

CHANGES TO THE 2012 I-CODES

The new edition of the 2012 International Residential Code (2012 IRC), and 2012 International Building Code (2012 IBC), was recently released.

There are several changes related to ICFs in the 2012 I-codes. It is worth noting that most changes to the I-codes took place in the 2009 edition of the IRC, and has carried through to the 2012 edition. The major changes are summarized in this document.

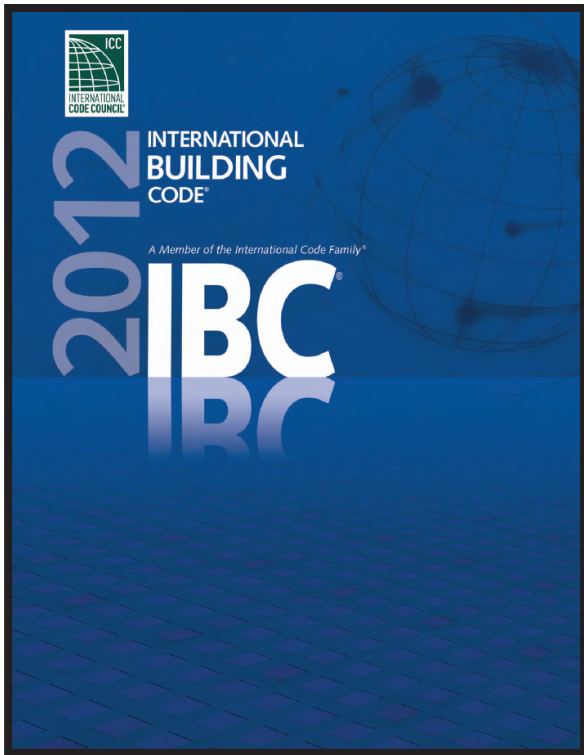
REFERENCES TO ICFs

Prior to the 2009 edition of the IRC, ICFs were typically referred to as “flat ICF wall systems”. That reference has been replaced with “flat concrete walls”. The one exception is the new requirement where “flat ICF wall systems” must conform to ASTM E2634, *Standard Specification for Flat Wall Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Systems*^{1,2}.

ABOVE-GRADE WALLS

In the IRC, the reinforcement table for above-grade walls is now based on wind speeds instead of wind pressures. In addition, wall thicknesses now range in 4, 6, 8 & 10 inches³.

A new requirement in the 2012 IRC requires that exterior walls must be protected from sunlight and physical damage by an “approved” exterior wall covering. Masonry veneer, stucco and other finishes are noted as complying to this requirement⁴.



BELOW-GRADE WALLS

In the IRC, the concrete wall thicknesses for the below-grade reinforcement tables have changed from 5.5, 7.5 and 9.5 inches to 6, 8 and 10 inches⁵.

NEW ENERGY CODE REQUIREMENTS

Perhaps the most notable changes are the new energy efficiency code requirements of Chapter 11 and Chapter 13 of the 2012 IRC and IBC, respectively. Details of the changes to the new energy code requirements can be found in Technical Bulletin 33, *Changes to the US Energy Code - Commercial & Residential*.

For further information contact your local LOGIX representative or [e-mail info@logixcf.com](mailto:info@logixcf.com).

Related Articles:

1. Technical Bulletin 23, Thermal Performance: The ICF Effect
2. Technical Bulletin 27, Changes to the Canadian Building Codes
3. Technical Bulletin 30, Total R-value of LOGIX Wall Assemblies
4. Technical Bulletin 32, Changes to Canadian Energy Codes 2012 - Commercial & Residential
5. Technical Bulletin 33, Changes to the US Energy Codes 2012 - Commercial & Residential
6. Technical Bulletin 34, Ontario Energy Codes 2012 - Commercial & Residential

1. See 2012 IRC, R611.4.4, and 2012 IBC, 1903.3
2. LOGIX has been evaluated, and conforms, to the requirements of ASTM E2634.
3. See 2012 IRC, Table 611.6(1)
4. See 2012 IRC, R611.4.3
5. See 2012 IRC, R404.1.2 (2, 3 & 4)