

PREFACE

Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fuel gas code addressing the design and installation of fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Fuel Gas Code*®, in this 2003 edition, is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive fuel gas code establishes minimum regulations for fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new fuel gas system and appliance designs. This 2003 edition is fully compatible with all the *International Codes*® (I-Codes®) published by the International Code Council® (ICC)®, including the *International Building Code*®, *ICC Electrical Code*®, *International Energy Conservation Code*®, *International Existing Building Code*®, *International Fire Code*®, *International Mechanical Code*®, *International Code Council Performance Code*®, *International Plumbing Code*®, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*®, *International Property Maintenance Code*®, *International Residential Code*®, *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*™ and *International Zoning Code*®.

The *International Fuel Gas Code* provisions provide many benefits, among which is the model code development process that offers an international forum for fuel gas technology professionals to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

Development

The first edition of the *International Fuel Gas Code* (1997) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 1996 by a development committee appointed by ICC and consisting of representatives of the three statutory members of the International Code Council: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) and the gas industry. The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of regulations for fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances consistent with and inclusive of the scope of the existing mechanical, plumbing and gas codes. Technical content of the latest model codes promulgated by BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI and ICC and the *National Fuel Gas Code* (ANSI Z223.1) was utilized as the basis for the development. This 2003 edition presents the code as originally issued, with code changes approved through the ICC Code Development Process through 2002 and standard revisions correlated with ANSI Z223.1-2002. A new edition such as this is promulgated every three years.

With the development and publication of the family of *International Codes* in 2000, the continued development and maintenance of the model codes individually promulgated by BOCA (“BOCA National Codes”), ICBO (“Uniform Codes”) and SBCCI (“Standard Codes”) was discontinued. This 2003 *International Fuel Gas Code*, as well as its predecessor — the 2000 edition, is intended to be the successor fuel gas code to those codes previously developed by BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI.

The development of a single set of comprehensive and coordinated family of *International Codes* was a significant milestone in the development of regulations for the built environment. The timing of this publication mirrors a milestone in the change in structure of the model codes, namely, the pending Consolidation of BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI into the ICC. The activities and services previously provided by the individual model code organizations will be the responsibility of the Consolidated ICC.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a fuel gas code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

Format

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is segregated by section numbers into two categories — “code” and “standard” — all coordinated and incorporated into a single document. The sections that are “code” are designated by the acronym “IFGC” next to the main section number (e.g., Section 101). The sections that are “standard” are designated by the acronym “IFGS” next to the main section number (e.g., Section 304).

Adoption

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction’s laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the adopting jurisdiction. These locations are shown in bracketed words in small capital letters in the

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code and in the sample ordinance. The sample adoption ordinance on page v addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text.

Maintenance

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate. The code development process of the *International Fuel Gas Code* is slightly different than the process for the other *International Codes*.

Proposed changes to text designated “IFGC” are subject to the ICC Code Development Process. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Code and Standard Development Department of the International Code Council.

Proposed changes to text designated as “IFGS” are subject to the standards development process which maintains the *National Fuel Gas Code* (ANSI Z223.1). For more information regarding the standard development process, contact the American Gas Association (AGA) at 400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

While the development procedure of the *International Fuel Gas Code* assures the highest degree of care, ICC and the founding members of ICC — BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI — and AGA, their members and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions because ICC, its founding members and AGA do not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers

In each ICC Code Development Cycle, proposed changes to sections marked “IFGC” are considered at the Code Development Hearing by the International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed changes. Proposed changes to a code section whose number begins with a letter in brackets are considered by a different code development committee. For instance, proposed changes to code sections which have the letter [B] in front (e.g., [B] 302), are considered by the International Building Code Development Committee at the Code Development Hearing. Where this designation is applicable to the entire content of a main section of the code, the designation appears at the main section number and title and is not repeated at every subsection in that section.

The content of sections in this code which begin with a letter designation is maintained by another code development committee in accordance with the following: [B] = International Building Code Development Committee and [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee.

Marginal and Text Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2000 edition of the *International Fuel Gas Code*. Deletion indicators (➡) are provided in the margin where a paragraph or item has been deleted. Underlines within the body of the code indicate a technical change to the 2006 North Carolina Fuel Gas Code from the requirements of the 2003 edition of the *International Fuel Gas Code*.