

2018 International Residential Code Significant Changes

R302.5 An automatic-closing device is now permitted as an alternative to a self-closing device for the door between the garage and the dwelling.

R302.13 Fire resistant membrane protection is now required in crawl spaces containing fuel fired or *electrical powered heating appliances*.

R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue openings are no longer required in basement bedrooms when the dwelling is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. And there are two other means of egress from the basement.

R311.7.3 The maximum rise of a flight of stairs has been increased from 147 to 151 inches.

R312.1 Guards are now required on decks on only those portions that exceed 30 inches above grade.

R314 Where alterations repairs or additions are done to a dwelling, the dwelling unit shall be equipped with interconnected smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. (no exceptions due to advances in wireless technology)

R324.6 Requirements for roof access and pathways for firefighters have been introduced for rooftop-mounted photovoltaic solar energy systems.

R403.3(1) Requirements have changed for insulation on shallow frost-protected foundations.

R507.2 Requirements have been added for fasteners, connections and alternative materials for deck construction.

R602.7(1)&(2) Tables for girder and header spans have been updated.

R703.2 Water resistive barriers other than No. 15 felt shall be installed following the manufacturer's installation instructions.

R703.3.1 Requirements for soffit construction are clarified in high wind areas.

N1104.1 The required percentage of permanent lighting fixtures having high-efficiency lamps has increased from 75% to 90%.

M1305.1.1 The appliance access and clearance requirements have been removed from the code in favor of the manufacturer's instructions.

M1502.3.1 A minimum area of 12.5 square inches has been established for dryer exhaust duct terminations.

M1502.4.2 Wall and ceiling cavities enclosing dryer exhaust ducts must provide sufficient space that the 4-inch duct is not squeezed out of its round shape.

G2420.5.1 Shutoff valves located behind moveable appliances are considered as meeting the requirements for access.

G2420.6 Shutoff valves in gas tubing systems require rigid support separate from the tubing system to prevent damage at the connection.

P2503.7 Compressed-air testing of PEX water supply piping is now allowed when testing in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

P2704 Slip joints are permitted anywhere between the fixture outlet and the drainage piping and are no longer limited to the trap locations.

P2713.1 Overflow outlets are no longer required for bathtubs.

P2801.6 Plastic safety pans are now allowed for gas water heaters as long as they are listed and labeled for that purpose.

P2903.5 A water hammer arrestor is now required where quick-closing valves are used in a water distribution system.

P2906.6.1 Saddle tap fittings are no longer permitted on water systems.

P3111 Food waste disposers are now permitted to connect to a combination waste and vent system.

P 3114.8 An air admittance valve cannot be used to resolve the problem of an open vent that is too close to a building air intake. (example – second story window)

E3703.5 A separate 20-amp branch circuit is now required to serve receptacle outlets of garages.

E3901.2 Cabinets with countertops are now considered wall space in determining required locations for general purpose outlet receptacles.

E3901.3 An individual 15amp branch circuit is permitted to serve any specific kitchen appliance.

E3901.9 A receptacle outlet must be located in each vehicle bay in a garage.

E3902.4 GFCI protection is now required for lighting outlets in crawl spaces.

Appendix Q Covers provisions for tiny houses as defined as dwellings w/ max. 400sq.ft.

