

# IRC<sup>®</sup>

## CODE AND COMMENTARY

VOLUME 2

*The complete **IRC** with corresponding commentary after each section*

2021



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# PREFACE

The principal purpose of the Commentary is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to building construction as it pertains to the regulations set forth in the 2021 *International Residential Code*<sup>®</sup>. The person who is serious about effectively designing, constructing and regulating buildings and structures will find the Commentary to be a reliable data source and reference to almost all components of the built environment.

As a follow-up to the *International Residential Code*, we offer a companion document, the *IRC*<sup>®</sup> *Code and Commentary—Volume 2*. Volume 2 covers Chapters 12 through Appendix AX of the 2021 *International Residential Code*. The basic appeal of the Commentary is thus: it provides, in a small package and at reasonable cost, thorough coverage of many issues likely to be dealt with when using the *International Residential Code*—and then supplements that coverage with historical and technical background. Reference lists, information sources and bibliographies are also included.

Throughout all of this, strenuous effort has been made to keep the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary provides a convenient reference for regulations applicable to the construction of buildings and structures. 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 commentary applicable to that text. At the time of printing, the Commentary reflects the most up-to-date text of the 2021 *International Residential 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 Residential Code*, and all commentary is indented below the code text and begins with the symbol ❖. All code figures and tables are reproduced as they appear in the IRC. Commentary figures and tables are identified in the text by the word "Commentary" (as in "see Commentary Figure R703.4"), and each has a full border.

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the *International Residential 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.

For the complete errata history of this code, please visit: <a href="https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/">https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/</a>
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## *Part V—Mechanical*

CHAPTER 12	MECHANICAL ADMINISTRATION .....	12-1 – 12-4
CHAPTER 13	GENERAL MECHANICAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS .....	13-1 – 13-18
CHAPTER 14	HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES.....	14-1 – 14-16
CHAPTER 15	EXHAUST SYSTEMS.....	15-1 – 15-18
CHAPTER 16	DUCT SYSTEMS.....	16-1 – 16-20
CHAPTER 17	COMBUSTION AIR .....	17-1 – 17-2
CHAPTER 18	CHIMNEYS AND VENTS .....	18-1 – 18-14
CHAPTER 19	SPECIAL APPLIANCES, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS.....	19-1 – 19-4
CHAPTER 20	BOILERS AND WATER HEATERS .....	20-1 – 20-8
CHAPTER 21	HYDRONIC PIPING.....	21-1 – 21-14
CHAPTER 22	SPECIAL PIPING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS .....	22-1 – 22-4
CHAPTER 23	SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY SYSTEMS.....	23-1 – 23-8

## *Part VI—Fuel Gas*

CHAPTER 24	FUEL GAS .....	24-1 – 24-260
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## *Part VII—Plumbing*

CHAPTER 25	PLUMBING ADMINISTRATION.....	25-1 – 25-6
CHAPTER 26	GENERAL PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS .....	26-1 – 26-24
CHAPTER 27	PLUMBING FIXTURES.....	27-1 – 27-28
CHAPTER 28	WATER HEATERS.....	28-1 – 28-12
CHAPTER 29	WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION .....	29-1 – 29-78
CHAPTER 30	SANITARY DRAINAGE .....	30-1 – 30-36
CHAPTER 31	VENTS.....	31-1 – 31-28

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER 32 TRAPS..... 32-1 – 32-6**

**CHAPTER 33 STORM DRAINAGE..... 33-1 – 33-2**

*Part VIII—Electrical*

**CHAPTER 34 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ..... 34-1 – 34-18**

**CHAPTER 35 ELECTRICAL DEFINITIONS ..... 35-1 – 35-1**

**CHAPTER 36 SERVICES ..... 36-1 – 36-34**

**CHAPTER 37 BRANCH CIRCUIT AND FEEDER REQUIREMENTS ..... 37-1 – 37-22**

**CHAPTER 38 WIRING METHODS..... 38-1 – 38-10**

**CHAPTER 39 POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION..... 39-1 – 39-50**

**CHAPTER 40 DEVICES AND LUMINAIRES ..... 40-1 – 40-14**

**CHAPTER 41 APPLIANCE INSTALLATION ..... 41-1 – 41-6**

**CHAPTER 42 SWIMMING POOLS..... 42-1 – 42-20**

**CHAPTER 43 CLASS 2 REMOTE-CONTROL, SIGNALING AND POWER-LIMITED CIRCUITS..... 43-1 – 43-4**

*Part IX—Referenced Standards*

**CHAPTER 44 REFERENCED STANDARDS..... 44-1 – 44-38**

**APPENDIX AA SIZING AND CAPACITIES OF GAS PIPING ..... AA-1 – AA-10**

**APPENDIX AB SIZING OF VENTING SYSTEMS SERVING APPLIANCES EQUIPPED WITH DRAFT HOODS, CATEGORY I APPLIANCES AND APPLIANCES LISTED FOR USE WITH TYPE B VENTS.....AB-1 – AB-10**

**APPENDIX AC EXIT TERMINALS OF MECHANICAL DRAFT AND DIRECT-VENT VENTING SYSTEMS..... AC-1 – AC-2**

**APPENDIX AD RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR SAFETY INSPECTION OF AN EXISTING APPLIANCE INSTALLATION..... AD-1 – AD-6**

**APPENDIX AE MANUFACTURED HOUSING USED AS DWELLINGS .....AE-1 – AE-14**

**APPENDIX AF RADON CONTROL METHODS.....AF-1 – AF-14**

**APPENDIX AG PIPING STANDARDS FOR VARIOUS APPLICATIONS ..... AG-1 – AG-6**

APPENDIX AH PATIO COVERS ..... AH-1 – AH-6

APPENDIX AI PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL.....AI-1 – AI-2

APPENDIX AJ EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ..... AJ-1 – AJ-12

APPENDIX AK SOUND TRANSMISSION ..... AK-1 – AK-2

APPENDIX AL PERMIT FEES.....AL-1 – L-2

APPENDIX AM HOME DAY CARE—R-3 OCCUPANCY ..... AM-1 – AM-2

APPENDIX AN VENTING METHODS ..... AN-1 – AN-6

APPENDIX AO AUTOMATIC VEHICULAR GATES..... AO-1 – AO-2

APPENDIX AP SIZING OF WATER PIPING SYSTEM.....AP-1 – AP-22

APPENDIX AQ TINY HOUSES..... AQ-1 – AQ-8

APPENDIX AR LIGHT STRAW-CLAY CONSTRUCTION..... AR-1 – AR-10

APPENDIX AS STRAWBALE CONSTRUCTION..... AS-1 – AS-36

APPENDIX AT SOLAR-READY PROVISIONS—DETACHED ONE- AND  
TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES .....AT-1 – AT-2

APPENDIX AU COB CONSTRUCTION (MONOLITHIC ADOBE) ..... AU-1 – AU-32

APPENDIX AV BOARD OF APPEALS ..... AV-1 – AV-4

APPENDIX AW 3D-PRINTED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ..... AW-1 – AW-2

APPENDIX AX ZERO ENERGY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROVISIONS ..... AX-1 – AX-2

INDEX ..... INDEX-1 – INDEX-18

RESOURCE A .....RESOURCE A-1