

ALABAMA

Alabama does not have a statewide residential building code. However, there are efforts underway to rectify this and there are building officials who are supportive. There is no legislation as of this date. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact us.

CONNECTICUT

The new Connecticut State Building Codes will be based on the 2003 International Building and Residential Codes (IBC and IRC) and should be in effect by the beginning of 2007. There are 6 jurisdictions that are designated to be 120 mph, and will be within the wind-borne debris region.

FLORIDA

The 2004 Florida Building Code (FBC) is scheduled to be effective on July 1, 2005, and then mandatory on January 1, 2006. However, there are efforts underway to delay the effective date until October 1, 2005. The updated code will now separate residential from commercial construction. This is due to the integration of the 2003 IBC and IRC as the basis for the new code.

Believe it or not, nothing will change in the code as a result of the 2004 hurricane season. All changes, most of which are due to water intrusion, will be considered as part of the next code change cycle in preparation for the 2007 FBC.

2005 Legislative Activity

The 2005 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 835 and Senate Bill 1232 which direct the Florida Building Commission to adopt the latest edition of ASCE 7, re-evaluate the definition in statute of Exposure C and remove the option for partially enclosed design when the 2004 FBC is updated. A special thank you goes out to Kari Hebrank (our Government Affairs Representative), Representative Detert and Senator Lynn. This has been a very complex and hotly debated issue and they have been real champions to take it on. They have done an outstanding job of making the legislature understand the importance of changing the laws to accommodate stronger, safer, more hurricane resistant structures.

Mandatory Insurance Credits

Find the insurance discounts for opening protection at www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org/mitdb/ Opening protection is categorized as Hurricane (Miami-Dade, ASTM and SBCCI large missile), Basic (ASTM medium missile) and Ordinary (plywood).

LOUISIANA

Currently there is legislation to adopt a statewide residential building code. However, the building community is not supportive. Legislation was introduced in 2004 that was stalled in similar circumstances. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact us.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts has finally updated their codes and they are reported to be effective by the end of 2005. However, the wind-borne debris region, which they had previously removed in the last code, is going to be in effect for 1 mile around the entire state along the coast with the exception of Boston, which will not be affected.

NEW JERSEY

The wind-borne debris region extends out 1 mile from the coast around the state.

NORTH CAROLINA

Although the North Carolina Building Code Council approved a wind-borne debris region that will extend from the Atlantic Ocean inland 1,500 feet in both residential and commercial construction, the effective date will be January 1, 2006. However, the amendment is approved for use if requested by the owner of the permit. There is legislation under consideration to allow jurisdictions to over-ride this limit of 1,500 feet.

RHODE ISLAND

The wind-speed contours have been moved in Rhode Island where the 120 mph line is now the A-1 highway, near the coast. Consequently, the wind-borne debris region now extends from A-1 to the coast along the southern portion of the state and within 1 mile of the coast in the other portions of the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The 2003 IBC went into effect in January 1, 2005 and the 2003 IRC is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2005. The residential moratorium on wind-borne debris enforcement will be removed on July 1, 2005, allowing for enforcement along the entire coastline.

TEXAS

As of January 1, 2005, the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) building codes are the 2003 IRC and IBC with the Texas Revisions and apply to commercial and residential structures.

The modifications from the last version of the codes are the addition of AAMA 450 (Voluntary Performance Rating Method for Muller Fenestration Assemblies) and 506 (Voluntary Specifications for Hurricane Impact and Cycle Testing of Fenestration Products). Additional requirements are now in place for corrosion resistant connectors and fasteners in all unconditioned spaces. For additional information, please contact Sam Nelson at Sam.Nelson@tdi.state.tx.us.

VIRGINIA

The 2003 IBC and IRC became effective on January 1, 2005. The wind-borne debris region extends 1 mile from the coast and does not include the Chesapeake Bay.

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