

# Effective Use of the International Fire Code

The *International Fire Code*® (IFC®) is a model code that regulates minimum fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings, facilities, storage and processes. The IFC addresses fire prevention, fire protection, life safety and safe storage and use of hazardous materials in new and existing buildings, facilities and processes. The IFC provides a total approach of controlling hazards in all buildings and sites, regardless of the hazard being indoors or outdoors.

The IFC is a design document. For example, before one constructs a building, the site must be provided with an adequate water supply for fire-fighting operations and a means of building access for emergency responders in the event of a medical emergency, fire or natural or technological disaster. Depending on the building's occupancy and uses, the IFC regulates the various hazards that may be housed within the building, including refrigeration systems, application of flammable finishes, fueling of motor vehicles, high-piled combustible storage and the storage and use of hazardous materials. The IFC sets forth minimum requirements for these and other hazards and contains requirements for maintaining the life safety of building occupants, the protection of emergency responders, and to limit the damage to a building and its contents as the result of a fire, explosion or unauthorized hazardous material discharge.

## Arrangement and Format of the 2012 IFC

Before applying the requirements of the IFC it is beneficial to understand its arrangement and format. The IFC, like other codes published by the International Code Council, is arranged and organized to follow sequential steps that generally occur during a plan review or inspection. The 2012 IFC has been reorganized into 7 Parts as illustrated in the tables below. Each Part represents a broad subject matter and includes the chapters that logically fit under the subject matter of each Part. It is also foreseeable that additional chapters will need to be added in the future as regulations for new processes or operations are developed. Accordingly, the reorganization was designed to accommodate such future chapters by providing reserved (unused) chapters in several of the Parts. This will allow the subject matter parts to be conveniently and logically expanded without requiring a major renumbering of the IFC chapters.

<b>2012 REORGANIZATION OF THE IFC</b>	
<b>Parts and Chapters</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>
Part I – Chapters 1 and 2	Administrative and definitions
Part II – Chapters 3 and 4	General safety provisions
Part III – Chapters 5 through 11	Building and equipment design features
Part III - Chapters 12 through 19	Reserved for future use
Part IV – Chapters 20 through 36	Special occupancies and operations
Part IV – Chapters 37 through 49	Reserved for future use
Part V – Chapters 50 through 67	Hazardous materials
Part V – Chapters 68 through 79	Reserved for future use
Part VI – Chapter 80	Referenced standards
Part VII - Appendices A through J	Adoptable and informational appendices

2012 IFC CHAPTER REORGANIZATION		
CHAPTER NUMBER 2009	CHAPTER NUMBER 2012	CHAPTER TITLE
1	1	Scope and Administration
2	2	Definitions
3	3	General Requirements
4	4	Emergency Planning and Preparedness
5	5	Fire Service Features
6	6	Building Services and Systems
7	7	Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction
8	8	Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings
9	9	Fire Protection Systems
10	10	Means Of Egress
11	20	Aviation Facilities
12	21	Dry Cleaning
13	22	Combustible Dust-Producing Operations
14	33	Fire Safety during Construction and Demolition
15	24	Flammable Finishes
16	25	Fruit and Crop Ripening
17	26	Fumigation and Insecticidal Fogging
18	27	Semiconductor Fabrication Facilities
19	28	Lumber Yards and Woodworking Facilities
20	29	Manufacture of Organic Coatings
21	30	Industrial Ovens
22	23	Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages
23	32	High-Piled Combustible Storage
24	31	Tents and Other Membrane Structures
25	34	Tire Rebuilding and Tire Storage
26	35	Welding and Other Hot Work
27	50	Hazardous Materials—General Provisions
28	51	Aerosols
29	52	Combustible Fibers
30	53	Compressed Gases
31	54	Corrosive Materials
32	55	Cryogenic Fluids
33	56	Explosives and Fireworks
34	57	Flammable and Combustible Liquids
35	58	Flammable Gases and Flammable Cryogenic Fluids
36	59	Flammable Solids
37	60	Highly Toxic and Toxic Materials
38	61	Liquefied Petroleum Gases
39	62	Organic Peroxides

(continued)

<b>2012 IFC CHAPTER REORGANIZATION—continued</b>		
<b>CHAPTER NUMBER 2009</b>	<b>CHAPTER NUMBER 2012</b>	<b>CHAPTER TITLE</b>
40	63	Oxidizers, Oxidizing Gases and Oxidizing Cryogenic Fluids
41	64	Pyrophoric Materials
42	65	Pyroxylin (Cellulose Nitrate) Plastics
43	66	Unstable (Reactive) Materials
44	67	Water-Reactive Solids and Liquids
45	36	Marinas
46	11	Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings
47	80	Referenced Standards
Appendix A-J	Appendix A-J	No changes in reorganization

The IFC requirements for fire-resistive construction, interior finish, fire protection systems, means of egress and construction safeguards are directly correlated to the chapters containing parallel requirements in the IBC, as follows:

<b>IFC Chapter</b>	<b>Subject</b>
7	Fire-resistance-rated construction
8	Interior finish, decorative materials and furnishings
9	Fire protection systems
10	Means of egress
33	Fire safety during construction and demolition