

<b>Important Changes to the 2015 IBC (cont'd)</b>			
<i>Section(s) and Issue(s)</i>	<i>Type of Change</i>	<i>Cost Implication</i>	<i>Comment</i>
IBC 705.6 “Exterior Wall-Structural Stability”	Major Change	Decrease	Exterior fire-rated walls that are braced by floor or roof assemblies that have a lesser fire resistance rating are now permitted. Previous editions of the IBC Code required Construction Type III buildings with two -hour fire-rated exterior walls to have floors that support the two-hour fire-rated exterior walls to be upgraded to the two-hour fire rating. This is a major cost since apartment buildings built of Construction Type III under the legacy codes only required one-hour floor and roof assemblies to support the two-hour fire-rated exterior walls.
IBC 707.5 Exception 2 “Fire Barriers–Continuity”	New: Clarification	Decrease	Clarifies that the walls of an interior exit stairway do not need to extend through the attic space to the underside of the roof deck if the ceiling of the stairway terminates with a fire-rated top enclosure complying with Section 713.12.
IBC 714.4.2 Exception 7 “Membrane Penetration” <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px; color: red; font-size: small;">The exception includes the requirement for a double top plate when using this design</div>	Revision	Decrease	This exception was new in the 2012 IBC (Section 714.4.1.2 Exception #7) and allowed for a practical application of the code in circumstances where wood-framed walls extend up to and attach directly to the underside of joist/trusses floor and roof fire-rated assemblies. It was further modified to permit the wood framed walls to be sheathed solely with Type X gypsum wallboard in lieu of being a fire resistance rated wall assembly.
IBC 717.1.1 “Ducts and Air Transfer Openings”	New Provision	Decrease	Duct will be allowed to leave a fire-rated shaft enclosure, transition horizontally, and then enter another fire-rated shaft if the duct penetrations on each side of the shafts are protected with fire dampers. Note that this is not permitted for clothes dryer exhaust ducts or any other ducts that the I Codes require to be continuous and uninterrupted.
IBC 903.2.1.6 “Assembly Occupancies on Roof”	New Provision	Decrease	Code now addresses how to deal with assembly occupancies on the roof of a building. When the occupant load > 100 for Group A-2 (i.e., restaurant), or > 300 for other Group A (i.e., meeting rooms, swimming pools) all floors to, and including, level of exit discharge are required to be sprinklered per NFPA 13 or NFPA 13R, as applicable. Since all new Group R occupancies are already required to be sprinklered, this new requirement is a good clarification of the Code for such common assembly occupancies that are to be located on the roofs of new apartment projects. Note that there is an exception to this sprinkler requirement for open parking garages of Construction Type I or Type II.