301.2.1. A wind speed conversion table has been added for conversion from Ultimate wind speeds to nominal design wind speeds.	Modification
Table R301.2(2) Components and Cladding Loads	
The component and cladding table now uses ultimate design wind speeds in place of former basic wind speeds as limits for loads.	Modification
Sec R301.2.1.1.1 Sunrooms	
The 2015 IRC requires sunrooms to comply with AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100-12. The standard contains construction requirements for habitable and nonhabitable sunrooms.	Addition
Sec R301.2.1.2 Protection of openings in Wind Borne Debris Regions	
Requirements for Glazed openings to be protected from wind borne debris have been clarified by the addition of a new section detailing changes to the ASTM E 1996 standard.	Modification
Sec R302.2 Town House Separation	
Common walls separating town houses must now be rated for 2 hours when an automatic fire sprinkler system is NOT installed in the townhouse dwelling units. The previous two separate 1 hour walls option has been removed. In summary; A single 1 hour wall with sprinkler or a common 2 hour wall. No options provided for two separate 1 hour walls or LSUCCC amendments to that effect.	Modification
Sec R302.13 Fire Protection of Floors	
The provisions for fire protection of floors have been relocated from Chapter 5 to the fire-resistant construction provisions of section R302. New Language clarifies that the code does not regulate penetration or openings in the fire protection membrane.	Clarification
Sec R304.1 Minimum Habitable Room Area	
The requirement for at least one habitable room with a minimum floor area of 120 square feet has been removed from the code. All minimums now shall be at least 70 square feet with the exception for Kitchens.	Modification

Sec 305 Ceiling Height	
The minimum ceiling height for bathrooms, toilet rooms, and laundry rooms has been reduced to 6 feet 8 inches. The exception for allowing beams, girders, ducts, or other obstructions to project to within 6 feet 4 inches has been expanded to include basements with habitable space.	Modification
Sec R308.4.2 Glazing adjacent to doors	
Glazing installed perpendicular to a door in a closed position and within 24 inches of the door only requires safety glazing if it is on the hinge side of an in-swinging door. Previously required regardless of which way the door opened.	Modification
Sec R308.4.5 Glazing and wet locations	
The exception from the safety glazing requirements for glazing that is 60 inches or greater from the water's edge of a bathtub, hot tub, spa, whirlpool, or swimming pool has now been expanded to include glazing that is an equivalent distance from the edge of a shower, sauna, or steam room.	Modification
Sec R311.7.3 & R311.7.5.1 Stair Risers	
The total vertical rise in a stairway without an intermediate landing has increased from 144 inches (12ft) to 147 inches (12ft-3in). The provisions for allowing open risers has been clarified. It is based on the distance above grade or the floor below, not on the total rise of the stair. A new exception clarifies that open risers are permitted on spiral stairways (exception to the 4-inch diameter sphere requirement).	Modification
Sec R311.7.11 & R311.7.12 Alternating Tread Devices and Ship Ladders	
Alternating tread devices and ship ladders have been added to the stair provision. Neither device is approved for use as a means of egress. (prev IBC only)	Addition
Sec 311.8 Ramps	
Ramps that do not serve the required egress door are now permitted to have a slop not greater than 1 unit vertical in 8 units horizontal. All ramps used to be 1:12 but now allowed 8:12 for non-means of egress ramps.	Modification
Sec R312.1.2 Guard Height (fixed seating around decks edge)	
The provisions requiring that the guard height be measured from the surface of adjacent fixed seating has been removed from the code. Strictly now the walking surface only. Consensus held that fixed seating, similar to movable furniture and other objects found adjacent to guards on a deck, should not be regulated as a walking surface.	Modification
Sec R314 Smoke Alarms	
Battery-operated smoke alarms are now permitted for satisfying the smoke alarm power requirements when alterations, repairs, and additions occur. Household fire alarm systems no longer require monitoring by an approved supervising station. New provisions address smoke alarms installed near bathrooms and cooking appliances.	Modification

R314.2.2 Alterations, Repairs and Additions. Where alteration, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. Exceptions: 1. Work involving exterior surfaces. 2. Installation, alteration, or repairs to plumbing or mechanical.	Existing Requirement, no modification
Sec R314.3 Locations - (4) Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3ft horz from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3. (i.e. items 1 thru 3)	Addition
R314.3.1 Installation Near Cooking Appliances. Smoke alarms shall not be installed in the following locations unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm in a location required by Section R314.3.	Addition
1. Ion smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 20ft horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance	
2. Ion smoke alarms with an alarm-silencing switch shall not be installed less than 10ft horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.	
3. Photo electric smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 6ft horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.	
Sec R315 Carbon Monoxide Alarms	
Carbon monoxide alarms now require connection to the house wiring system with battery backup for new construction. Exterior renovations no longer trigger carbon monoxide alarms for existing buildings. When required. New construction or interior renovations where, there is an attached garage with an opening to the dwelling or there is fuel fired appliances in the home. Location - Outside of each bedroom, within bedrooms with fuel fired appliances, and within bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms with fuel fired appliances. Existing dwellings undergoing interior renovations need not be hard wired, but only battery powered. CO2 alarms not required if undergoing renovation is for plumbing or mechanical work only.	Modification
Sec R325 Mezzanines	
New provisions in section R325 place limitations on the construction of mezzanines related to ceiling height and openness consistent with IBC.	Addition
Clear Height above and below mezzanine floor shall be not less than 7 feet.	
Aggregate area shall not be greater than 1/3 the floor area of the room or space in which they are located. Enclosed spaces in that room not included in 1/3 calculation.	
Mezzanines shall be open and unobstructed to the room in which they are located except for walls not more than 42 inches in height, columns, and post. Exceptions: 1. enclosed areas on mezzanine not more than 10% of mezzanine area. 2. buildings no more than 2 stories and equipped with automatic sprinkler having two or more means of egress shall not be required to be open to the room in which the mezzanine is located.	
Chapter 4 Foundations	
Sec R403.1.1 Minimum Footing Sizes	
This code change divides minimum footing size and thickness into three expanded tables based on the type of construction being supported. The Values are also based on the type	Modification

of foundation: slab on grade, crawl space, or basement. (applicable only to our Denham Springs and East Baton Rouge area plan reviews)	
Sec R404.4 Retaining Walls	
Retaining walls, freestanding walls not supported at the top, with more than 48 inches of unbalanced backfill must be designed by an engineer. Retaining walls resisting additional lateral loads (parking on top of the unbalanced fill or fences on the retaining wall) with more than 24 inches of unbalanced backfill must also be designed by an engineer.	Modification
Chapter 5 Floors	
Tables R502.3.1(1) & R502.3.1(2) Floor Joist Spans for Common Lumber Species	
Changes to Southern Pine (SP), Douglas Fir-Larch (DFL), and Hemlock Fir (HF) lumber capacities have changed the floor joist span length in the prescriptive tables of the IRC. Span lengths for Southern Pine have decreased; lengths for DFL and HF joist have increased.	Modification
Sec R507.1 & R507.4 Decking	
The code now sets the maximum allowable spacing for deck joist supporting the various types of common decking materials. New table R507.4 added.	Modification
Sec R507.5, R507.6 & R507.7 Deck Joist and Beams	
New Sections and Tables provide prescriptive methods for joist and beams in Deck Construction.	Addition
Sec R507.8 Deck Post Footings	
New Section established for minimum sizes of wood posts supporting wood decks and describes the requirements for connection of deck posts to the footing.	Addition
Chapter 7 Wall Covering	
Sec R703.9 Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)	
Limitations for exterior insulation and finish systems with and without drainage have been added to the 2015 IRC. Key change: EIFS with drainage shall be required over all wall assemblies with the exception of concrete and masonry wall assemblies.	Modification
Sec 703.11.1 Vinyl Siding Attachment	
This code change clarifies nailing penetration and spacing requirements for horizontal and vertical vinyl siding.	Addition
Sec R703.13 & R703.14 Insulated Vinyl Siding and Polypropylene Siding	
New sections set minimum requirements for insulated vinyl siding and poly propylene siding. Key requirements: must certified and labeled to conforming to ASTM D7793 by approved quality control agency, must be installed over wood structural sheathing with minimum thickness of 7/16" or other substrate composed of wood or wood-based material, and shall not be installed on walls with fire separation distance of less than 5ft to property lines or 10ft to other buildings on the same lot.	Addition

Sec R703.15, R703.16 & R703.17 Cladding Attachment over Foam Sheathing	
Three new sections added to set minimum requirements for cladding attachment over foam sheathing to wood framing, cold-formed steel framing, and masonry or concrete walls. For light-framed construction, prescriptive requirements are given. Connection to concrete and masonry construction continues to require engineered design in most cases when placing foam over the concrete or masonry wall.	Addition
Chapter 8 Roof-Ceiling Construction	
Tables R802.4 & R802.5 Ceiling Joist and Rafter Tables	
Changes to Southern Pine, Douglas Fir-Larch, and Hemlock Fir capacities have changed the maximum spans for lumber in the ceiling joist and rafter span tables of the IRC. Southern Pine spans have decreased and DFL and HF spans have increased.	Modification
Chapter 15 Exhaust Systems	
Sec M1502.4.4 and M1502.4.5 Dryer Exhaust Duct Power Ventilators	
The code now recognizes the use of dryer exhaust duct power ventilators (DEDPVs) to increase the allowable exhaust duct length for clothes dryers.	Addition
Sec M1502.4.6 Dryer Duct Length Identification	
A permanent label identifying the concealed length of the dryer exhaust duct is no longer required where the equivalent duct length does not exceed 35ft. For the dryer exhaust duct exceeding 35ft, a label or tag is required whether the duct is concealed or not.	Modification
Sec M1503.4 Make-up Air for Range Hoods	
Automatic operation of a mechanical damper is no longer required for supplying make up air for kitchen exhaust systems exceeding a rating of 400cfms. Transfer openings are now permitted to obtain makeup air from rooms other than the kitchen. Commentary depicts two options. Option 1: Motorized damper located in the kitchen, controlled by the hood, to supply outside air. Option 2: Transfer air opening in kitchen wall through to another room that is provided with a gravity damper placed in an outside wall to supply outdoor air.	Modification
Sec M1506.2 Exhaust Duct Length	
The code now establishes maximum exhaust duct lengths based on the duct diameter, type of duct and the exhaust fan airflow rating. Example: Table M1506.2 says 4 inch flex exhaust duct for 80cfm fan airflow rating has a max allowable length of 4ft and a 4 inch smooth-wall duct connected to an 80cfm fan air flow rating has a max allowable length of 31ft.	Addition
Chapter 24 Fuel Gas	
G2411.1.1 Electrical Bonding of Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing	
The maximum allowable length of the bonding jumper for corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is 75ft.	Modification

Sec G2414.6 Plastic Pipe, Tubing and fittings	
PVC and CPVC pipe are now expressly prohibited materials for supplying fuel gas.	Modification
Sec G2415.5 Fittings in Concealed Locations	
This section retains the basic intent while being reorganized to clarify correct application. Threaded elbows, tees and couplings are now specifically approved for concealed locations as the code always intended.	Clarification
Sec G2421.2 Medium-Pressure Regulators	
Medium-Pressure (MP) line regulators installed in rigid piping must have a union fitting installed to allow removal of the regulator. The union must be installed within 1 foot of either side of the MP regulator.	Modification
Sec G2426.7.1 Door Clearance to Vent Terminals	
An appliance vent terminal is not permitted in a location within 12 inches of the arc of a swinging door. Door stops or closers shall not be installed to obtain this clearance.	Addition
Sec G2427.8 Venting System Termination Location	
New text addresses the location of sidewall vent terminals with respect to adjoining buildings. A 10-foot separation is required when a vent discharges in the direction of an opening (window/door) in an adjacent building.	Modification
Chapter 25 Plumbing Administration	
Sec 2503.5 Drain, Waste, and Vent Systems Testing	
The head pressure for a water test on drain, waste, and vent (DWV) systems has been reduced from 10 feet to 5 feet.	Modification
Chapter 26 General Plumbing Requirements	
Sec 2603.2.1 Protection Against Physical Damage	
For piping installed through bored holes or in notches, the minimum clearance distance from the concealed piping to edge of the framing members has been reduced from 1-1/2 inch to 1-1/4 inches.	Modification
Table P2605.1 Piping Support	
Support spacing requirements for Pex and PE-RT tubing 1-1/4 inches and greater in diameter have been added to the table.	Modification
Chapter 28 Water Heaters	
Sec P2801	
The code now specifically requires drain valves with a threaded outlet for water heaters. The water heater pan requirements have been expanded to accept aluminum and plastic pans of the prescribed thickness. The code now also clarifies that a pan drain is not required when a water heater is replaced and there is no existing drain.	Modification

Sec P2804.6.1 Water heater Relief Valve Discharge Piping	
The temperature and pressure (T&P) relief valve discharge pipe termination as been modified to not only to include termination not more than 6 inches above the floor but also now requires that the gap be at least two times the discharge pipe diameter.	Modification
Chapter 29 Water Supply and Distribution	
Sec P2901, P2910 through P2913 Nonpotable Water Systems	
Nonpotable water outlets, such as hose connections, that utilize nonpotable water must now be identified with a warning and a symbol that nonpotable water is being used.	Modification
Chapter 30 Sanitary Drainage	
Sec 3003.9 Solvent Cementing of PVC joints	
The application of a primer to drain, waste, and vent PVC pipe and fittings prior to solvent cementing is not required for 4-inch pipe size and smaller, provided that the piping is for a	Modification
Sec 3005.2 Cleanouts	
The section on cleanouts has been completely reorganized for clarity. Brass cleanout plugs are only permitted for metallic piping. Where located at a finished wall, the cleanout must be within 1-1/2 inches of the finished surface. A clean out is no longer required a the base of each waste or soil stack.	Modification
Chapter 3 Building Planning	
Sec R302.5.1 Opening Protection (R305 Fire-Resistant Construction)	
Code amended removing the self-closing device requirement for door openings into garage from residence.	LSUCCC MODIFICATION
Sec R322.2.1 Elevation Requirements (R322 Flood-Resistant Construction)	
Code amended removing the plus 1 foot requirement from the following statement. Item 1. Buildings and structures in flood hazard areas including flood hazard areas designated as Coastal A Zones, shall have the lowest floors elevated to or above the base flood elevation or the design flood elevation.	LSUCCC MODIFICATION
Code amended removing the plus 1 foot requirement from the following statement. Item 2. In areas of shallow flooding (AO Zones), buildings and structures shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to a height of not less than the highest adjacent grade as the depth number specified in feet (mm) on the FIRM or not less than 2 feet if a depth number is not specified.	
Code amended removing the plus 1 foot requirement from the following statement. Item 3. Basement floor that are below grade on all sides shall be elevated to or above base flood elevation or the design flood elevation, whichever is higher.	