

# NOTICE

Issued by the Department of

## Planning & Growth Management

Notice #  
12-19

Release Date  
11/15/12

Contact  
Don A. Litten, Jr.  
Building Code Official  
Codes, Permits &  
Inspection Services

Phone  
301-645-0681

Charles County  
Government

Department of  
Planning & Growth  
Management

Peter Aluotto,  
*Director*



Equal Opportunity  
County  
*Say No To Drugs*

2012 International Building Code  
2012 International Residential Code  
Highlight of Changes in the 2012 Code Seminar

Effective November 30, 2012, the International Building Code 2012 and the International Residential Code 2012 will become the building codes for Charles County. The Commissioners met on October 16, 2012 and passed Bill 2012-09 containing the local amendments to the code. Copies of the Code and Bill are available at the Permit Center as well as [www.charlescounty.org/commissioners/codehomerule/apps/legislation](http://www.charlescounty.org/commissioners/codehomerule/apps/legislation). A Public Seminar that will discuss the highlight of changes in the 2012 Building Code will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room located on the first floor of the Charles County Government Building.

The following are the highlight of changes to the present code:

**1. Strict Enforcement of the 2012 International Energy Efficiency Code (IECC)**

In accordance with Maryland Building Performance Standards all Residential structures must comply with the 2012 IECC. The following list are **mandatory** requirements:

- Section R401.3-Certificate
- Section R402.4- Air Leakage
- Section R402.5 – Maximum Fenestration U Factor and SHGC
- Section R403.1- HVAC Controls
- Section R403.1.2 – Heat Pump Supplementary Heat
- Section R403.2.2 – Duct Scaling
- Section R403.2.3 – Building Cavities as Ducts or Plenums
- Section R403.3 – Mechanical System Piping Insulation
- Section R403.4.1 – Circulating Hot Water Systems
- Section R403.5 – Mechanical Ventilation
- Section R403.6 – Equipment Sizing

Section R403.7 – Systems Serving Multiple Dwelling Units  
Section R403.8- Snow Melt Control Systems  
Section R403.9 – Pools and Inground Permanently Installed Spas  
Section R404.1 – Lighting Equipment  
Section R404.1.1-Fuel Gas Lighting Equipment

And either the **Prescriptive** or **Performance** Provisions:

**Prescriptive Option Requirements**

Section R402.1 – General  
Section R 402.2 – Special Insulation Requirements  
Section R 402.3 – Fenestration  
Section R.403.2.1- Duct Insulation  
Section R 403.4.2 – Hot Water Pipe Insulation

**Performance Option Requirements**

Section R405-Simulated Performance Alternative

**2. Automatic Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems for Additions and Alterations**

An automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall not be required for additions or alterations to existing buildings that are not already provided with an automatic residential sprinkler system; **UNLESS** the proposed addition results in an increase in the existing square footage of the structure by more than fifty percent (50%), or if the alteration will involve more than seventy percent (70%) of the existing square footage”. The square footage of every room being added or altered shall be included in the calculation of total square footage for the addition or alteration. The entire square footage of an individual room shall be considered added or altered when at least fifty percent (50%) or greater of the linear length of interior wall sheathing or ceiling, concrete, brick or masonry substance of any one wall within the room is new, removed or replaced.

**The following is a listing of all codes that will be adopted by Charles County:**

**2012 International Building Code (IBC)**  
**2012 International Residential Code (IRC)**  
**2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)**  
**2012 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)**  
**2012 International Mechanical Code (IMC)**  
**2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC)**  
**2012 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)**  
**2011 National Electric Code (NEC)-State Electric Code**  
**2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code – State Fire Code**  
**2012 NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code – State Fire Code**

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Amy Coombs or Don Litten at (301)645-0681 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or via e-mail at [littend@charlescounty.org](mailto:littend@charlescounty.org) .

“Those citizens with special needs please contact Don A. Litten, Jr. , Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, Building Code Official, voice phone (301)645-0681 or Maryland Relay Service TDD 1-800-735-2258 or 7-1-1.”