NMHC National Multi Housing Council®
NAA National Apartment Association

Issue Fact Sheet

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Building Codes and Standards: Current Development Schedule

NMHC/NAA are actively involved in the model code and standard development process to ensure that the multifamily industry's interests are considered and that proposed changes to the codes and standards do not unnecessarily increase the cost of housing.

We focus our work on three key organizations: the International Code Council (ICC); the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). (An overview of the model codes and standards is available in NMHC/NAA's *Building Codes and Standards Overview* Fact Sheet.)

This document provides an overview of the timetable for revising the codes and standards of most interest to apartment firms and NMHC/NAA's participation with each organization.

ICC CODES AND STANDARDS

ICC Codes and Development Timelines

The ICC produces 15 model codes known as the I-Codes. The 2012 editions of these codes have already been finalized, and ICC is now working on its 2015 code editions. ICC has divided its codes into three groups–Group A, B and C–and is considering changes to each group on a staggered schedule.

Group A Codes and Timeline
Proposed changes to the Group A codes were due **January 3**. Code development hearings were held **April 29 - May 6, 2012**. The codes will be finalized in **October 2012** and published in **2015**. Group A includes the following codes of interest to NMHC/NAA:

- **International Building Code**
- **International Fuel Gas Code**
- **International Mechanical Code**
- **International Plumbing Code**
- **International Swimming Pool and Spa Code**

Group B Codes and Timeline
Proposed changes to the Group B codes are due **January 3, 2013**. Code development hearings will be held in **April 2013**. The codes will be finalized in **October 2013** and published in **2015**. Group B includes the following codes of interest to NMHC/NAA:

- **International Energy Conservation Code**
- **International Fire Code**

- **International Property Maintenance Code**
- **International Existing Building Code**

Group C Codes and Timeline
Proposed changes to the Group C codes are due **January 6, 2014**. Code development hearings will be held **April 2014**. The codes will be finalized in **October 2014** and published in **2015**. Group C includes the following codes of interest to NMHC/NAA:

- **International Green Construction Code**

ICC Standards and Development Timelines

In addition to the I-Codes, ICC produces two standards of interest to the apartment sector.

- **ICC 700 – National Green Building Standard (NGBS)**
  Review of the 2008 edition of the NGBS began in November 2010 and is now in its final stages. Publication of the updated NGBS is expected in late 2012 or early 2013.

- **ICC A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities – 2009**
  Action to update the standard began this year. Proposed changes were due July 2012, and the first committee meeting was held August 2012.

NMHC/NAA ICC Committee Appointments

- International Energy Conservation Code – 2012 cycle and backup for 2015 cycle
- ICC 700 – National Green Building Standard and chair of Multifamily Task Group
- Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1)
- ICC Strategic Partner
- Code Development Review Ad Hoc Committee – 2011
- Code Technology Committee and chair of Elevator Lobby Task Group
- ICC Industry Advisory Committee
- Code Action Committee on Sustainability, Energy and High-Performance Building – 2015 Cycle
- Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) and four local FCAC subcommittees
- Building Code Action Committee – 2015 Cycle
- Building Code Interpretation Committee – 2015 Cycle
- Code Correlating Committee – 2015 Cycle

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) CODES AND STANDARDS

The NFPA produces a number of standards that can be adopted independently but are more commonly referenced by the I-Codes.

NFPA Codes and Standards and Development Timelines

- **NFPA 1 Fire Code**
  Updated on a five-year cycle. The current 2008 version will be revised in 2012 with requirements that will appear in the 2013 version.

- **NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code**
  The current 2010 edition is now being updated for items to include in the 2013 version.

- **NFPA 101 Life Safety Code**
  The current 2012 version will be updated in 2013 and 2014 for items to be included in the 2015 version.

- **NFPA 5000 Building Construction and Safety Code**
  The current 2012 version will be updated concurrently with NFPA 101 in 2013 and 2014 for items to be included in the 2015 version.

- **NFPA 70 National Electrical Code**
  The current 2011 edition is now being updated. Committee meetings for the Report on Proposals (ROP) were competed in January 2012. The second and final action of the committee for the Report on Comments (ROC) will be in October 2012 for items to be included in the 2014 version.

NMHC/NAA NFPA Committee Appointments

- Fire Code (NFPA 1)
- National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA 72)

- Life Safety Code (NFPA 101)
- Building Construction and Safety Code (NFPA 5000)
- National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)

ASHRAE STANDARDS

ASHRAE 90.1 and 189.1 standards can be adopted independently but in most cases are adopted as an inclusion in the ICC energy codes. ASHRAE 90.2 has never been adopted by any local jurisdiction.

ASHRAE Standards and Development Timelines

- **ASHRAE 90.1**
  The 2010 version is being updated on a continuous maintenance cycle with addendum updates as necessary. The next version will be published in 2013.

- **ASHRAE 90.2**
  The 2007 edition was scheduled for updated publication in 2010. However, continuing committee work has delayed publication until 2013.

- **ASHRAE 189.1**
  The update process for the current 2011 version has not yet begun.

NMHC/NAA ASHRAE Committee Appointments

- ASHRAE Standard 90.1 – Energy Efficient Design of New Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings - Consultant
- ASHRAE Standard 90.2 – Energy Efficient Design of Low-Rise Residential Buildings
- ASHRAE Standard 189.1-2009 – Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

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