WHAT IS A MODEL CODE?

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

SUMMARY

A **model code** is the **"template"** or the **"example."** It is the "model" upon which adopted codes are based.

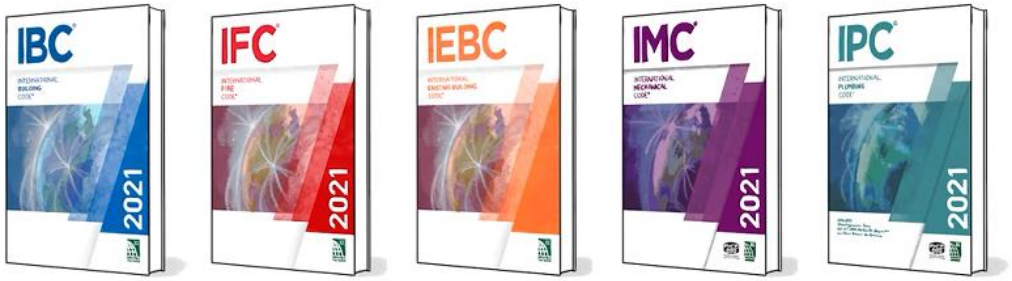
- In the United States, the "model codes" typically refer to the I-Codes, the series of codes adopted by the International Code Council (ICC).
- Model codes themselves are not enforceable. **Adoption and enforcement of codes** is not by the ICC, but **at the township, county, state or federal** level, depending on who has legal authority for the construction and occupancy of buildings in the jurisdiction.

An **adopted code** is the actual code that is adopted into law, by a local, regional, or federal authority.

- Many jurisdictions create amendments to the model code, which, with the amendments, becomes the enforceable code.

Building Codes & Fire Codes

- Every jurisdiction in the US adopts some type of **building code**, which is typically enforced by the local building department.
- However, nearly all projects fall under some type of **fire code**, which is typically enforced by the fire department. The fire code applies to building design and construction as well as throughout the life of the building.



Example Model Codes by the International Code Council (ICC)
(left-to-right: International Building Code, International Fire Code, International Existing Building Code, International Mechanical Code, International Plumbing Code)

Model Building Code (IBC) and Fire Code (IFC)
(developed by ICC)

Building Code (NFPA 5000) and Fire Code (NFPA 1)
(developed by NFPA)

NFPA 101 Adoption for Federal & Healthcare Agencies
(Agencies can adopt additional codes & standards, which may overlap other adopted codes)

VIDEO LINK

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