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PREFACE

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date mechanical code addressing the design and installation of mechanical systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Mechanical Code* is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

The principal purpose of this is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to the code. The Commentary provides it in a small package and at reasonable cost through coverage of many issues likely to be dealt with when using the *International Mechanical Code*—and then supplements that coverage with historical and technical background.

Strenuous effort has been put into keeping the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary is a convenient reference for mechanical regulations. In the chapters that follow, discussions focus on the full meaning and implications of the code text. Guidelines suggest the most effective method of application and the consequences of not adhering to the code text. Illustrations are provided to aid understanding; they do not necessarily illustrate the only methods of achieving code compliance.

The format of the Commentary includes the full text of each section, table and figure in the code, followed immediately by the applicable commentary to that text. At the time of printing, the Commentary reflects the most up-to-date text of the 2021 *International Mechanical Code*. Each section's narrative includes a statement of its objective and intent and usually includes a discussion about why the requirement commands the conditions set forth. Code text and commentary text are easily distinguished from each other. All code text is shown as it appears in the *International Mechanical Code*, and all commentary is indented below the code text and begins with the symbol ❖.

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the *International Mechanical Code* and not as a substitute for the code. **The Commentary is advisory only**; the code official alone possesses the authority and responsibility for interpreting the code.

Comments and recommendations are encouraged, for through your input we can improve future editions. Please direct your comments to the Codes and Standards Development Department at the Central Regional Office.

ICC gratefully acknowledges the contributions to this provided by Rebecca Quinn, Jeffrey Shapiro and Guy McMann.

For the complete errata history of this code please visit: <https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/>

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