

Top 40 2009 IRC Code Changes

1. R310.1 Habitable attics now require emergency escape/rescue openings.
2. R311, Means of egress has had a philosophical update. Exterior balconies less than 60 square feet only accessible from a door do not require a landing.
3. R401.3 Where 10' of yard is not available, slope away from foundation with a swale is allowed. Impervious surfaces require 2% slope away from structure.
4. R311.5 and R502.2.2.1 Exterior landings, decks, balconies, stairs and similar facilities have changed, as well as deck ledger connections and guard attachments; they must be designed to resist lateral and vertical forces See these sections for the details.
5. R602.6.1 Drilling and notching of top plates by more than 50% now has requirements on the strapping to be used, its length past each side of the notch and the attachment thereof.
6. R 602.10.6.2 Requirements are now included for the attachment of braced wall panels to roof framing.
7. R613 Prescriptive provisions are now included in the code for structural insulated panels.
8. R703.7.3 Lintels for masonry veneer now have requirements within the code.
9. R703.7.4 Masonry veneer anchorage requirements have changed.
10. R703.9 EIFS is now listed in the code, not just as an alternate, and shall comply with ASTM E2568; no more ES reports required.
11. R806 wire mesh no longer mandatory for attic ventilation openings, and 1/16" openings are now allowed.
12. R905 3-tab shingles now include minimum attachment requirements, and step-flashing dimensions are specified, and require kick-outs.
13. M1307.3.1 Now requires approved impact protection for equipment located in garages.
14. M1502 Requires protection of concealed dryer ducts from fasteners where within 1-1/4" of front edge of stud. Protection shall extend a minimum of 2" above sole plates and below top plates.

15. M1502 Now includes more possibilities for figuring lengths of dryer ducts.
16. M1503.4 Requires make-up air for kitchen exhaust greater than 400 cfm, which must be interlocked with the operation of the exhaust hood.
17. M1502.4.5 Where the dryer exhaust duct is concealed within the walls, a permanent tag shall identify the length of the duct.
18. M1601.3 Spray-applied polyurethane foam insulation is now approved for the insulation and sealing of ducts in attic and crawl spaces when it complies with three requirements.
19. M2103.2 Now requires hydronic floor heating piping to have a thermal barrier.
20. G2422.1.2.1 has increased the maximum length of all gas appliance connectors from 3' to 6'.
21. G2447.5 Now requires a minimum clearance over a gas stove; 30" to unprotected cabinets, or 24" to a listed cooking appliance or microwave.
22. P2503.6 now requires testing of shower pan liners.
23. P2705.1 Now includes clearance dimensions for water closets, lavatories and bidets equal to those in the IPC.
24. P2719.1 Floor drains are to be placed so that there is not an appliance placed over them, i.e. furnaces and washing machines.
25. P3005.2.6 There is now a cleanout required at the base of each waste or soil stack; you can no longer just use the exterior cleanout located within 3' of the dwelling for this purpose.
26. P3007 The requirements for sumps and ejectors in the IPC has now been mirrored in the IRC.
27. P3108.1 Requires that each fixture drain must connect independently to a horizontal wet vent.
28. P3108 A water closet is now permitted upstream of the dry vent connection to the horizontal wet vent.
29. E3405.4 The working space about a panelboard shall now include the stud space in the wall; nothing foreign to the electrical system may be placed there.

30. E3603 Electrical supply to a building, even an outbuilding, is now required to contain an equipment grounding conductor; even if there is only one circuit.
31. E3605.5 Above-ground service-entrance cables subject to physical damage shall be protected. Previously only the gas meter and mechanical equipment had this requirement, and now it is extended to electrical service cables.
32. E3609 An intersystem bonding termination shall now be provided external to enclosures at the service equipment and at the disconnecting means for any additional building or structure, and shall be accessible for connection and inspection. Three methods are approved: a) a set of terminals listed for grounding and bonding securely mounted to the meter enclosure, and electrically connected thereto, b) a bonding bar near the service equipment enclosure, meter enclosure, or raceway for service conductors, connected with a minimum 6 AWG CU wire connection to a EGC in the enclosure, or 3) a bonding bar near the GEC with a minimum 6 AWG CU conductor. This is provided for the bonding of telephone, telecable, etc.
33. E3901 Switched electrical outlets are no longer considered as meeting the required outlet spacing unless one-half is not switched.
34. E3705.4.4 Now requires NM conductors penetrating top or bottom plates which are draftstopped (which all penetrations are required to be) must maintain spacing between conductors or be derated.
35. E3901.7 Now requires receptacle outlets for all balconies, decks, or porches 20 square feet and larger, located not more than 6'-6" above the floor surface.
36. E3902.2 Has changed the garage outlet provisions to require they all be GFCI protected. The exception for dedicated appliances has been removed; this includes the garage door opener. The reasoning is that the appliances now all include safeguards which eliminate nuisance tripping.
37. E3902.5 Has removed the exception from GFCI protection in unfinished basements for all but installed fire and burglar alarm systems.
38. E4002.14 Now requires all 125 v 15- and 20-amp receptacles listed in 3901.1 within dwelling units to be tamper resistant.
39. E4003.12 Adds provisions for LED luminaries (lights) within clothes closets. If the fixture is identified for clothes closets, it may meet the clearances for fluorescent fixtures; otherwise it must meet the clearances for incandescents.
40. E4209.1 Requires a dedicated hydromassage tub circuit, and it must have readily accessible GFCI protection.