



PUBLIC CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM FOR PUBLIC PROPOSALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CODES

2006/2007 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

CLOSING DATE: All Proposals Must Be Received by March 24, 2006

The 2006/2007 Code Development Hearings are scheduled for
September 20 to 30, 2006 in Orlando, FL

- 1) **Name:** Ronald Majette **Date:** March 24, 2006
Jurisdiction/Company: United States Department of Energy
Submitted on Behalf of: United States Department of Energy
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- 2) ***Signature:** _____
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Signature for electronic submittal: When submitting proposals electronically, to complete the submittal process, print a copy of the ICC Electronic [Copyright Release](http://www.iccsafe.org) form found at www.iccsafe.org, fill in the requested information, send to ICC. One completed form is required. This must be done for each code change cycle and can be used for code changes and public comments.

- 3) Indicate appropriate International Code(s) associated with this Public Proposal – Please use Acronym: IRC
 If you have also submitted a separate coordination change to another I-Code, please indicate the code: _____
 (See section below for list of names and acronyms for the International Codes).

- 4) **Be sure to format your proposal and include all information as indicated on Page 2 of this form.**

- 5) Proposals should be sent to the following offices via regular mail or email. An e-mail submittal is preferred, including an electronic version, in either Wordperfect or Word. The only formatting that is needed is **BOLDING**, ~~STRIKEOUT~~ AND UNDERLINING. Please do not provide additional formatting such as tabs, columns, etc., as this will be done by ICC

Please use a separate form for each proposal submitted. Note: All code changes received will receive an acknowledgment.

Please check here if separate graphic file provided.

Graphic materials (Graphs, maps, drawings, charts, photographs, etc.) must be submitted as separate electronic files in .CDR,.IA,.TIF or .JPG format (300 DPI Minimum resolution; 600 DPI or more preferred) even though they may also be embedded in your Word or Wordperfect submittal.

| Code | Send to: | <u>Acronym</u> | <u>ICC Code Name</u> |
|--------|--|----------------|---|
| IBC | International Code Council | IBC | International Building Code |
| ICC EC | Chicago District Office | ICC EC | ICC Electrical Code–Administrative Provisions |
| IEBC | Attn: Diane Schoonover | IECC | International Energy Conservation Code |
| IFC | 4051 West Flossmoor Road | IEBC | International Existing Building Code |
| IFGC | Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795 | IFC | International Fire Code |
| IPC | Fax: 708/799-0320 | IFGC | International Fuel Gas Code |
| IPSDC | codechanges@iccsafe.org | IMC | International Mechanical Code |
| IPMC | | ICC PC | ICC Performance Code |
| IWUIC | | IPC | International Plumbing Code |
| IZC | | IPSDC | International Private Sewage Disposal Code |
| | | IPMC | International Property Maintenance Code |
| IECC | International Code Council | IRC | International Residential Code |
| ICC PC | Birmingham District Office | IWUIC | International Wildland-Urban Interface Code |
| IMC | Attn: Annette Sundberg | IZC | International Zoning Code |
| IRC | 900 Montclair Road | | |
| | Birmingham, AL 35213-1206 | | |
| | Fax: 205/592-7001 | | |
| | codechangesbhm@iccsafe.org | | |

CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL

Please provide all of the following items in your code change proposal. Your proposal may be entered on the following form, or you may attach a separate file. However, please read the instructions provided for each part of the code change proposal. The sections identified in parentheses are the applicable sections from CP #28 Code Development. The full procedures can be downloaded from www.iccsafe.org.

Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision (3.3.2): M1601.4

Name/Company/Representing (3.3.1): Ronald Majette/United States Department of Energy

Proposal:

Add text as follows:

M1601.4 Under-floor Plenums. An under-floor space used as a supply plenum shall conform to the requirements of this section. Fuel gas lines and plumbing waste cleanouts shall not be located within the space. An unvented (conditioned) crawlspace that receives supply air for purposes of conditioning the crawlspace, whether or not there is provision for return of air from the crawlspace to the air handler either directly or via air grilles connected to the other conditioned spaces, shall not be considered a plenum for purposes of this section.

Supporting Information (3.3.4 & 3.4):

Purpose: The purpose of this code change is to clarify that conditioned crawlspaces are not to be considered plenums.

Reason: The code currently creates the potential for confusion when conditioned crawlspaces receive supply air. The code as written has been interpreted in some jurisdictions to classify such crawlspaces as plenums, which prohibits the placement of fuel gas lines and plumbing waste cleanouts therein. This change proposal will ensure that, for these purposes, conditioned crawlspaces are uniformly treated in the same manner as conditioned basements rather than as plenums.

Substantiation: The construction of conditioned crawlspaces is increasingly used as an energy-efficiency strategy because it allows supply ducts to be inside the building thermal envelope. The U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program, for example, has demonstrated the use of conditioned crawlspaces for locating ducts and mechanical equipment and for improving health, durability, and comfort.

References:

- http://www.buildingscience.com/resources/foundations/conditioned_crawl.pdf
- <http://www.ibacos.com/pubs/CrawlspaceInsert.pdf>
- Systems Engineering Approach to Development of Advanced Residential Buildings, Report No. 7.D.1. Code Related Barriers, prepared by Building Science Corporation for National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO. June 2205.

Referenced Standards (3.4 & 3.6): N/A

Cost Impact (3.3.4.6): The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.