

# HOW ARE CODES & STANDARDS DEVELOPED?

INTRODUCTION TO LIFE SAFETY & BUILDING CODE SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2023

## SUMMARY

Building codes & standards are written and developed by technical committees from code development organizations. Committee membership is usually a volunteer position by members who are nominated and represent a selection of different interest categories.

### NFPA Code & Standard Development Process

- NFPA codes & standards are referred to as **consensus documents**, meaning that the process for development is open, systematic, and reviewed by multiple parties who represent different interests.
- Codes and standards are updated on three- to five-year cycles, with a formalized revision process and revision cycle. This includes (1) public input, (2) public comment, (3) NFPA technical meeting, and (4) standards council action.

### International Code Council Code Development Process

- The international code council updates their documents every three years, in three stages: (1) code change proposals are submitted, (2) each proposal is reviewed, brought in an open forum in the Committee Action Hearing (CAH), where there is a review process and then a Public Comment Hearing (PCH), and finally (3) eligible voters cast their votes for a consensus vote. The new code edition is published with approved changes.



**Standards Council Action**  
(overseer of the NFPA code development process)



**Committee Action Hearing**  
(part of the International Code Council review process)

## VIDEO LINK

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