

Rec'd 7/23/18
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Erik C. Johnston
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

July 16, 2018

TO: Virginia approved Compliance Assurance Agencies (CAA)
RE: Adoption of new Building Codes and Regulations

Dear Compliance Assurance Agency Administrator:

Please be advised that effective September 4, 2018 the Commonwealth of Virginia will adopt a new edition of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). The USBC will incorporate by reference the 2015 International Building Code and the whole family of the 2015 International Codes, with Virginia amendments. A new edition of the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR) will also be adopted.

The 2015 edition of the IBSR will provide a grace period of one year (i.e. designs for structures will be permitted to comply with the 2012 editions of the codes until September 3, 2019). The administrative provisions of the 2015 IBSR will go into effect September 4, 2018.

One important change in the 2015 IBSR concerns the industrialized building certifications seals. Currently, Virginia utilizes two types of certification seals. One seal is for structures designed to the Virginia Construction Code (VCC), and the other is for structures designed to the Virginia Residential Code (VRC). The current cost of VCC seals is \$75 and the cost of VRC seals is \$50. **Effective September 4, 2018, the cost of VRC seals will increase to \$75.**

Another change to the 2015 IBSR involves Section 13VAC5-91-180 (B) & (C) "Compliance Assurance Agencies". The 2012 edition of the IBSR required all CAAs to reapply to this office for re-approval every two years. This requirement and these subsections have been deleted. CAAs are no longer required to reapply for re-approval.

The 2015 USBC and the IBSR were published in the Virginia Register on April 30, 2018. Once the Regulations become effective, you will be able to access the 2015 editions at www.dhcd.virginia.gov. Under the Building Code tab, click on Regulation Archives for the 2015 updates.

Please advise your clients of these changes to the Virginia USBC and the IBSR.

Contact Eric Leatherby at eric.leatherby@dhcd.virginia.gov or 804-371-7165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Jeff Brown
Director
State Building Codes Office

