

Introduced 3/2/15  
Public Hearing 3/16/15  
Council Action 4/16/15  
Executive Action 4/19/15  
Effective Date 6/9/15

## County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 10 -2015

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT adopting the International Building Code, 2015, the International Residential Code, 2015, the International Mechanical Code, 2015, and the International Energy Conservation Code, 2015; providing that such codes collectively comprise the Howard County Building Code; regulating the design, construction, alteration, improvement, or modification of a building, structure, or other related equipment; adopting certain local amendments to the Building Code; adopting penalties for the violation of the Building Code; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the regulation of building and construction in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time March 2, 2015. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on March 16, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 6, 2015 and Passed ☒ Passed with amendments ☐ Failed ☐

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015 at 11:45 a.m./p.m.

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive April 9, 2015

Allan H. Kittleman  
Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. *Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the  
2 *Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By repealing and reenacting:*

4 *Title 3. Buildings.*

5 *Subtitle 1. Building Code.*

6 *Section 3.100. Howard County Building Code; adoption of international codes.*

8 *Title 3. Buildings.*

9 *Subtitle 1. Building Code.*

10 *Section 3.101. Amendments to the International Building Code, 2012 Edition.*

12 *Title 3. Buildings.*

13 *Subtitle 1. Building Code.*

14 *Section 3.102. Amendments to the International Residential Code, 2012 Edition.*

16 *Title 3. Buildings.*

17 *Subtitle 1. Building Code.*

18 *Section 3.103. Amendments to the International Mechanical Code, 2012 Edition.*

20 *Title 3. Buildings.*

21 *Subtitle 1. Building Code.*

22 *Section 3.104. Amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code, 2012*  
23 *Edition.*

25 **Title 3. Buildings.**

26 **Subtitle 1. Building code.**

28 **SECTION 3.100. HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE; ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL**  
29 **CODES.**

30 (A) *IN GENERAL.* EXCEPT AS AMENDED IN SECTIONS 3.101, 3.102, 3.103, AND 3.104 OF  
31 THIS SUBTITLE, THE CODES ENUMERATED IN THIS SECTION ARE HEREBY ADOPTED AS

1 THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE AS IF THE CODES WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN  
2 THIS SECTION.

3 (B) *ADOPTED CODES.*

4 (1) THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, PUBLISHED BY THE  
5 INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC.

6 (2) THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY  
7 DWELLINGS, 2015 EDITION, PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE  
8 COUNCIL, INC.

9 (3) THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, 2015 EDITION, PUBLISHED BY  
10 THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC.

11 (4) THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, 2015 EDITION,  
12 PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC.

13 (5) THE LIFE SAFETY CODE, 2015 EDITION, PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL FIRE  
14 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

15 (6) THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO TITLE  
16 3, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

17 (7) THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED  
18 PURSUANT TO TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

19 (8) THE MARYLAND STATE ACCESSIBILITY CODE.

20 (9) THE HOWARD COUNTY SIGN CODE, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO TITLE 3,  
21 SUBTITLE 5 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

22

23 **SECTION 3.101. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015**  
24 **EDITION.**

25 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

26 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "THIS CODE" MEANS THE  
27 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION.

28 (2) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "BUILDING OFFICIAL" MEANS THE  
29 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS  
30 OR THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.

(3) WHERE THE NAME OF THE JURISDICTION IS TO BE INDICATED IN ANY SECTION OF THIS CODE, INSERT "HOWARD COUNTY".

(4) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS.

(B) *LOCAL AMENDMENTS.* THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE.

(1) *SUBSECTION 101.1 TITLE.*

DELETE THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) *SUBSECTION 101.2 SCOPE.*

DELETE THE EXCEPTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**EXCEPTION 1:** DETACHED ONE-FAMILY AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND MULTIPLE SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS (TOWNHOUSES) NOT MORE THAN THREE STORIES HIGH WITH SEPARATE MEANS OF EGRESS AND THEIR ACCESSORY STRUCTURES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE AND SECTION 3112 OF CHAPTER 31, SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION, OF THIS CODE.

**EXCEPTION 2:** AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, ADDITION, REPAIR, REMOVAL, DEMOLITION, USE, LOCATION OR MAINTENANCE OF AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS. THIS PROVISION DOES NOT EXEMPT THE OWNER OF AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING FROM OBTAINING REQUIRED ELECTRICAL OR PLUMBING PERMITS OR FROM COMPLYING WITH ALL OTHER APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS, LAWS AND ORDINANCES.

(3) *SUBSECTION 101.3.1 NATURE OF CERTAIN ACTIONS.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.3.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.3 AS FOLLOWS:

**101.3.1. NATURE OF CERTAIN ACTIONS.** THE PURPOSE OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO THIS CODE IS PURELY GOVERNMENTAL IN NATURE AND ARE CONDUCTED SOLELY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT. ACTIONS TAKEN PURSUANT TO THIS CODE ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS PROVIDING ANY WARRANTY OF DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION TO ANY PERSON.

(4) *SUBSECTION 101.4 REFERENCED CODES.*



- 1 IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH, DELETE “101.4.7” AND SUBSTITUTE “101.4.11”.
- 2 (5) *SUBSECTION 101.4.1 GAS.*
- 3 DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.1 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:
- 4 **101.4.1 GAS.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE*” IS
- 5 USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR HOWARD
- 6 COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.
- 7 (6) *SUBSECTION 101.4.2 MECHANICAL.*
- 8 DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.2 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:
- 9 **101.4.2 MECHANICAL.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL*
- 10 *MECHANICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE MECHANICAL CODE OF
- 11 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.103 OF THIS
- 12 SUBTITLE.
- 13 (7) *SUBSECTION 101.4.3 PLUMBING.*
- 14 DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.3 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:
- 15 **101.4.3 PLUMBING.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING*
- 16 *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR
- 17 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE AND
- 18 WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL CODE*” IS
- 19 USED IT SHALL MEAN HOWARD COUNTY WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS
- 20 ADOPTED IN TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 1, SUBTITLE 12, AND SUBTITLE 15 AND IN
- 21 TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.
- 22 (8) *SUBSECTION 101.4.4 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.*
- 23 DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.4 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:
- 24 **101.4.4 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.** WHENEVER THE TERM
- 25 “*INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE*” IS USED IT SHALL MEAN
- 26 THE HOWARD COUNTY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FOR RENTAL
- 27 HOUSING ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE.
- 28 (9) *SUBSECTION 101.4.5 FIRE PREVENTION.*
- 29 DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.5 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:
- 30 **101.4.5 FIRE PREVENTION.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FIRE*
- 31 *PREVENTION CODE*” IS USED IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE

PREVENTION CODE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.104 OF THE  
HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

(10) *SUBSECTION 101.4.6 ENERGY.*

DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.6 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**101.4.6 ENERGY.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE*” IS USED IT SHALL MEAN THE ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE OF HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.104 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(11) *SUBSECTION 101.4.7 EXISTING BUILDINGS.*

DELETE SUBSECTION 101.4.7 AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**101.4.7 EXISTING BUILDINGS.** EXISTING BUILDINGS UNDERGOING REPAIR, ALTERATION, ADDITION, OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY MAY COMPLY WITH THE MARYLAND REHABILITATION CODE.

(12) *SUBSECTIONS 101.4.8 ELECTRICAL.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.4.8 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.4.7 AS FOLLOWS:

**101.4.8 ELECTRICAL.** WHENEVER THE TERM “NFPA 70 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

(13) *SUBSECTION 101.4.9 ACCESSIBILITY.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.4.9 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.4.8 AS FOLLOWS:

**101.4.9 ACCESSIBILITY.** THE PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND ACCESSIBILITY CODE SHALL APPLY TO ALL MATTERS AFFECTING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF BUILDINGS AND SITES.

(14) *SUBSECTION 101.4.10 SIGNS.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.4.10 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.4.9 AS FOLLOWS:

**101.4.10 SIGNS.** THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE 5 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE SHALL APPLY TO THE LOCATION, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS IN HOWARD COUNTY.

(15) *SUBSECTION 101.4.11 RESIDENTIAL CODE.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.4.11 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.4.10 AS FOLLOWS:

1           **101.4.11 RESIDENTIAL.** WHENEVER THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL*  
2           *RESIDENTIAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR  
3           ONE-AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS OF HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED  
4           PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.102 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5           (16)   *SECTION 103 DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY.*

6           DELETE THE TITLE OF THIS SECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING AS  
7           THE NEW TITLE:

8                                   **“SECTION 103**  
9                                   **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY”**

10          (17)   *SUBSECTION 103.1 CREATION OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.*

11          DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

12          **103.1 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.** THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
13          INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE  
14          PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
15          INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS OR THE DIRECTOR’S AUTHORIZED  
16          DESIGNEE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.

17          (18)   *SUBSECTION 103.2 APPOINTMENT.*

18          DELETE THIS SUBSECTION.

19          (19)   *SUBSECTION 103.3 DEPUTIES.*

20          DELETE THIS SUBSECTION.

21          (20)   *SUBSECTION 104.1.1 RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY.*

22          ADD NEW SUBSECTION 104.1.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 104.1 AS FOLLOWS:

23          **104.1.1 RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY.** IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC HEALTH,  
24          SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY ADOPT  
25          RULES AND REGULATIONS TO INTERPRET AND IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS  
26          OF THIS CODE. RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL NOT WAIVE STRUCTURAL  
27          OR FIRE PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN THIS  
28          CODE. RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL NOT VIOLATE ACCEPTED  
29          ENGINEERING PRACTICES INVOLVING PUBLIC SAFETY.

30          (21)   *SUBSECTION 104.8.1 LEGAL DEFENSE.*

1 IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THIS SUBSECTION, DELETE “LEGAL  
2 REPRESENTATION OF THE JURISDICTION UNTIL THE FINAL TERMINATION OF  
3 THE PROCEEDINGS” AND SUBSTITUTE “HOWARD COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE  
4 WITH MARYLAND LAW”.

5 (22) SUBSECTION 104.10.1 FLOOD HAZARD AREAS.

6 DELETE THIS SUBSECTION.

7 (23) SUBSECTION *105.1.1 ANNUAL PERMIT*.

8 DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

9 **105.1.1. MASTER PERMIT.** INSTEAD OF AN INDIVIDUAL PERMIT FOR EACH  
10 ALTERATION TO AN ALREADY APPROVED BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, FIRE, GAS,  
11 MECHANICAL, OR PLUMBING INSTALLATION, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY  
12 ISSUE A MASTER PERMIT UPON APPLICATION BY ANY PERSON, FIRM, OR  
13 CORPORATION REGULARLY EMPLOYING ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED  
14 PROFESSIONAL OR TRADESPERSON IN THE BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OR ON THE  
15 PREMISES OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE APPLICANT.

16 (24) *SUBSECTION 105.1.2 ANNUAL PERMIT RECORDS.*

17 DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

18 **105.1.2. MASTER PERMIT RECORDS.** A PERSON WHO IS ISSUED A MASTER  
19 PERMIT SHALL KEEP A DETAILED RECORD OF ALTERATIONS MADE UNDER  
20 THE MASTER PERMIT. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE  
21 RECORDS AT ALL TIMES OR THE RECORDS SHALL BE FILED WITH THE  
22 BUILDING OFFICIAL. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY PERIODICALLY INSPECT  
23 WORK THAT HAS BEEN PERFORMED UNDER A MASTER PERMIT.

24 (25) *SUBSECTION 105.1.2.1 BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE MANUAL.*  
25 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 105.1.2.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 105.1.2 AS FOLLOWS:

26 **105.1.2.1. BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE MANUAL.** AN  
27 APPLICANT FOR A MASTER PERMIT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE BUILDING  
28 OFFICIAL A BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE MANUAL THAT  
29 SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

30 (I) A STATEMENT OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE  
31 USED TO MONITOR AND CONTROL THE ALTERATION AND

- 1 RENOVAION PROCESS TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HOWARD  
2 COUNTY CODE;
- 3 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE APPLICANT ASSURES CODE  
4 COMPLIANCE BY ADHERING TO WRITTEN PROCEDURES OF QUALIFIED  
5 PERSONS TO PERFORM THE SCOPE OF THE WORK COVERED BY THE  
6 APPLICATION;
- 7 (III) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT’S PROCESS FOR PLAN  
8 DEVELOPMENT, PLAN REVIEW, AND INSPECTION;
- 9 (IV) A DESCRIPTION OF THE MEANS TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE  
10 PROTECTION ELEMENTS OF THE BUILDING AND SYSTEMS AFFECTED  
11 BY THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OR RENOVATION; AND
- 12 (V) IF APPLICABLE, A STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE FOR ACCESSIBILITY.
- 13 (26) *SUBSECTION 105.2 WORK EXEMPT FROM PERMIT.* IN THE SUBSECTION TITLED  
14 “BUILDING”:
- 15 (I) IN ITEM 1, DELETE “120 SQUARE FEET (11 M<sup>2</sup>)” AND SUBSTITUTE  
16 “200 SQUARE FEET”;
- 17 (II) IN ITEM 4, DELETE “4 FEET (1219 MM)” AND SUBSTITUTE “3 FEET”  
18 AND DELETE “BOTTOM OF THE FOOTING” AND SUBSTITUTE “LOWEST  
19 ADJACENT GRADE”;
- 20 (III) IN ITEM 11, DELETE “ACCESSORY TO DETACHED ONE- AND TWO-  
21 FAMILY DWELLINGS”;
- 22 (IV) IN ITEM 12, DELETE “IN GROUP R-3 AND U OCCUPANCIES,” AND  
23 DELETE “54 INCHES (1372 MM)” AND SUBSTITUTE “48 INCHES”; AND
- 24 (V) ADD THE FOLLOWING AS ITEM 14 AT THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION:  
25 14. THE FOLLOWING WORK ON EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY  
26 DWELLINGS:
- 27 A. EXTERIOR:
- 28 1. REPLACEMENT OF ROOF COVERINGS WITH NO OTHER  
29 STRUCTURAL REPAIRS;
- 30 2. INSTALLATION OF SIDING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
31 LIMITED TO, ALUMINUM OR VINYL SIDING;

3. INSTALLATION OF FASCIA, SOFFIT TRIM, GUTTERS, OR DOWNSPOUTS;
4. REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS OR DOORS WHEN THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE ROUGH OPENING SIZE;
5. INSTALLATION OF CANVAS OR FIXED AWNINGS;
6. REPLACEMENT OF EXTERIOR LIGHTING FIXTURES; OR
7. CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION OF DETACHED FREESTANDING DECKS THAT ARE LESS THAN 25 SQUARE FEET IN AREA AND LESS THAN 30 INCHES ABOVE GRADE.

B. INTERIOR:

1. INSTALLATION OF RADON SYSTEMS;
2. PAINTING, WALLPAPERING, OR FLOOR COVERING;
3. INSTALLATION OF KITCHEN OR BATHROOM CABINETS, COUNTER TOPS, APPLIANCES, OR FIXTURES;
4. REPLACEMENT OF PANELING OR WALLBOARD;
5. REPLACEMENT OF DOORS WHEN THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE ROUGH OPENING SIZE;
6. INSTALLATION OF INSULATION;
7. INSTALLATION OF BURGLAR, FIRE, AND OTHER ALARM SYSTEMS AND SMOKE DETECTORS;
8. REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS; OR
9. REPLACEMENT OF CEILING FANS, LIGHT FIXTURES, OR RECEPTACLES.

C. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES:

1. ONE STORY DETACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURES LESS THAN 200 SQUARE FEET IN AREA INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, STORAGE SHEDS, KIOSKS, GAZEBOs, ARBORS, OR PLAYHOUSES;
2. INSTALLATION OF GREENHOUSES;

- 1 3. INSTALLATION OF TENTS OR CANOPIES;
- 2 4 INSTALLATION OF FENCES, UNLESS THE FENCE IS
- 3 OVER 6 FEET HIGH OR ENCLOSES A SWIMMING POOL;
- 4 OR
- 5 5 INSTALLATION OF MAILBOXES.
- 6 D. SITE WORK:
- 7 1. PAVING DRIVEWAYS;
- 8 2. INSTALLATION OF PATIOS, SIDEWALKS, OR
- 9 LANDSCAPING;
- 10 3. INSTALLATION OF RETAINING WALLS THAT ARE 3
- 11 FEET OR LESS IN HEIGHT MEASURED FROM THE
- 12 LOWEST ADJACENT GRADE TO THE TOP OF THE WALL;
- 13 OR
- 14 4. INSTALLATION OF FLAGPOLES OR FLAGPOLE BASES.

15 (27) *SUBSECTION 105.3 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT.*

16 DELETE THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE  
17 FOLLOWING:

18 TO OBTAIN A PERMIT, THE OWNER, OWNER'S AGENT, LESSEE, LESSEE'S  
19 AGENT, OR THE REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED TO  
20 COMPLETE THE PROPOSED WORK ON A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE SHALL  
21 APPLY FOR A PERMIT. THE APPLICATION SHALL STATE, AS APPLICABLE, THE  
22 FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, OWNER'S AGENT, LESSEE,  
23 LESSEE'S AGENT, AND THE REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED  
24 TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED WORK. IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT AN  
25 INDIVIDUAL, SUCH AS, WITHOUT LIMITATION, A PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED  
26 PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR OTHER  
27 SUCH ENTITY, THE APPLICATION SHALL STATE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF  
28 THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE BUSINESS INCLUDING, BUT  
29 NOT LIMITED TO, PARTNERS, DIRECTORS, OR OFFICERS. SUCH APPLICATION  
30 SHALL:

31 (28) *SECTION 106 FLOOR AND ROOF DESIGN LOADS*

1 DELETE THIS SECTION.

2 (29) *SUBSECTION 107.2.1.1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED.*

3 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 107.2.1.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 107.2.1 AS FOLLOWS:

4 **107.2.1.1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED.**

5 (I) DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR DETACHED ONE- OR TWO-FAMILY  
6 DWELLINGS INCLUDING NEW CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATIONS, MINOR  
7 ADDITIONS, OR OTHER STRUCTURES SHALL INCLUDE THE  
8 FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

9 A. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH B OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
10 2 SETS OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS DRAWN TO SCALE  
11 WITH SUFFICIENT CLARITY AND DETAIL TO SHOW THE  
12 NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED  
13 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- 14 1. PLANS OF EACH FLOOR LEVEL;  
15 2. 4 ELEVATIONS AND TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS; AND  
16 3. 7 COPIES OF PLOT PLANS OR 2 COPIES OF THE  
17 APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHEN A SITE  
18 DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS REQUIRED BY THE HOWARD  
19 COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS.

20 B. 1. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY WAIVE THE  
21 REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH A OF THIS  
22 SUBSECTION FOR:

- 23 I. ALTERATIONS; OR  
24 II. OTHER STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO A ONE-  
25 OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING CONTAINING  
26 LESS THAN 200 SQUARE FEET IN AREA.

27 2. WHERE WAIVED, THE APPLICATION SHALL BE  
28 ACCOMPANIED BY 5 COPIES OF PLOT PLANS OR 2  
29 COPIES OF THE APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
30 WHEN A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS REQUIRED BY  
31 THE HOWARD COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS.



1 (II) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN ITEMS B AND C OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH,  
2 DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR NEW NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS,  
3 ADDITIONS, OR ALTERATIONS TO BUILDINGS OTHER THAN DETACHED  
4 ONE- OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING  
5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

6 A. 3 COMPLETE SETS OF ARCHITECTURAL, STRUCTURAL,  
7 MECHANICAL (INCLUDING HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR  
8 CONDITIONING), PLUMBING, AND ELECTRICAL  
9 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS. THE DOCUMENTS SHALL:

- 10 1. BE DRAWN TO SCALE WITH SUFFICIENT CLARITY AND  
11 DETAIL TO SHOW THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF  
12 THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED;
- 13 2. BE PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CODE; AND
- 14 3. BEAR THE SEAL, SIGNATURE, AND DATE OF THE  
15 APPROPRIATE MARYLAND STATE PROFESSIONAL  
16 ENGINEER OR ARCHITECT THAT SHALL BE AFFIXED TO  
17 ALL SHEETS OF ALL SETS AND AT LEAST ONE SET  
18 SHALL BEAR THE ORIGINAL SEAL, SIGNATURE, AND  
19 DATE.

20 B. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY ALLOW MECHANICAL,  
21 ELECTRICAL, OR PLUMBING DRAWINGS TO BE SIGNED BY THE  
22 LICENSED CONTRACTOR DOING THE PROPOSED WORK. THE  
23 CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE THEIR NAME, LICENSE  
24 NUMBER, DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER, AND DATE OF  
25 SIGNATURE. EACH SET OF PLANS SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED  
26 BY A COPY OF THE APPROVED AND SIGNED SITE  
27 DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHEN A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS  
28 REQUIRED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY SUBDIVISION  
29 REGULATIONS.

1                   C.       THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
2                               PLANS SUBMITTED IF THE WORK IS OF A MINOR INTERIOR OR  
3                               NONSTRUCTURAL NATURE.

4       (30)   *SUBSECTION 107.2.5.2 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS,*  
5               *TITLE 16 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.*

6       ADD NEW SUBSECTION 107.2.5.2 AFTER SUBSECTION 107.2.5.1 AS  
7       FOLLOWS:

8       **107.2.5.2 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TITLE**  
9       **16 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.** IF A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS  
10       REQUIRED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, A PERMIT  
11       SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL THE SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS APPROVED  
12       UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING.

13       (31)   *SUBSECTION 109.2 SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES.*

14       DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

15       **109.2 SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES.** THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL  
16       ANNUALLY ADOPT, BY RESOLUTION, A SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR BUILDING,  
17       ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, FIRE PROTECTION, AND GRADING  
18       PERMITS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND  
19       PERMITS.

20       (32)   *SUBSECTION 109.2.1 FEE EXEMPTIONS.*

21       ADD NEW SUBSECTION 109.2.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 109.2 AS FOLLOWS:

22       **109.2.1 FEE EXEMPTIONS.** WORK ON BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OWNED  
23       AND OPERATED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT, HOWARD  
24       COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HOWARD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE  
25       CORPORATIONS, THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, OR THE  
26       HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ARE EXEMPT FROM PERMIT FEES.

27       (33)   *SUBSECTION 109.5.1 REINSPECTION FEES.*

28       ADD NEW SUBSECTION 109.5.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 109.5 AS FOLLOWS:

29       **109.5.1 REINSPECTION FEES.** A REINSPECTION FEE SHALL BE CHARGED  
30       FOR EACH REINSPECTION IF THE WORK HAS TO BE REINSPECTED BECAUSE:

- (I) THE WORK WAS NOT READY FOR INSPECTION AT THE PRE-ARRANGED TIME FOR INSPECTION;
- (II) THE INSPECTOR DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE WORK AT THE PRE-ARRANGED TIME FOR INSPECTION;
- (III) THE INSPECTOR HAD TO RETURN MORE THAN ONCE TO INSPECT A CORRECTION OF THE SAME VIOLATION OF THIS CODE; OR
- (IV) THE INSPECTOR DISCOVERS A FLAGRANT NON-COMPLIANCE DURING A REQUESTED INSPECTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
- A. CUT OR BROKEN TRUSSES OR JOISTS;
  - B. MISSING LOAD BEARING STUDS; OR
  - C. THE OMISSION OF FIRE STOPPING.

(34) *SUBSECTION 110.3 REQUIRED INSPECTIONS.*

DELETE THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "THE *BUILDING OFFICIAL*" AND SUBSTITUTE: AFTER ISSUING A BUILDING PERMIT, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL CONDUCT INSPECTIONS FROM TIME TO TIME DURING AND UPON COMPLETION OF THE WORK FOR WHICH THE PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED. RECORDS OF INSPECTIONS AND VIOLATIONS SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL. AN INSPECTION MAY INCLUDE ANY OF THE INSPECTIONS AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS 110.3.1 THROUGH 110.3.10 OF THIS SECTION.

(35) *SUBSECTION 111.1 USE AND OCCUPANCY.*

AFTER THE FIRST SENTENCE, INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

IF THERE IS AN APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND GRADING HAS OCCURRED, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL NOT ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF USE AND OCCUPANCY UNLESS THE PERMITTEE SUBMITS A CERTIFICATION BY A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR THAT THE SITE GRADING AND DRAINAGE COURSES ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. IF THERE IS NOT AN APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND GRADING HAS OCCURRED, THE PERMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A CERTIFICATION BY A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR THAT THE SITE GRADING AND DRAINAGE COURSES ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPROVED EROSION AND SEDIMENT

CONTROL PLAN AND GRADING PLAN. THE CERTIFICATION SHALL BE  
SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY. THE FINE GRADING AND SOIL STABILIZATION  
MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING GROWING SEASON UPON THE  
POSTING OF ADEQUATE SURETY EQUAL TO THE COST TO COMPLETE THE  
GRADING AND STABILIZATION.

(36) *SUBSECTION 111.2 CERTIFICATE ISSUED.*

AFTER "OCCUPANCY" INSERT A PERIOD AND DELETE THE REMAINDER OF  
THIS SECTION.

(37) *SECTION 113 BOARD OF APPEALS.*

DELETE THIS SECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**SECTION 113 MEANS OF APPEAL.**

**113.1 APPLICATION FOR APPEAL.** EXCEPT FOR A NOTICE OF VIOLATION, A  
PERSON MAY APPEAL THE APPROVAL, DENIAL, REVOCATION, SUSPENSION,  
OR EXTENSION OF A PERMIT TO A HEARING EXAMINER OF THE HOWARD  
COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS. AN APPLICATION FOR AN APPEAL SHALL BE  
BASED ON A CLAIM THAT THIS CODE HAS BEEN INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED,  
THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE DO NOT APPLY, OR AN EQUALLY GOOD OR  
BETTER FORM OF CONSTRUCTION IS PROPOSED. A NOTICE OF VIOLATION  
MAY NOT BE APPEALED.

**113.2 BOARD OF APPEALS.** THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS'  
HEARING EXAMINER SHALL HEAR AND DECIDE APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE HOWARD  
COUNTY CODE. NEITHER THE BOARD OF APPEALS' HEARING EXAMINER  
NOR THE BOARD OF APPEALS SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CODE.

(38) *SUBSECTION 114.2 NOTICE OF VIOLATION.*

AMEND THIS SUBSECTION AS FOLLOWS:

- (I) INSERT "OWNER OR" BEFORE "PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR"; AND
- (II) ADD THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION:  
A NOTICE OF VIOLATION MAY BE SERVED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING  
METHODS:

- 1                   A.     PERSONAL SERVICE;
- 2                   B.     CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY,
- 3                         RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED;
- 4                   C.     FIRST CLASS MAIL TO THE OWNER’S ADDRESS AS STATED IN
- 5                         THE RECORDS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS
- 6                         AND TAXATION; OR
- 7                   D.     WHEN SERVICE IS NOT OBTAINED BY ONE OF THESE
- 8                         METHODS, THE NOTICE MAY BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS
- 9                         PLACE AT THE JOB SITE.

10           (39)   *SUBSECTION 114.4 VIOLATION PENALTIES.*

11                 DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

12                 **114.4 VIOLATION PENALTIES.** ALTERNATIVELY, AND IN ADDITION TO AND  
13                 CONCURRENT WITH ALL REMEDIES PROVIDED AT LAW OR IN EQUITY AND AS  
14                 SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION 114.3 OF THIS CODE, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL  
15                 MAY ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE WITH CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO TITLE 24  
16                 “CIVIL PENALTIES” OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE. EXCEPT FOR A FIRST  
17                 VIOLATION OF SECTION 115 OR SECTION 116 OF THIS CODE, A FIRST  
18                 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A CLASS C OFFENSE. A SUBSEQUENT  
19                 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A CLASS B OFFENSE. EACH DAY THAT A  
20                 VIOLATION CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

21           (40)   *SUBSECTION 114.5 WITHHOLDING OF INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS.*

22                 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 114.5 AFTER SUBSECTION 114.4 AS FOLLOWS:

23                 **114.5 WITHHOLDING OF INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS.** IF THE BUILDING  
24                 OFFICIAL FINDS THAT AN OWNER OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE IS IN VIOLATION  
25                 OF A PROVISION OF THIS CODE, THIS SUBTITLE, OR ANY REGULATION THAT  
26                 IMPLEMENTS THIS CODE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION,  
27                 MAINTENANCE, ALTERATION, OR REPAIR OF ANY BUILDING, EQUIPMENT, OR  
28                 LAND WITHIN HOWARD COUNTY, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY REFUSE TO  
29                 GRANT AN INSPECTION OR PERMIT TO THE CONTRACTOR, DEVELOPER,  
30                 OWNER, OR OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE UNTIL ALL VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN  
31                 CORRECTED AND ALL FEES AND FINES HAVE BEEN PAID.

(41) *SUBSECTION 115.2.1 SERVICE OF STOP WORK ORDERS.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 115.2.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 115.2 AS FOLLOWS:

**115.2.1 SERVICE OF STOP WORK ORDERS.** A STOP WORK ORDER SHALL BE SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SERVICE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION 114.2 OF THIS CODE.

(42) *SUBSECTION 115.3 UNLAWFUL CONTINUANCE.*

DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**115.3 UNLAWFUL CONTINUANCE.** A PERSON SHALL NOT PERFORM WORK AFTER SERVICE OF A STOP WORK ORDER EXCEPT WORK THAT IS PERFORMED AT THE DIRECTION OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL TO ABATE A VIOLATION OF THIS CODE OR AN UNSAFE CONDITION.

(43) *SUBSECTION 115.4 PROSECUTION FOR FAILING TO STOP WORK.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 115.4 AFTER SUBSECTION 115.3 AS FOLLOWS:

**115.4 PROSECUTION FOR FAILING TO STOP WORK.** THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY REQUEST THAT THE OFFICE OF LAW INSTITUTE THE APPROPRIATE PROCEEDING AT LAW OR IN EQUITY TO PREVENT OR RESTRAIN ANY WORK PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

(44) *SUBSECTION 115.5 VIOLATION PENALTIES.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 115.5 AFTER SUBSECTION 115.4 AS FOLLOWS:

**115.5 VIOLATION PENALTIES.** ALTERNATIVELY, AND IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH THE REMEDIES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION 115.4, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION PURSUANT TO TITLE 24, "CIVIL PENALTIES" OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS B OFFENSE. EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

(45) *SUBSECTION 116.6 DISREGARDING NOTICE.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 116.6 AFTER SUBSECTION 116.5 AS FOLLOWS:

**116.6 DISREGARDING NOTICE.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A NOTICE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS A VIOLATION OF THIS CODE.

(46) *SUBSECTION 116.7 PROSECUTION.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 116.7 AFTER SUBSECTION 116.6 AS FOLLOWS:

1           **116.7 PROSECUTION.** THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY REQUEST THAT THE  
2 OFFICE OF LAW INSTITUTE THE APPROPRIATE PROCEEDING AT LAW OR IN  
3 EQUITY TO PREVENT OR RESTRAIN ANY WORK PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF  
4 THIS SECTION.

5           (47) *SUBSECTION 116.8 VIOLATION PENALTIES.*

6           ADD NEW SUBSECTION 116.8 AFTER SUBSECTION 116.7 AS FOLLOWS:

7           **116.8 VIOLATION PENALTIES.** ALTERNATIVELY, AND IN ADDITION TO AND  
8 CONCURRENT WITH THE REMEDIES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION 116.6, THE  
9 BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION PURSUANT TO TITLE 24,  
10 “CIVIL PENALTIES” OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE. A VIOLATION OF THIS  
11 SECTION IS A CLASS B OFFENSE. EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION CONTINUES  
12 IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

13           (48) *SECTION 117 EMERGENCY MEASURES.*

14           ADD NEW SECTION 117 AFTER SECTION 116 AS FOLLOWS:

15           **SECTION 117 EMERGENCY MEASURES.**

16           **117.1 IMMINENT DANGER.** WHENEVER THE BUILDING OFFICIAL  
17 DETERMINES THAT THERE IS AN EMERGENCY OR IMMINENT DANGER OF  
18 FAILURE OR COLLAPSE OF A BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OR ANY PART OF A  
19 BUILDING OR STRUCTURE THAT ENDANGERS LIFE, OR WHEN ANY BUILDING,  
20 STRUCTURE, OR PART OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE HAS FALLEN AND LIFE  
21 IS ENDANGERED BY THE OCCUPATION OF THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE, THE  
22 BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY ORDER AN OCCUPANT TO VACATE THE BUILDING  
23 OR STRUCTURE. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL POST A NOTICE AT EACH  
24 ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE. THE NOTICE SHALL STATE AS  
25 FOLLOWS: “THIS STRUCTURE IS UNSAFE AND ITS OCCUPANCY HAS BEEN  
26 PROHIBITED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.” EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
27 MAKING A REQUIRED REPAIR OR DEMOLISHING THE BUILDING OR  
28 STRUCTURE, A PERSON SHALL NOT ENTER THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE.

29           **117.2 TEMPORARY SAFEGUARDS.** WHENEVER THE BUILDING OFFICIAL  
30 DETERMINES THAT THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER DUE TO AN UNSAFE  
31 CONDITION, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY CAUSE THE NECESSARY WORK TO

1 BE DONE TO MAKE THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE TEMPORARILY SAFE,  
2 WHETHER OR NOT THE LEGAL PROCEDURE AS SET FORTH IN THIS CODE HAS  
3 BEEN INSTITUTED.

4 **117.3 CLOSING STREETS AND BUILDINGS.** IF NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC  
5 SAFETY, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY TAKE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING  
6 ACTIONS:

- 7 (I) TEMPORARILY CLOSE A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE;
- 8 (II) CLOSE OR ORDER THE JURISDICTION TO CLOSE A SIDEWALK, STREET,  
9 PUBLIC WAY, OR PLACE ADJACENT TO AN UNSAFE BUILDING OR  
10 STRUCTURE; OR
- 11 (III) PROHIBIT THE USE OF A SIDEWALK, STREET, PUBLIC WAY, OR PLACE  
12 ADJACENT TO AN UNSAFE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE.

13 **117.4. DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES.**

14 WHENEVER THE BUILDING OFFICIAL DETERMINES THAT THERE IS IMMINENT  
15 DANGER DUE TO AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY  
16 CAUSE THE STRUCTURE TO BE DEMOLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
17 118 OF THIS CODE.

18 **117.5 EMERGENCY REPAIRS.** FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, THE  
19 BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY EMPLOY THE NECESSARY LABOR AND MATERIALS  
20 TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED WORK AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

21 **117.6 COST OF EMERGENCY REPAIRS.** COSTS INCURRED IN THE  
22 PERFORMANCE OF EMERGENCY WORK MAY BE PAID FROM THE TREASURY OF  
23 THE JURISDICTION. THE OFFICE OF LAW SHALL INSTITUTE APPROPRIATE  
24 ACTION TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT AGAINST THE OWNER OF THE PREMISES  
25 WHERE THE UNSAFE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE IS OR WAS LOCATED FOR THE  
26 COST OF THE REPAIRS OR ACTIONS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE PREMISES  
27 SAFE.

28 **117.7 UNSAFE EQUIPMENT.** WHENEVER THE BUILDING OFFICIAL  
29 DETERMINES THAT EQUIPMENT IS UNSAFE, THE EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT BE  
30 OPERATED AFTER THE DATE STATED IN THE NOTICE UNLESS THE REQUIRED  
31 REPAIRS, REPLACEMENT, OR CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE AND THE



EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED OR UNLESS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL HAS AGREED, IN WRITING, TO AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO MAKE THE REQUIRED REPAIRS, REPLACEMENT, OR CHANGES.

**117.7.1 AUTHORITY TO SEAL EQUIPMENT.** IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY IMMEDIATELY SEAL OUT OF SERVICE ANY UNSAFE DEVICE OR EQUIPMENT REGULATED BY THIS CODE.

**117.7.2 UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE SEAL.** ANY DEVICE OR EQUIPMENT SEALED OUT OF SERVICE BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL BE PLAINLY IDENTIFIED IN AN APPROVED MANNER. EXCEPT BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, THE IDENTIFICATION SHALL NOT BE TAMPERED WITH, DEFACED, OR REMOVED. THE IDENTIFICATION SHALL INDICATE THE REASON FOR THE SEALING OF THE EQUIPMENT.

(49) *SECTION 118 DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES.*

ADD NEW SECTION 118 AFTER SECTION 117 AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 118 DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES.**

**118.1 SERVICE CONNECTIONS.** BEFORE A STRUCTURE IS DEMOLISHED OR REMOVED, THE OWNER OR AGENT SHALL NOTIFY ALL UTILITIES HAVING SERVICE CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE STRUCTURE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WATER, ELECTRIC, GAS, OR SEWER. A PERMIT TO DEMOLISH OR REMOVE A STRUCTURE SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL A RELEASE IS OBTAINED FROM THE UTILITIES. THE RELEASE SHALL STATE THAT THE UTILITY'S RESPECTIVE SERVICE CONNECTIONS AND APPURTENANT EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS METERS AND REGULATORS, HAVE BEEN REMOVED, SEALED, OR PLUGGED IN A SAFE MANNER.

**118.2 NOTICE TO ADJOINING OWNERS.** A PERMIT TO REMOVE OR DEMOLISH A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE MAY BE GRANTED IF WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE APPLICANT TO THE OWNERS OF ADJOINING LOTS AND TO THE OWNERS OF WIRED OR OTHER FACILITIES THAT MAY NEED TO BE TEMPORARILY REMOVED DUE TO THE PROPOSED WORK.

**118.3 LOT REGULATION.** WHENEVER A STRUCTURE IS DEMOLISHED OR REMOVED, THE PREMISES SHALL BE MAINTAINED FREE FROM ALL UNSAFE OR

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS BY THE PROPER REGULATION OF THE LOT,  
RESTORATION OF ESTABLISHED GRADES, AND THE ERECTION OF THE  
NECESSARY RETAINING WALLS AND FENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 33 OF THIS CODE.

(50) *SUBSECTION 703.7 MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION.*

AMEND ITEM 1 AS FOLLOWS:

(I) DELETE “WITHIN 15 FEET (4572 MM) OF THE END OF EACH WALL  
AND”;

(II) DELETE “30 FEET (914 MM)” AND SUBSTITUTE “10 FEET (3048  
MM)”;

(III) AFTER “WALL OR PARTITION” INSERT “ON BOTH SIDES”; AND

(51) *SUBSECTIONS 903.2.1.1 GROUP A-1; 903.2.1.3 GROUP A-3; AND 903.2.1.4  
GROUP A-4.*

DELETE ITEM NUMBER 2 IN EACH SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE  
FOLLOWING IN EACH INSTANCE:

2. THE FIRE AREA HAS A CALCULATED OCCUPANT LOAD OF 100 OR MORE;  
OR

(52) *SUBSECTION 903.2.1.6 ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES ON ROOFS.*

IN THE FIRST SENTENCE DELETE “300” AND SUBSTITUTE “100”.

(53) *903.2.1.7 MULTIPLE FIRE AREAS.*

IN THE FIRST SENTENCE DELETE “300” AND SUBSTITUTE “100”.

(54) *SUBSECTION 903.2.3 GROUP E.*

DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**903.2.3 GROUP E.** AN AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM SHALL BE PROVIDED  
FOR ALL GROUP E OCCUPANCIES.

**EXCEPTION:** AN AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS NOT REQUIRED IF A  
STUDENT OCCUPIED AREA HAS A DOOR DIRECTLY TO THE OUTSIDE.

(55) *SUBSECTION 903.2.13 ADDITIONAL SUPPRESSION REQUIREMENTS.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 903.2.13 AFTER SUBSECTION 903.2.12 AS FOLLOWS:

**903.2.13 ADDITIONAL SUPPRESSION REQUIREMENTS.** FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AS FOLLOWS:

**903.2.13.1** IF AN ADDITION OR RENOVATION TO AN EXISTING R-1 OR R-2 BUILDING EXCEEDS 50% OF THE GROSS FLOOR AREA, THE ENTIRE BUILDING SHALL BE PROTECTED BY AN APPROVED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM.

**903.2.13.2** ANY NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OR ADDITION TO AN EXISTING NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDING OR STRUCTURE FOR WHICH THE INITIAL BUILDING PERMIT WAS ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1992, SHALL BE PROTECTED BY AN AUTOMATIC FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEM.

**903.2.13.3 APPLICABLE CONDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS:**

(I) EXCEPTION: A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE CONTAINING LESS THAN 5,000 GROSS SQUARE FEET IN FLOOR AREA. THE GROSS SQUARE FEET OF A BUILDING OR ADDITION SHALL BE THE SUM TOTAL OF THE FLOOR AREA FOR ALL FLOOR LEVELS, BASEMENTS, AND SUBBASEMENTS, MEASURED FROM OUTSIDE WALLS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE EXISTENCE OF INTERIOR FIRE-RESISTIVE WALLS, FLOORS, OR CEILINGS.

(II) IF AN ADDITION TO AN EXISTING BUILDING EXCEEDS 5,000 GROSS SQUARE FEET IN FLOOR AREA, THE ADDITION SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

(III) IF AN ALTERATION TO AN EXISTING BUILDING EXCEEDS 5,000 GROSS SQUARE FEET IN FLOOR AREA, THE ALTERATION SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION. IF THE ALTERATION EXCEEDS 50% OF THE GROSS FLOOR AREA OF THE BUILDING, THE ENTIRE BUILDING SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

(IV) IF AN ALTERATION AND ADDITION OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY IN A BUILDING, ARE CONTIGUOUS, AND THE TOTAL AFFECTED FLOOR AREA EXCEEDS 5,000 GROSS SQUARE FEET IN FLOOR AREA, THE ENTIRE ALTERATION AND ADDITION AREAS SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

(v) THE BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY GRANT A WAIVER FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION FOR AN UNUSUAL BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OR OCCUPANCY.

(vi) A SPRINKLER SYSTEM REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NFPA STANDARD 13, 13D, OR 13R, AS APPLICABLE.

(56) *SUBSECTION 903.2.14 HOSE CONNECTIONS.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 903.2.14 AFTER SUBSECTION 903.2.13 AS FOLLOWS:

**903.2.14 HOSE CONNECTIONS.** WHERE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS ARE REQUIRED IN GROUP M, S-1 AND F-1 OCCUPANCIES, A 2½ INCH HOSE CONNECTION WITH 1½ INCH REDUCERS SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT USE. HOSE CONNECTIONS SHALL BE PLACED NEAR EXIT DOORS THAT DO NOT HAVE FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE ACCESS WITHIN 100 FEET. TWO HOSE CONNECTIONS SHALL BE LOCATED NO MORE THAN 200 FEET APART. EXIT DOORS SHALL BE PLACARDED ON THE OUTSIDE TO INDICATE THE LOCATION OF HOSE CONNECTIONS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS.

(57) *SUBSECTION 905.11 PIPING DESIGN.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 905.11 AFTER SUBSECTION 905.10 AS FOLLOWS:

**905.11 PIPING DESIGN.** THE RISER PIPING, SUPPLY PIPING, AND WATER SERVICE PIPING SHALL BE SIZED TO MAINTAIN A RESIDUAL PRESSURE OF AT LEAST 100 PSI AT THE TOP MOST OUTLET OF EACH RISER WHILE FLOWING THE MINIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER AS SPECIFIED IN NFPA 14. THE PIPE SIZE SHALL BE BASED ON EITHER THE CAPACITY OF THE AUTOMATIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SUPPLY OF 1000 GPM AT 150 PSI AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION WHERE AN AUTOMATIC WATER SUPPLY IS NEITHER REQUIRED NOR PROVIDED TO MAINTAIN THE RESIDUAL PRESSURE OF 100 PSI. IF A FIRE PUMP IS REQUIRED TO SUPPLY AN AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM, THE PUMP SHALL BE SIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

**EXCEPTION:** THE RESIDUAL PRESSURE OF 100 PSI IS NOT REQUIRED IN BUILDINGS:

- (I) THAT ARE EQUIPPED THROUGHOUT WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 903.3.1.1 OR 903.3.1.2 OF THIS CODE;
- (II) WHERE THE HIGHEST FLOOR LEVEL IS NOT MORE THAN 75 FEET ABOVE THE LOWEST LEVEL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE ACCESS; AND
- (III) WHERE A PUMP IS NOT REQUIRED TO MEET THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM DEMAND,

(58) *SUBSECTION 910.2 WHERE REQUIRED.*

DELETE EXCEPTIONS 1, 2, AND 3.

(59) *SUBSECTION 910.2.2 HIGH PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE.*

- (I) IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, DELETE “TABLE 3206.2 OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE” AND SUBSTITUTE “TABLE 910.2.2 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE”.
- (II) INSERT TABLE 910.2.2 AS FOLLOW:

TABLE 910.2.2

[F] TABLE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR DRAFT CURTAINS AND SMOKE AND HEAT VENTS<sup>a</sup>

OCCUPANCY GROUP AND COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION	DESIGNATED STORAGE HEIGHT (feet)	MINIMUM DRAFT CURTAIN DEPTH (feet)	MAXIMUM AREA FORMED BY DRAFT CURTAINS (square feet)	VENT-AREA-TO-FLOOR-AREA RATIO <sup>c</sup>	MAXIMUM SPACING OF VENT CENTERS (feet)	MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM VENTS TO WALL OR DRAFT CURTAIN <sup>b</sup> (feet)
High-piled Storage (see Section 910.2.2) Class I-IV commodities (Option 1)	≤ 20	6	10,000	1:100	100	60
	> 20 ≤ 40	6	8,000	1:75	100	55
High-piled Storage (see Section 910.2.2) Class I-IV commodities (Option 2)	≤ 20	4	3,000	1:75	100	55
	> 20 ≤ 40	4	3,000	1:50	100	50
High-piled Storage (see Section 910.2.2) High-hazard commodities (Option 1)	≤ 20	6	6,000	1:50	100	50
	> 20 ≤ 30	6	6,000	1:40	90	45
High-piled Storage (see Section 910.2.2) High-hazard commodities (Option 2)	≤ 20	4	4,000	1:50	100	50
	> 20 ≤ 30	4	2,000	1:30	75	40

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

a. Additional requirements for rack storage heights in excess of those indicated shall be in accordance with Chapter 32 of the *International Fire Code*. For solid-piled storage heights in excess of those indicated, an approved engineered design shall be used.

b. Vents adjacent to walls or draft curtains shall be located within a horizontal distance not greater than the maximum distance specified in this column as measured perpendicular to the wall or draft curtain that forms the perimeter of the draft curtained area.

c. Where draft curtains are not required, the vent area to floor area ratio shall be calculated based on a minimum draft curtain depth of 6 feet (Option 1).

d. “H” is the height of the vent, in feet, above the floor.

(60) *SUBSECTION 910.3. SMOKE AND HEAT VENTS ..*

AFTER "910.3.3." INSERT THE FOLLOWING: SMOKE AND HEAT VENTS  
SHALL BE APPROVED, LABELED, AND CAPABLE OF BEING OPERATED BY  
APPROVED MANUAL MEANS.

(61) *TABLE 1607.1 ITEM 26 ROOFS.*

IN THE OCCUPANCY OR USE COLUMN:

(I) IN THE ROW TITLED "ALL OTHER CONSTRUCTION, EXCEPT ONE AND  
TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS", IN THE COLUMN TITLED "UNIFORM",  
DELETE "20" AND SUBSTITUTE "30" AND ADD FOOTNOTE "M" NEXT  
TO "30"; AND

(II) IN THE ROW TITLED "ORDINARY FLAT, PITCHED, AND CURVED ROOFS  
(THAT ARE NOT OCCUPIABLE)" ADD FOOTNOTE "M" NEXT TO "20".

(62) *SUBSECTION 1607.10 REDUCTION IN UNIFORM LIVE LOADS.*

*IN BOTH SENTENCES, INSERT THE WORD "NOT" BEFORE PERMITTED.*

(63) *SUBSECTION 1607.12.1 DISTRIBUTION OF ROOF LOADS.*

IN THE LAST SENTENCE, DELETE THE WORDS "AND SECTION 7.5 OF ASCE 7  
FOR PARTIAL SNOW LOADING".

(64) *SUBSECTION 1607.12.2 GENERAL.*

ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION:

**EXCEPTION:** EXCEPT FOR BUILDINGS OF GROUP U, A FLAT, PITCHED, OR  
CURVED ROOF SHALL BE DESIGNED FOR A MINIMUM LIVE LOAD OF 30  
POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT (PSF) OR FOR THE MINIMUM SNOW LOAD,  
WHICHEVER IS GREATER. IN BUILDINGS OF GROUP U, ROOFS SHALL BE  
DESIGNED FOR A MINIMUM LIVE LOAD OF 20 PSF.

(65) *SUBSECTION 1803.2 INVESTIGATIONS REQUIRED.*

INSERT AT THE END OF THE FIRST SENTENCE "OR WHERE THE BUILDING  
EXCEEDS 2 STORIES".

(66) *SUBSECTION 1809.5 FROST PROTECTION.*

DELETE EXCEPTION NUMBER 2 AND SUBSTITUTE "2. AREA OF 400 SQUARE  
FEET OR LESS; AND".

(67) *SUBSECTION 1809.5.1 FROST LINE.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION 1809.5.1 AFTER SUBSECTION 1809.5 AS FOLLOWS:

1                   **1809.5.1 FROST LINE.** THE FROST LINE SHALL BE AT LEAST 30 INCHES  
2                   BELOW FINISHED GRADE.

3           (68)   DELETE CHAPTERS 28 THROUGH 29.

4           (69)   *SUBSECTION 3001.2 REFERENCED STANDARDS.*

5                   ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE END OF THE SUBSECTION:

6                   **EXCEPTION:** THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND ELEVATOR  
7                   CODE, ASME A17.1, SAFETY CODE FOR ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS, AS  
8                   ADOPTED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND  
9                   REGULATION, SHALL APPLY TO ELEVATORS AND CONVEYING SYSTEMS.

10          (70)   *SUBSECTION 3107.1 GENERAL.*

11                   INSERT THE FOLLOWING AT THE END OF THIS SENTENCE AFTER “CODE”:  
12                   AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY SIGN CODE SET FORTH  
13                   IN TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

14          (71)   *SUBSECTION 3108.3 RADIO AND TELEVISION ANTENNAS.*

15                   ADD NEW SUBSECTION 3108.3 AFTER SUBSECTION 3108.2 AS FOLLOWS:

16                   **3108.3 RADIO AND TELEVISION ANTENNAS.**

17                   **3108.3.1 PERMITS NOT REQUIRED.** BUILDING PERMITS ARE NOT REQUIRED  
18                   FOR ROOF INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAL STRUCTURES THAT ARE LESS THAN  
19                   12 FEET IN HEIGHT ABOVE THE ROOF AND USED FOR PRIVATE RADIO OR  
20                   TELEVISION RECEPTION. ANTENNAL STRUCTURES SHALL NOT BE ERECTED  
21                   SO AS TO DAMAGE THE ROOF COVERING. WHEN REMOVED FROM THE ROOF,  
22                   THE ROOF COVERING SHALL BE REPAIRED TO MAINTAIN WEATHER AND  
23                   WATER TIGHTNESS. THE INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAL STRUCTURES ON THE  
24                   ROOF OF A BUILDING SHALL NOT BE NEARER TO THE LOT LINE THAN THE  
25                   TOTAL HEIGHT OF THE ANTENNAL STRUCTURE ABOVE THE ROOF.  
26                   ANTENNAL STRUCTURES SHALL NOT BE ERECTED NEAR ELECTRIC POWER  
27                   LINES AND SHALL NOT ENCROACH UPON ANY STREET OR OTHER PUBLIC  
28                   SPACE.

29                   **3108.3.2 PERMITS REQUIRED.** IF THE APPLICATION MEETS THE CRITERIA  
30                   SET FORTH IN THIS CODE, AN APPLICATION FOR ROOF-MOUNTED ANTENNAL  
31                   STRUCTURES MORE THAN 12 FEET IN HEIGHT ABOVE THE ROOF SHALL BE

1 APPROVED. A PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A ROOF-MOUNTED ANTENNAL  
2 STRUCTURE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DETAILED  
3 DRAWINGS OF THE STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF ANCHORAGE. ALL  
4 CONNECTIONS TO THE ROOF STRUCTURE SHALL BE PROPERLY FLASHED TO  
5 MAINTAIN WATER TIGHTNESS. THE DESIGN AND MATERIALS OF  
6 CONSTRUCTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
7 SUBSECTION (3108.3) FOR CHARACTER, QUALITY, AND MINIMUM  
8 DIMENSION.

9 **3108.3.3 DISH ANTENNAS.** A DISH ANTENNA IS AN ANTENNA THAT  
10 CONSISTS OF A RADIATION ELEMENT THAT TRANSMITS OR RECEIVES  
11 RADIATION SIGNALS GENERATED AS ELECTRICAL, LIGHT, OR SOUND  
12 ENERGY. A DISH ANTENNA IS SUPPORTED BY A STRUCTURE WITH OR  
13 WITHOUT A REFLECTIVE COMPONENT TO THE RADIATING DISH, USUALLY IN  
14 A CIRCULAR SHAPE WITH A PARABOLIC CURVE DESIGN CONSTRUCTED OF A  
15 SOLID OR OPEN MESH SURFACE.

16 **3108.3.3.1 PERMITS.** A PERMIT SHALL BE OBTAINED FOR DISH ANTENNAL  
17 STRUCTURES THAT ARE GREATER THAN 3 FEET IN DIAMETER AND THAT ARE  
18 ERECTED ON THE ROOF OF OR ATTACHED TO BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES.  
19 PERMITS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR DISH ANTENNAS THAT ARE 3 FEET OR LESS  
20 IN DIAMETER AND THAT ARE ERECTED AND MAINTAINED ON THE ROOF OF A  
21 BUILDING.

22 **3108.3.3.2 STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS.** DISH ANTENNAS LARGER THAN 3  
23 FEET IN DIAMETER ARE SUBJECT TO THE STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS OF  
24 SECTIONS 1608 AND 1609. THE SNOW LOAD PROVISION OF SECTION 1608  
25 SHALL NOT APPLY WHERE THE ANTENNA HAS A HEATER TO MELT FALLING  
26 SNOW.

27 (72) *SECTION 3109.4.1.10. ALTERNATIVE DEVICES.*

28 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 3109.4.1.10 AFTER SUBSECTION 3109.4.1.9 AS  
29 FOLLOWS:

30 **3109.4.1.10 ALTERNATIVE DEVICES.** NATURAL BARRIERS, POOL COVERS,  
31 OR OTHER PROTECTIVE DEVICES APPROVED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL



SHALL BE AN ACCEPTABLE ENCLOSURE IF THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION  
AFFORDED BY THE SUBSTITUTED DEVICE OR STRUCTURE IS GREATER THAN  
THE PROTECTION AFFORDED BY THE ENCLOSURES, GATES, AND LATCHES  
DESCRIBED HEREIN.

(73) *SECTION 3112 FLOODPLAIN.*

ADD NEW SECTION 3112 AFTER SECTION 3111 AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 3112 FLOODPLAIN.**

**3112.1 GENERAL.** FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, THE FLOODPLAIN IS  
DELINEATED IN TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

**3112.2 WITHIN DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN.**

THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, MODIFICATION, ALTERATION,  
REPAIR, OR IMPROVEMENT OF BUILDINGS, MANUFACTURED HOMES, OR  
OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN SHALL BE  
DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS  
SECTION.

**3112.2.1 NEW CONSTRUCTION.** NEW RESIDENTIAL OR NONRESIDENTIAL  
CONSTRUCTION SHALL NOT OCCUR WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN.

**EXCEPTION 1:** AN EXISTING NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE LOCATED  
WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN WHICH IS DESTROYED BY FIRE OR  
FLOOD, OR THAT SUSTAINS SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE MAY BE RESTORED TO  
THE SAME SIZE AND DIMENSION AND IN THE SAME LOCATION ON THE SAME  
LOT AS THE DESTROYED STRUCTURE, PROVIDED CONSTRUCTION BEGINS  
WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF DESTRUCTION. CONSTRUCTION SHALL  
COMPLY WITH THE ELEVATING AND FLOODPROOFING REQUIREMENTS OF  
SUBSECTION 3112.4 FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ADJACENT TO A FLOODPLAIN.  
A PERSON SHALL NOT INTENTIONALLY DEMOLISH OR RECONSTRUCT ANY  
NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE. THIS EXCEPTION DOES NOT APPLY TO  
MANUFACTURED HOMES. A MANUFACTURED HOME CANNOT BE RESTORED  
UNDER ANY CONDITION WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN.

**EXCEPTION 2:** TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS, UTILITY INSTALLATIONS,  
PIERS, OPEN PIER STRUCTURES, AND OPEN DECKS APPROVED BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PATHWAYS, AND UTILITY SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOWARD COUNTY DESIGN MANUAL AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE CODES, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND REGULATIONS.

**3112.2.2 ADDITIONS AND ENLARGEMENTS.** EXISTING NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN SHALL NOT BE EXPANDED OR ENLARGED.

**3112.2.3 MODIFICATIONS, ALTERATIONS, AND REPAIRS.** MODIFICATIONS, ALTERATIONS, REPAIRS, OR IMPROVEMENTS THAT COST LESS THAN 50% OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE STRUCTURE MAY BE MADE TO EXISTING NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN WITHOUT FLOODPROOFING OR ELEVATING IF THE OWNER DEMONSTRATES THROUGH A MARYLAND STATE REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER THAT FLOODPROOFING OR ELEVATING IS IMPRACTICAL.

**3112.3 SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN.** SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN SHALL MEET THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION AND TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

**3112.3.1. RESIDENTIAL.** THE LOWEST FLOOR, INCLUDING A BASEMENT, OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING NONCONFORMING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN SHALL BE ELEVATED TO AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION.

**3112.3.2. NONRESIDENTIAL.** THE LOWEST FLOOR, INCLUDING A BASEMENT, OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING NONCONFORMING NONRESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES SHALL BE ELEVATED TO AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION OR SHALL BE DESIGNED SO THAT ANY AREA OF THE BUILDING WHICH IS LOWER THAN 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION, AS DETERMINED OR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, IS WATERTIGHT WITH WALLS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPERMEABLE TO THE PASSAGE OF WATER AND WITH STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS HAVING THE CAPABILITY OF

1 WITHSTANDING APPLICABLE HYDROSTATIC, HYDRODYNAMIC, IMPACT,  
2 SOIL, AND, WHEN APPLICABLE, HURRICANE AND TIDAL WAVE LOADING  
3 CONDITIONS. THE WATER TIGHTNESS AND STRUCTURAL CAPABILITIES  
4 SHALL BE THOSE DESCRIBED IN FLOODPROOFING REGULATIONS PUBLISHED  
5 BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY, WASHINGTON,  
6 D.C., DECEMBER 1995, OR SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS, AND SECTION  
7 16.705(C) OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

8 **3112.4 CONSTRUCTION ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN.**

9 WHERE BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN  
10 THE FOLLOWING SUBSECTIONS AND TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HOWARD  
11 COUNTY CODE SHALL APPLY:

12 **3112.4.1 RESIDENTIAL.** IN NEW CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL  
13 BUILDINGS OR ADDITIONS OR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO  
14 RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, ALL FLOORS, INCLUDING THOSE OF BASEMENT  
15 AND STORAGE AREAS, SHALL BE ELEVATED AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE  
16 100-YEAR FLOOD LEVEL.

17 **3112.4.2 NONRESIDENTIAL.** IN NEW CONSTRUCTION OF NONRESIDENTIAL  
18 BUILDINGS OR ADDITIONS OR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO  
19 NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, EITHER:

- 20 (I) ALL FLOORS (INCLUDING THOSE OF BASEMENT AND STORAGE  
21 AREAS) SHALL BE ELEVATED AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR  
22 FLOOD LEVEL, AS DETERMINED OR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
23 OF PUBLIC WORKS; OR  
24 (II) THE CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT (INCLUDING ATTENDANT  
25 UTILITY OR SANITARY FACILITIES) SHALL BE DESIGNED SO THAT ANY  
26 AREAS OF THE BUILDING THAT ARE LOWER THAN 2 FEET ABOVE THE  
27 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION, AS DETERMINED OR APPROVED BY  
28 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ARE WATERTIGHT WITH  
29 WALLS SUBSTANTially IMPERMEABLE TO THE PASSAGE OF WATER  
30 AND WITH STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS HAVING THE CAPABILITY OF  
31 WITHSTANDING APPLICABLE HYDROSTATIC, HYDRODYNAMIC,

1 IMPACT, SOIL, AND, WHEN APPLICABLE, HURRICANE AND TIDAL  
2 WAVE LOADING CONDITIONS. ELECTRICAL, HEATING, VENTILATION,  
3 PLUMBING, AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER SERVICE  
4 FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDINGS SHALL BE DESIGNED  
5 OR LOCATED TO PREVENT WATER FROM ENTERING OR  
6 ACCUMULATING WITHIN THE COMPONENTS DURING FLOOD  
7 CONDITIONS. THE WATER TIGHTNESS AND STRUCTURAL  
8 CAPABILITIES SHALL BE THOSE DESCRIBED IN FLOODPROOFING  
9 REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF  
10 ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY, WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 1995, OR  
11 SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS, AND SECTION 16.705(c) OF THE HOWARD  
12 COUNTY CODE.

13 **3112.4.3. MODIFICATIONS, ALTERATIONS OR REPAIRS.** MODIFICATIONS,  
14 ALTERATIONS, REPAIRS, OR IMPROVEMENTS THAT COSTS LESS THAN 50% OF  
15 THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE STRUCTURE MAY BE MADE TO EXISTING  
16 NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES LOCATED ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED  
17 FLOODPLAIN WITHOUT FLOODPROOFING OR ELEVATING.

18 **3112.4.4. VARIANCES.** VARIANCES TO THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN  
19 THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE GRANTED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL IN  
20 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 16.711 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

21 **3112.5 SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED**  
22 **FLOODPLAIN.** SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED  
23 FLOODPLAIN SHALL MEET THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION  
24 AND TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

25 **3112.5.1 RESIDENTIAL.** THE LOWEST FLOOR, INCLUDING A BASEMENT, OF  
26 SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING NONCONFORMING RESIDENTIAL  
27 STRUCTURES LOCATED ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN SHALL BE  
28 ELEVATED TO AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION.

29 **3112.5.2 NONRESIDENTIAL.** THE LOWEST FLOOR, INCLUDING A BASEMENT,  
30 OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING NONCONFORMING  
31 NONRESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES LOCATED ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED

FLOODPLAIN SHALL BE ELEVATED TO AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION OR SHALL BE DESIGNED SO THAT ANY AREA OF THE BUILDING WHICH IS LOWER THAN 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION, AS DETERMINED OR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, IS WATERTIGHT WITH WALLS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPERMEABLE TO THE PASSAGE OF WATER AND WITH STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS HAVING THE CAPABILITY OF WITHSTANDING APPLICABLE HYDROSTATIC, HYDRODYNAMIC IMPACT, SOIL, AND, WHEN APPLICABLE, HURRICANE AND TIDAL WAVE LOADING CONDITIONS. ELECTRICAL, HEATING, VENTILATION, PLUMBING, AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER SERVICE FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDINGS SHALL BE DESIGNED OR LOCATED SO AS TO PREVENT WATER FROM ENTERING OR ACCUMULATING WITHIN THE COMPONENTS DURING CONDITIONS OF FLOODING. THE WATER TIGHTNESS AND STRUCTURAL CAPABILITIES SHALL BE THOSE DESCRIBED IN FLOODPROOFING REGULATIONS PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY, WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 1995, OR SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS, AND SECTION 16.705(C) OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

**3112.6 VERIFICATION.** FOR THE PURPOSE OF VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3112.4 FOR CONSTRUCTION ADJACENT TO A DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

- (I) WHEN FLOODPROOFING BY MEANS OTHER THAN ELEVATING, A DOCUMENT STATING THAT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE LOADING CONDITIONS STATED IN SUBSECTION 3112.4.2(II) SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OR ARCHITECT CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN MARYLAND. THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT.
- (II) WHEN FLOODPROOFING BY ELEVATING IS USED, THE OWNER SHALL AGREE, IN WRITING, TO PROVIDE A FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE FORM 086-0-33, COMPLETED BY A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OR

1 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN  
2 MARYLAND, CERTIFYING THAT THE AS-BUILT LOWEST FLOOR OF THE  
3 STRUCTURE IS ELEVATED AT LEAST 2 FEET ABOVE THE 100-YEAR  
4 FLOODPLAIN ELEVATION. THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE MADE PRIOR  
5 TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE BUILDING PERMIT AND THE COMPLETED  
6 CERTIFICATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO FOUNDATION  
7 APPROVAL BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.

8 (III) FAIR MARKET VALUE OF A STRUCTURE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY A  
9 RECENT (WITHIN 6 MONTHS) FORMAL APPRAISAL FROM A QUALIFIED  
10 APPRAISER. FAIR MARKET VALUE SHALL NOT INCLUDE LAND  
11 VALUE.

12 (IV) COST TO REPAIR OR IMPROVE A STRUCTURE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED  
13 BY A RECENT (WITHIN 6 MONTHS) WRITTEN ESTIMATE FROM A  
14 LICENSED CONTRACTOR AND SHALL INCLUDE THE COMPLETE COST  
15 OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE POINT OF USE OR  
16 OCCUPANCY.

17 **3112.7 DEFINITIONS.** NOTWITHSTANDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE  
18 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL  
19 APPLY TO SECTION 3112, FLOODPLAIN, OF THIS CODE:

20 **ACCESSORY STRUCTURE.** A DETACHED STRUCTURE ON THE SAME PARCEL  
21 OR PROPERTY AS THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE THAT HAS A USE THAT IS  
22 INCIDENTAL TO THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED  
23 TO, A SHED OR DETACHED GARAGE.

24 **ADJACENT TO A FLOODPLAIN.** SHARING A COMMON BORDER WITH A  
25 FLOODPLAIN.

26 **BASEMENT.** AN ENCLOSED AREA THAT IS BELOW GRADE ON ALL SIDES.

27 **FLOODPLAIN.** SHALL BE AS DELINEATED IN TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE  
28 HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

29 **FLOODPROOFING.** ANY COMBINATION OF ADDITIONS, CHANGES, OR  
30 ADJUSTMENTS TO A STRUCTURE WHICH REDUCE OR ELIMINATE FLOOD  
31 DAMAGE TO REAL ESTATE OR IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY, WATER OR

SANITARY FACILITIES, OR STRUCTURES AND THEIR CONTENTS , SUCH THAT  
THE BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ARE WATERTIGHT WITH WALLS  
SUBSTANTIALLY IMPERMEABLE TO THE PASSAGE OF WATER AND WITH  
STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS HAVING THE CAPABILITY OF RESISTING  
HYDROSTATIC AND HYDRODYNAMIC LOADS AND EFFECTS OF BUOYANCY.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE.** A BUILDING LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES, A STATE INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PLACES, OR AN  
INVENTORY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL. A HISTORIC STRUCTURE ALSO INCLUDES A STRUCTURE  
THAT IS CERTIFIED OR PRELIMINARILY DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HISTORICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE OF A REGISTERED HISTORIC DISTRICT OR A DISTRICT  
PRELIMINARILY DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY TO QUALIFY AS A  
REGISTERED HISTORIC DISTRICT.

**LOWEST FLOOR.** THE LOWEST FLOOR OR THE LOWEST ENCLOSED AREA,  
INCLUDING A BASEMENT. LOWEST FLOOR DOES NOT INCLUDE AN  
UNFINISHED OR FLOOD RESISTANT ENCLOSURE USED SOLELY FOR PARKING  
VEHICLES, BUILDING ACCESS, OR STORAGE IN AN AREA OTHER THAN A  
BASEMENT AREA. THE ENCLOSURE SHALL NOT BE BUILT SO AS TO RENDER  
THE STRUCTURE IN VIOLATION OF THE APPLICABLE NON-ELEVATION DESIGN  
REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS 3112.4 AND 3112.6 OF THIS CODE.

**MANUFACTURED HOME.** A MANUFACTURED HOME SHALL HAVE THE  
MEANING SET FORTH IN TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY  
CODE.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION.** STRUCTURES, INCLUDING ADDITIONS AND  
IMPROVEMENTS, AND THE PLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOMES, FOR  
WHICH THE START OF CONSTRUCTION COMMENCED ON OR AFTER 3/15/1977,  
THE INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE HOWARD COUNTY FLOOD INSURANCE  
RATE MAP, INCLUDING ANY SUBSEQUENT IMPROVEMENTS, ALTERATIONS,  
MODIFICATIONS, AND ADDITIONS TO SUCH STRUCTURES.

1 THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF A MANUFACTURED HOME BECAUSE OF  
2 SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE IS CONSIDERED TO BE NEW CONSTRUCTION AND IS  
3 PROHIBITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3112.2.1 OF THIS CODE.

4 **STRUCTURE.** FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION 3112 TO THIS CODE,  
5 SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE  
6 HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

7 **SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE.** DAMAGE OF ANY ORIGIN SUSTAINED BY A  
8 STRUCTURE WHERE THE COST OF RETURNING THE STRUCTURE TO ITS  
9 CONDITION PRIOR TO DAMAGE WOULD EQUAL OR EXCEED 50% OF THE  
10 STRUCTURE'S FAIR MARKET VALUE BEFORE THE DAMAGE OCCURRED.

11 **SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT.** THE REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR  
12 IMPROVEMENT OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE, THE COST OF WHICH IS  
13 EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 50% OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE  
14 BUILDING OR STRUCTURE PRIOR TO DAMAGE, IMPROVEMENT, OR REPAIR.  
15 FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DEFINITION, "SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT"  
16 OCCURS WHEN THE FIRST ALTERATION OF A WALL, CEILING, FLOOR, OR  
17 OTHER STRUCTURAL PART OF THE BUILDING BEGINS, WHETHER OR NOT  
18 THAT ALTERATION AFFECTS THE EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS OF THE BUILDING  
19 OR STRUCTURE. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY PROJECT FOR  
20 IMPROVING A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE TO COMPLY WITH EXISTING STATE  
21 OR LOCAL HEALTH, SANITARY, OR HOUSING CODE REQUIREMENTS WHICH  
22 ARE NECESSARY TO ASSURE SAFE LIVING CONDITIONS. THIS TERM DOES NOT  
23 INCLUDE AN ALTERATION OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURE PROVIDED THAT THE  
24 ALTERATION WILL NOT PRECLUDE THE STRUCTURE'S CONTINUED  
25 DESIGNATION AS A HISTORIC STRUCTURE.

26 **VARIANCE.** THE GRANT OF RELIEF FROM A TERM OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 **3112.8 VARIANCES AND WAIVERS.** EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION  
28 3112.4 OF THIS CODE, A VARIANCE OR WAIVER OF THIS SECTION IS NOT  
29 ALLOWED. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL CONSIDER A VARIANCE IN  
30 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 16.711 OF THE HOWARD  
31 COUNTY CODE.



1           **3112.9 OTHER AGENCIES.** A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL  
2 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS NOT VALID UNTIL ALL NECESSARY PERMITS FOR  
3 THE DEVELOPMENT ARE OBTAINED. RECEIPT OF FEDERAL OR STATE  
4 PERMITS DO NOT EXEMPT A DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
5 SUBTITLE.

6           (74) *SUBSECTION 3306.10 ACCESSIBILITY DURING CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS.*

7           ADD NEW SUBSECTION 3306.10 AFTER SUBSECTION 3306.9 AS FOLLOWS:

8           **3306.10 ACCESSIBILITY DURING CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS.** PRIOR TO  
9 AND DURING CONSTRUCTION, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE AND  
10 MAINTAIN AT ALL TIMES A MINIMUM 12 FOOT WIDE VEHICULAR ACCESS  
11 ROADWAY THAT WILL ALLOW THE UNIMPEDED MOVEMENT OF FIRE OR  
12 EMERGENCY RESCUE VEHICLES FROM AN IMPROVED STREET TO WITHIN 200  
13 FEET OF THE MOST REMOTE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE SITE.  
14 THE VEHICULAR ACCESS ROADWAY SURFACE SHALL BE CRUSHER RUN,  
15 STONE BASE, BLACKTOP, OR OTHER SUITABLE COMPACTED SURFACE  
16 MATERIAL APPROVED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.

17           (75) *SECTION 3314 CONSTRUCTION SITE GRADING.*

18           ADD NEW SECTION 3314 AFTER SECTION 3313 AS FOLLOWS:

19           **SECTION 3314 CONSTRUCTION SITE GRADING.**

20           **3314.1 LOT IMPROVEMENTS.** LOT IMPROVEMENTS SHALL PROVIDE:

- 21           (I)     SUITABLE ACCESS FROM AN ABUTTING STREET TO DWELLINGS AND  
22                   ACCESSORY BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO A PERMIT;
- 23           (II)    GRADING WHICH WILL DIVERT WATER AWAY FROM BUILDINGS AND  
24                   PREVENT STANDING WATER AND SOIL SATURATION DETRIMENTAL  
25                   TO STRUCTURES OR LOT USE;
- 26           (III)   DISPOSAL OF WATER FROM LOTS, EXCEPT AS NECESSARY FOR  
27                   CONTROLLED IRRIGATION;
- 28           (IV)    GRADES FOR SAFE AND CONVENIENT ACCESS TO AND AROUND  
29                   BUILDINGS OR LOTS FOR USE AND MAINTENANCE; AND
- 30           (V)     GRADES THAT DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ADJOINING LOTS.

1           **3314.2 MINIMUM GRADIENT.** THE MINIMUM GRADIENT FOR CONCRETE OR  
2           OTHER IMPERVIOUS SURFACES SHALL BE 1/16 INCH PER FOOT (1/2%). THE  
3           MINIMUM GRADIENT FOR PERVIOUS SURFACES SHALL BE 1/4 INCH PER FOOT  
4           (2%).

5           **3314.3 MAXIMUM GRADIENT.** EXCEPT WHERE RESTRICTED BY PROPERTY  
6           LINES, THE MAXIMUM GRADIENT SHALL BE 2-1/2 INCHES (21%) FOR A  
7           MINIMUM OF 4 FEET AWAY FROM BUILDING WALLS. SLOPES NOT EXCEEDING  
8           30 INCHES SHALL BE 1-1/2 TO 1. SLOPES EXCEEDING 30 INCHES SHALL BE 2  
9           TO 1. THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF BANKS AT THE SWALES SHALL BE ROUNDED  
10          FOR CONVENIENT MAINTENANCE.

11          **3314.4 FINISH GRADING.** FOR AREAS WHERE THE INSTALLATION OF LAWN  
12          OR PLANTING IS REQUIRED, THE SURFACE LAYER OF THE SOIL SHALL BE  
13          WORKABLE, FREE OF DEBRIS, AND LOT FINISHED GRADED TO COMPLY WITH  
14          GRADING DESIGN. FINISH GRADING SHALL BE DONE WHEN THE GROUND IS  
15          FROST-FREE AND THE WEATHER IS FAVORABLE. LAWN COVERS SHALL BE  
16          PROVIDED TO PREVENT THE EROSION OF SWALES AND SLOPES.

17          (76) *SECTION 3315 BURIAL OF CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS.*

18          ADD NEW SECTION 3315 AFTER SECTION 3314 AS FOLLOWS:

19          **SECTION 3315 BURIAL OF CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS.**

20          **3315.1 WHEN PROHIBITED OR PERMITTED.** THE BURIAL OF DEBRIS ON  
21          RESIDENTIAL LOTS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN HALF AN ACRE IS PROHIBITED.  
22          THE BURIAL OF ORGANIC OR INORGANIC DEBRIS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS  
23          GREATER THAN HALF AN ACRE MAY BE PERMITTED BY THE BUILDING  
24          OFFICIAL PROVIDED THAT THE DEBRIS IS GENERATED ON-SITE. BURIAL  
25          SHALL NOT BE LOCATED IN PROPOSED DRIVEWAYS OR PARKING AREAS AND  
26          SHALL NOT BE LOCATED CLOSER THAN 50 FEET FROM EXISTING OR  
27          PROPOSED BUILDINGS.

28  
29   **SECTION 3.102. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, 2015**  
30   **EDITION.**

31   (A)   *IN GENERAL.*

- 1 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "THIS CODE" MEANS THE  
2 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY  
3 DWELLINGS, 2015 EDITION.
- 4 (2) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "BUILDING OFFICIAL" MEANS THE  
5 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS  
6 OR THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.
- 7 (3) WHERE THE NAME OF THE JURISDICTION IS TO BE INDICATED IN ANY  
8 SECTION OF THIS CODE, INSERT "HOWARD COUNTY".
- 9 (4) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY"  
10 MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS.
- 11 (B) *LOCAL AMENDMENTS.* THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
12 OF THE ADOPTED CODE.
- 13 (1) *SUBSECTION R101.2 SCOPE.*  
14 ADD THE FOLLOWING AT THE END OF THE SUBSECTION:  
15 **R101.2.1 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT.** IF A SITE  
16 DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS REQUIRED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY SUBDIVISION  
17 REGULATIONS, A PERMIT SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL THE SITE  
18 DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS APPROVED UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE DIRECTOR  
19 OF PLANNING AND ZONING  
20 **R101.2.2 SITE WORK AND SAFEGUARDS.** THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
21 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, CHAPTER 33, SHALL APPLY FOR SITE  
22 WORK AND SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- 23 (2) *SUBSECTION R102.2 OTHER LAWS.*  
24 ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION:  
25 **R102.2.1 RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER.** RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS  
26 INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 903.3.1.3 OF THE  
27 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, ARE ALLOWED FOR  
28 TOWNHOUSE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS REQUIRED BY THE FIRE LAWS CONTAINED  
29 IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.  
30 **R102.2.2 INDUSTRIALIZED (MODULAR) CONSTRUCTION.** THE  
31 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING AND

1 MANUFACTURED HOMES ACT, CODIFIED AT TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE  
2 PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND SHALL  
3 APPLY TO INDUSTRIALIZED (MODULAR) BUILDINGS.

4 **EXCEPTION:** THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE, SUBDIVISION  
5 AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, ZONING REGULATIONS, AND  
6 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL REGULATIONS APPLY TO THE  
7 CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL (MODULAR) BUILDINGS. THE  
8 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CODE SHALL APPLY TO THE FOUNDATION AND SITE  
9 WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF INDUSTRIALIZED  
10 (MODULAR) BUILDINGS.

11 **R102.2.3 MANUFACTURED HOUSING.** THE CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS OF  
12 THE FEDERAL MOBILE HOME ACT AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING AND  
13 MANUFACTURED HOMES ACT, CODIFIED AT TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE  
14 PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND SHALL  
15 APPLY.

16 **EXCEPTION:** THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE, SUBDIVISION  
17 AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, ZONING REGULATIONS, AND  
18 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL REGULATIONS APPLY TO THE  
19 CONSTRUCTION OF MANUFACTURED HOMES. THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
20 APPENDIX E OF THIS CODE, FOR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF FOOTINGS,  
21 FOUNDATIONS, SKIRTING AND PERIMETER ENCLOSURES, EXITS, PIERS, AND  
22 GROUND ANCHORS SHALL APPLY FOR THE SITING OF MANUFACTURED  
23 HOMES.

24 (3) *SUBSECTION R102.4 REFERENCED CODES AND STANDARDS.*

25 ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION:

26 **R102.4.3** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “NFPA 70 NATIONAL  
27 ELECTRICAL CODE” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR  
28 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

29 **R102.4.4** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING  
30 CODE” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
31 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

**R102.4.5** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.104 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

**R102.4.6** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

**R102.4.7** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN HOWARD COUNTY WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 1, SUBTITLE 12, AND SUBTITLE 15 AND IN TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

**R102.4.8** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FOR RENTAL HOUSING ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE.

**R102.4.9** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE MECHANICAL CODE OF HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.103 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

**R102.4.10** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBTITLE.

(4) *SUBSECTION R102.7 EXISTING STRUCTURES.*

IN THIS SUBSECTION DELETE “*INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE* OR THE *INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE*” AND SUBSTITUTE “HOWARD COUNTY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FOR RENTAL HOUSING, HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE, AND THE MARYLAND BUILDING REHABILITATION CODE”.

(5) *SUBSECTION R102.7.1 ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS OR REPAIRS..*

INSERT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST SENTENCE:

“UNLESS EXCEPTED BY THE MARYLAND BUILDING REHABILITATION  
CODE,”.

(6) *SECTIONS R103 THROUGH R114.*

DELETE SECTIONS R103 THROUGH R114, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR  
ENTIRETY, AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:

**R103 ADMINISTRATION.** SECTIONS 103 THROUGH 118 OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, AS ADOPTED AND  
AMENDED IN THIS SUBTITLE, SHALL GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION AND  
ENFORCEMENT OF THIS CODE.

(7) *TABLE R301.2(1) CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DESIGN CRITERIA.*

IN TABLE R301.2(1) INSERT THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- (I) IN THE COLUMN FOR “GROUND SNOW LOAD”, INSERT “25 LB”;
- (II) IN THE COLUMN FOR “WIND DESIGN”, INSERT “115” UNDER “SPEED”;  
“NO” UNDER “TOPOGRAPHIC EFFECTS”; “NO” UNDER “SPECIAL WIND  
REGION”; AND “NO” UNDER “WIND-BORNE DEBRIS ZONE”;
- (III) IN THE COLUMN FOR “SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY”, INSERT “A”;
- (IV) IN THE COLUMN FOR “SUBJECT TO DAMAGE FROM”; UNDER  
“WEATHERING” INSERT “SEVERE”; UNDER “FROST LINE DEPTH”  
INSERT “30”; AND UNDER “TERMITE” INSERT “MOD-HEAVY”;
- (V) IN THE COLUMN FOR “WINTER DESIGN TEMP”, INSERT “20”;
- (VI) IN THE COLUMN FOR “ICE BARRIER UNDERLAYMENT REQUIRED”,  
INSERT “YES”;
- (VII) IN THE COLUMN FOR “FLOOR HAZARDS”, INSERT “SEE FLOOD MAPS”;
- (VIII) IN THE COLUMN FOR “AIR FREEZING INDEX” INSERT “1500”; AND
- (VIX) IN THE COLUMN FOR “MEAN ANNUAL TEMP” INSERT “55”.

(8) *SUBSECTION R301.2.4 FLOODPLAIN CONSTRUCTION.*

IN THIS SUBSECTION, DELETE “ASCE 24” AND SUBSTITUTE “SECTION 3112,  
FLOODPLAIN, OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE”.

(9) *SUBSECTION R301.2.4.1 ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS.*

DELETE THIS SUBSECTION.

(10) *SUBSECTION R301.6 ROOF LOAD.*

- 1 AFTER THE FIRST "LOAD" DELETE THE REST OF THE SENTENCE AND  
2 SUBSTITUTE "OF 30 PSF AND NO REDUCTION FOR SLOPE".
- 3 (11) *TABLE R301.6 MINIMUM ROOF LIVE LOADS*  
4 DELETE THE TABLE IN ITS ENTIRETY.
- 5 (12) *SUBSECTION R302.2 TOWNHOUSES.*  
6 INSERT THE FOLLOWING BEFORE THE FIRST SENTENCE:  
7 EACH TOWNHOUSE SHALL BE CONSIDERED A SEPARATE BUILDING AND  
8 SHALL BE SEPARATED BY FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED WALL ASSEMBLIES  
9 MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION R302.1 FOR EXTERIOR WALLS.
- 10 (13) *SUBSECTION R302.2.4 STRUCTURAL INDEPENDENCE.*  
11 DELETE EXCEPTION NUMBER 5
- 12 (14) *SUBSECTION R308.4.3 GLAZING IN WINDOWS.*  
13 IN NUMBER 4, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 4 AS FOLLOWS:  
14 "SAFETY GLAZE FILM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANSI Z97.1".
- 15 (15) *SUBSECTION R311.7.8.3 GRIP SIZE.*  
16 (I) IN NUMBER 1, DELETE "2 ¼ INCHES (57 MM)" AND SUBSTITUTE "3  
17 ¼ INCHES"; AND  
18 (II) IN NUMBER 2, DELETE "2 ¾ INCHES (70MM)" AND SUBSTITUTE "3 ¼  
19 INCHES".
- 20 (16) *SUBSECTION R312.1.1 WHERE REQUIRED.*  
21 ADD THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION:  
22 "EXCEPTION: ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS MAY BE APPROVED BY THE BUILDING  
23 OFFICIAL."
- 24 (17) *SUBSECTION R320.1 SCOPE.*  
25 DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING:  
26 **R320.1 SCOPE.** ACCESSIBLE DWELLING UNITS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
27 PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND ACCESSIBILITY CODE.
- 28 (18) *SUBSECTION R322.1 GENERAL.*  
29 IN THIS SUBSECTION, DELETE "ASCE 24" AND SUBSTITUTE "SECTION 3112,  
30 FLOODPLAIN, OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE".
- 31 (19) *SUBSECTION R326.1 GENERAL.*

1 DELETE "INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE" AND  
2 SUBSTITUTE WITH "IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3109 OF THE  
3 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE".

4 (20) *SECTION R327 SOUND TRANSMISSION.*

5 ADD NEW SECTION R327 AFTER SECTION R326 AS FOLLOWS:

6 **R327 SOUND TRANSMISSION.** THE REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX K SHALL  
7 APPLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALL NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

8 (21) *APPENDIX K, SECTION AK102.1 GENERAL.*

9 IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, DELETE "45" AND SUBSTITUTE "50".

10 (22) *APPENDIX K, SECTION AK103.1 GENERAL.*

11 IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, DELETE "45" AND SUBSTITUTE "50".

12 (23) *SECTION R328 RADON CONTROL.*

13 ADD NEW SECTION R328 AFTER SECTION R327 AS FOLLOWS:

14 **SECTION R328 RADON CONTROL.** RADON CONTROL METHODS SET FORTH  
15 IN APPENDIX F, SHALL APPLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL  
16 BUILDINGS.

17 (24) *SECTION R329 MANUFACTURED HOUSING.*

18 ADD NEW SECTION R329 AFTER SECTION R328 AS FOLLOWS:

19 **SECTION R329 MANUFACTURED HOUSING.** MANUFACTURED HOUSING  
20 USED AS DWELLINGS SHALL COMPLY WITH APPENDIX E.

21 (25) *SUBSECTION R403.1.4.1 FROST PROTECTION.*

22 (I) IN EXCEPTION NO. 1, DELETE "600 SQUARE FEET (52 M<sup>2</sup>)" AND  
23 SUBSTITUTE "400 SQUARE FEET"; AND

24 (II) DELETE EXCEPTION NO. 3.

25 (26) *TABLE R404.1.2(3) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 8-INCH*  
26 *NOMINAL FLAT BASEMENT WALLS.*

27 IN THE COLUMN TITLED "MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT BAR SIZE  
28 AND SPACING", FOR THE SOIL CLASS "GM, GC, SM, SM-SC AND ML":

29 A. FOR MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 8 FEET AND MAXIMUM  
30 UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 7 FEET, CHANGE THE  
31 MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING,



1 MINIMUM NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS FROM “6 @ 36” TO  
2 “NR”; AND

3 B. FOR MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 9 FEET AND MAXIMUM  
4 UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 7 FEET, CHANGE THE  
5 MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING,  
6 MINIMUM NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS FROM “6 @ 35” TO  
7 “NR”; AND

8 (27) *TABLE R404.1.2(4) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 10-INCH*  
9 *NOMINAL FLAT BASEMENT WALLS.*

10 IN THE COLUMN TITLED “MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT BAR SIZE  
11 AND SPACING”, FOR THE SOIL CLASS “GM, GC, SM, SM-SC AND ML”: FOR  
12 A MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 9 FEET AND A MAXIMUM UNBALANCED  
13 BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 8 FEET, CHANGE THE MINIMUM VERTICAL  
14 REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING MINIMUM WALL THICKNESS FROM “6@  
15 31” TO “NR”.

16 (28) *TABLE R404.1.2(8) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 6-, 8-, 10-INCH*  
17 *AND 12-INCH NOMINAL FLAT BASEMENT WALLS.*

18 IN THE COLUMN TITLED “MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT BAR SIZE  
19 AND SPACING”, FOR THE SOIL CLASS “GM, GC, SM, SM-SC AND ML”:

20 (I) IN THE SUB-COLUMN TITLED “MINIMUM NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS  
21 (INCHES)”, FOR 8 INCHES:

22 A. FOR MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 8 FEET AND MAXIMUM  
23 UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 7 FEET, CHANGE THE  
24 MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING,  
25 MINIMUM NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS FROM “5 @ 41” TO  
26 “NR”; AND

27 B. FOR MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 9 FEET AND MAXIMUM  
28 UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 7 FEET, CHANGE THE  
29 MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING,  
30 MINIMUM NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS FROM “5 @ 37” TO  
31 “NR”; AND

(II) IN THE SUB-COLUMN TITLED “MINIMAL NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS (INCHES)”; FOR 10 INCHES, FOR A MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT OF 9 FEET AND A MAXIMUM UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT OF 8 FEET, CHANGE THE MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING MINIMUM WALL THICKNESS FROM “5 @ 37” TO “NR”.

(29) *SUBSECTION R405.1 CONCRETE OR MASONRY FOUNDATIONS.*

AMEND THIS SUBSECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(I) DELETE THE EXCEPTION TO THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(II) ADD NEW SUBSECTION R405.1.2 AFTER SUBSECTION 405.1.1 AS FOLLOWS:

**R405.1.2 FOUNDATION DRAINS.** SUBSOIL DRAINS HAVING A MINIMUM 3 INCH DIAMETER OR OTHER APPROVED DRAINS OF EQUIVALENT CROSS SECTIONAL AREA SHALL BE PROVIDED AROUND FOUNDATIONS ENCLOSING USABLE SPACES LOCATED BELOW GRADE. DRAINS SHALL BE INSTALLED ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE FOUNDATION OR ON THE INTERIOR OF THE FOUNDATION WITH PIPES OF AT LEAST A 2-INCH DIAMETER LEADING TO THE EXTERIOR EVERY 4 FEET AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE FOUNDATION. IN EACH CASE, THE TOP OF THE DRAIN SHALL BE BELOW THE BOTTOM OF SLAB. DRAINS FOR POURED CONCRETE FOUNDATION MAY BE PLACED ON TOP OF THE FOOTING. SUBSOIL DRAINS SHALL BE COVERED WITH A MINIMUM OF A 4-INCH DEPTH OF GRAVEL OR WASHED STONE AND BUILDING PAPER, FILTER CLOTH, OR OTHER APPROVED MATERIAL. THE END OF A SUBSOIL DRAIN SHALL DISCHARGE BY GRAVITY OR BY MECHANICAL MEANS TO AN APPROVED DRAINAGE OUTFALL.

(30) *SUBSECTION R602.10.5 MINIMUM LENGTH OF A BRACED WALL PANEL.*

AFTER THE FIRST SENTENCE INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

WSP METHOD IS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SHEATHING. IF A METHOD OTHER THAN WSP METHOD IS USED, THEN DETAILED SITE-SPECIFIC PLANS SHOWING THE SPECIFIC LOCATION, LENGTH, AND NAILING METHODS OF

1 PANELS AND WHETHER ANY SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT/HARDWARE, ETC.  
2 WILL BE REQUIRED. SUCH DETAILED PLANS SHALL ALWAYS BE REQUIRED,  
3 EVEN IF UTILIZING THE WSP METHOD, FOR WALLS WITH LARGE-OPENINGS  
4 (E.G. SUNROOM/MORNING ROOMS AND GARAGE OPENINGS). IN ADDITION,  
5 ALL PROJECTS WITH SITE-SPECIFIC DETAILED PLANS (I.E. ALL PROJECTS NOT  
6 BRACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WSP METHOD AND THE PORTION OF  
7 LARGE-OPENING WALL SECTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE) WILL REQUIRE  
8 INSPECTION PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION OF EXTERIOR WALL  
9 WEATHERPROOFING (E.G. HOUSE WRAPS, SIDING, ETC).

10 (31) *SUBSECTION R802.10.2.1 APPLICABILITY LIMITS.*  
11 IN THE LAST SENTENCE, DELETE “.7” AND SUBSTITUTE “1.0”.

12 (32) *SUBSECTION M1401.1.1 HVAC PERMIT REQUIRED.*  
13 ADD NEW SUBSECTION M1401.1.1 AFTER SUBSECTION M1401.1 AS  
14 FOLLOWS:  
15 **M1401.1.1 HVAC PERMIT REQUIRED.** A HVAC PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR  
16 EVERY SYSTEM INSTALLED IN A NEW SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING OR NEW  
17 SINGLE FAMILY ADDITION.

18 (33) *SUBSECTION M1401.3.1 PLANS AND INFORMATION REQUIRED.*  
19 ADD NEW SUBSECTION M1401.3.1 AFTER SUBSECTION M1401.3 AS  
20 FOLLOWS:  
21 **M1401.3.1 PLANS AND INFORMATION REQUIRED.** EACH PERMIT  
22 APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SIMPLIFIED, BUT ACCURATE,  
23 PLAN DRAWN TO SCALE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE:  
24 (I) AN INFORMATION BLOCK WITH THE:  
25 A. SPECIFIC BUILDING ADDRESS (NOT LOT NUMBER);  
26 B. NAME OF THE COMPANY OR PERSON DOING WORK;  
27 C. NAME OF THE LICENSEE AND THEIR SIGNATURE;  
28 D. STATE LICENSE REGISTRATION NUMBER;  
29 E. SCALE USED; AND  
30 F. NORTH ARROW;

- (II) ROOMS, WINDOWS, EXTERIOR DOORS, OR OTHER RELEVANT CONSTRUCTION FEATURES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SKYLIGHTS, PORCHES, OR ATTIC ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT THAT MAY AFFECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE HVAC SYSTEM AND ITS INSTALLATION; AND
- (III) A LINE DRAWING OF HVACR SYSTEM COMPONENTS SUPERIMPOSED ON THE PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATION, DIMENSION, AND RELEVANT ELEMENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
- A. INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR HVACR EQUIPMENT;
  - B. DUCT TRUNK LINES AND TRANSITIONS;
  - C. BRANCH DUCTS/RUN-OUTS, DAMPERS, AND REGISTERS WITH CFM RATINGS;
  - D. THERMOSTATS;
  - E. RETURN DUCTS AND GRILLS; AND
  - F. DUCT INSULATION; AND
- (IV) A SUMMARY OF MANUAL J CALCULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED WORK.

(34) *SUBSECTION M1503.1 GENERAL.*

IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE EXCEPTION AFTER THE FIRST “WHERE” INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

“AN OPERABLE WINDOW LOCATED WITHIN 12 FEET OF THE COOKING SURFACE IS PROVIDED AND”.

(35) *CHAPTER 24 THROUGH CHAPTER 43.*

DELETE THESE CHAPTERS, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

**SECTION 3.103. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, 2015 EDITION.**

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

- (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM “THIS CODE” MEANS THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, 2015 EDITION.

- 1 (2) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "BUILDING OFFICIAL" MEANS THE  
2 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS  
3 OR THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.
- 4 (3) WHERE THE NAME OF THE JURISDICTION IS TO BE INDICATED IN ANY  
5 SECTION OF THIS CODE, INSERT "HOWARD COUNTY".
- 6 (4) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM "DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL  
7 INSPECTION" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND  
8 PERMITS.
- 9 (B) *LOCAL AMENDMENTS.* THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
10 OF THE ADOPTED CODE:
- 11 (1) *SUBSECTION 101.2 SCOPE.*  
12 ADD A SECOND EXCEPTION TO THIS SUBSECTION AS FOLLOWS:  
13 EXCEPTION: EXISTING BUILDINGS UNDERGOING REPAIR, ALTERATION,  
14 ADDITION, OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY MAY COMPLY WITH THE MARYLAND  
15 REHABILITATION CODE.
- 16 (2) *SUBSECTION 101.5 ADMINISTRATION.*  
17 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.5 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.4 AS FOLLOWS:  
18 **101.5 ADMINISTRATION.** SECTIONS 103 THROUGH 118 OF THE  
19 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, ADOPTED IN THIS  
20 SUBTITLE, SHALL GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF  
21 THIS CODE.
- 22 (3) *SUBSECTION 101.6 REFERENCED CODES.*  
23 ADD NEW SUBSECTION 101.6 AFTER SUBSECTION 101.5 AS FOLLOWS:  
24 **101.6 REFERENCED CODES.** THE CODES LISTED IN THIS SECTION AND  
25 REFERENCED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CODE SHALL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE  
26 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CODE TO THE PRESCRIBED EXTENT OF EACH SUCH  
27 REFERENCE.
- 28 **101.6.1** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM "*INTERNATIONAL BUILDING*  
29 *CODE*" IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE  
30 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBTITLE.

1           **101.6.2** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*NFPA 70 NATIONAL*  
2           *ELECTRICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR  
3           HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

4           **101.6.3** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING*  
5           *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
6           HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

7           **101.6.4** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE*”  
8           IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE  
9           ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.104 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

10          **101.6.5** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS*  
11          *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
12          HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

13          **101.6.6** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL ENERGY*  
14          *CONSERVATION CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ENERGY  
15          CONSERVATION CODE OF HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
16          SECTION 3.104 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17          **101.6.7** WHENEVER THIS CODE STATES “1612 OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
18          BUILDING CODE”, IN EACH INSTANCE STRIKE “1612 OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
19          BUILDING CODE” AND SUBSTITUTE “SECTION 3112 OF THE HOWARD  
20          COUNTY BUILDING CODE.”

21          (4)    *SUBSECTION 102.1 GENERAL.*

22                ADD AN EXCEPTION TO SUBSECTION 102.1 AS FOLLOWS:

23          **EXCEPTION:** ALTERNATIVE FEATURES WHICH ARE ACCEPTED BY THE  
24          BUILDING OFFICIAL SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN CONFORMANCE WITH ALL  
25          CODES, PROVIDED THAT THE OVERALL LEVEL OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
26          WELFARE OF THE CODE REQUIREMENT IS NOT DIMINISHED BY THE  
27          ALTERNATIVE FEATURE.

28          (5)    *SECTION 103 THROUGH SECTION 109.*

29                DELETE SECTION 103 THROUGH SECTION 109, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR  
30                ENTIRETY.

31          (6)    *SUBSECTION 301.16 FLOOD HAZARD.*

IN THE EXCEPTION TO THIS SUBSECTION, DELETE “*INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE*” AND SUBSTITUTE “SECTION 3112 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE.”

(7) *SUBSECTION 307.2.2 DRAINPIPE MATERIALS AND SIZES*

IN THE THIRD SENTENCE, DELETE “THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 7 OF”.

(8) *SUBSECTION 402.1 NATURAL VENTILATION.*

AFTER THE LAST SENTENCE, INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

“IF CROSS VENTILATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED, AN OPERABLE WINDOW WITHIN 12 FEET OF THE COOKING SURFACE IS ACCEPTABLE.”

**SECTION. 3.104. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, 2015 EDITION.**

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

(1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM “THIS CODE” MEANS THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, 2015 EDITION.

(2) AS USED IN THIS CODE, THE TERM “CODE OFFICIAL” MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS OR THE DIRECTOR’S AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.

(3) WHERE THE NAME OF THE JURISDICTION IS TO BE INDICATED IN ANY SECTION OF THIS CODE, INSERT “HOWARD COUNTY”.

(B) *LOCAL AMENDMENTS.* THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE:

(1) *SUBSECTION C101.1 TITLE.*

DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

**C101.1 TITLE.** THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE OF HOWARD COUNTY.

(2) *SUBSECTION C101.6 REFERENCED CODES.*

ADD NEW SUBSECTION C101.6 AFTER SUBSECTION C101.5 AS FOLLOWS:

**C101.6 REFERENCED CODES.** THE CODES LISTED IN THIS SECTION AND REFERENCED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CODE SHALL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE

1 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CODE TO THE PRESCRIBED EXTENT OF EACH SUCH  
2 REFERENCE.

3 **C101.6.1** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL BUILDING*  
4 *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE  
5 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBTITLE.

6 **C101.6.2** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*NFPA 70 NATIONAL*  
7 *ELECTRICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR  
8 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

9 **C101.6.3** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING*  
10 *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
11 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

12 **C101.6.4** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FIRE*  
13 *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION  
14 CODE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.104 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY  
15 CODE.

16 **C101.6.5** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS*  
17 *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
18 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.

19 **C101.6.6** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL*  
20 *MECHANICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE MECHANICAL CODE OF  
21 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.103 OF THIS  
22 SUBTITLE.

23 (3) *SECTION C101.7 ADMINISTRATION.*

24 ADD NEW SUBSECTION C101.7 AFTER SUBSECTION C101.6 AS FOLLOWS:

25 **C101.7 ADMINISTRATION:** SECTIONS 103 THROUGH 118 OF THE  
26 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, ADOPTED IN THIS  
27 SUBTITLE, SHALL GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF  
28 THIS CODE.

29 (4) *SECTION C103 THROUGH SECTION C109.*

30 DELETE SECTIONS C103 THROUGH C 109, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR  
31 ENTIRETY.



1           (5)    *SECTION C 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.*  
2                DELETE THE DEFINITION OF “CODE OFFICIAL”.  
3           (6)    *SUBSECTION R 101.1 TITLE.*  
4                DELETE THIS SUBSECTION AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING:  
5                **R101.1 TITLE.** THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE ENERGY  
6                CONSERVATION CODE OF HOWARD COUNTY.  
7           (7)    *SUBSECTION R101.6 REFERENCED CODES.*  
8                ADD NEW SUBSECTION R101.6 AFTER SUBSECTION R101.5 AS FOLLOWS:  
9                **R101.6 REFERENCED CODES.** THE CODES LISTED IN THIS SECTION AND  
10               REFERENCED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CODE SHALL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE  
11               REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CODE TO THE PRESCRIBED EXTENT OF EACH SUCH  
12               REFERENCE.  
13               **R101.6.1** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL BUILDING*  
14               *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE  
15               ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBTITLE.  
16               **R101.6.2** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*NFPA 70 NATIONAL*  
17               *ELECTRICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR  
18               HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.  
19               **R101.6.3** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING*  
20               *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
21               HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.  
22               **R101.6.4** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FIRE*  
23               *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION  
24               CODE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.104 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY  
25               CODE.  
26               **R101.6.5** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS*  
27               *CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE FOR  
28               HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.  
29               **R101.6.6** WHENEVER IN THIS CODE THE TERM “*INTERNATIONAL*  
30               *MECHANICAL CODE*” IS USED, IT SHALL MEAN THE MECHANICAL CODE OF

1 HOWARD COUNTY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.103 OF THIS  
2 SUBTITLE.

3 (8) *SECTION R101.7 ADMINISTRATION.*

4 ADD NEW SUBSECTION R101.7 AFTER SUBSECTION R101.6 AS FOLLOWS:

5 **R101.7 ADMINISTRATION:** SECTIONS 103 THROUGH 118 OF THE  
6 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2015 EDITION, ADOPTED IN THIS  
7 SUBTITLE, SHALL GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF  
8 THIS CODE.

9 (9) *SECTION R103 THROUGH SECTION R109.*

10 DELETE SECTIONS R103 THROUGH R 109, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR  
11 ENTIRETY.

12 (10) *SECTION R202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.*

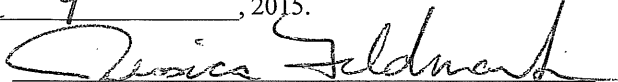
13 DELETE THE DEFINITION OF “CODE OFFICIAL”.

14

15 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,***  
16 ***Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 9, 2015.

  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

CB 9 - 2015  
CB 10 - 2015



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

3430 Courthouse Drive

■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■

410-313-2433

Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director  
bfrances@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-3298  
TDD 410-313-2323

**Subject:** Testimony Regarding Adoption of 2015 Building Codes and 2014 National Electrical Code

**To:** Lonnie Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director  
Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits

**Date:** February 19, 2015

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits has proposed legislation to adopt the 2015 version of the Howard County Building Code. The intent of this legislation is to update the model codes with the most recent editions. This will keep Howard County up to date with the latest codes that are currently being used in the construction industry.

This code adoption will also update the International Energy Conservation Code to the 2015 Edition (IECC). By State law, we are not allowed to adopt amendments that lessen the requirements of the IECC. This edition did not increase energy efficiency that has been the trend in the two previous editions of the code.

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits has proposed legislation to adopt the 2014 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) as the Howard County Electrical Code. We have made very few changes, mostly corrective language to maintain current construction practices. The only significant amendment change is delaying the implementation of arc fault circuit interrupters in kitchens and laundry areas to allow industry products to become more readily available.

The amendments as proposed enable us to stay current with the most up to date construction codes and allow us to maintain our current construction practices. I have attached a detailed list of all code changes that were made and are different from the previously approved code amendments. If you have any questions, I can be reached at ext 3946.

Copy: Donald L. Mock, P.E., Chief, DILP Plan Review  
Jennifer Sager, County Administration

### **Proposed Code Changes to the Building Code and Electrical Code**

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits propose the following changes to the Howard County Building Code.

- 1) Update all code references from the 2012 Edition to the 2015 Edition.
- 2) Section 105.2 is eliminating the current amendment for fences greater than 6 feet high and going with the National Standard of 7 feet high for when a permit is required.
- 3) Removed current amendment to Section 310.3-310.5 because the National Standard now addresses the issue without the local amendments being required.
- 4) Sections 903.2.1.6 and 903.2.1.7 were added to the 2015 IBC. Those provisions refer to assembly occupancies on roofs and multiple fire areas and require sprinklers for occupancy loads greater than 300. These new sections are inconsistent with past adopted local amendments that have required sprinklers for occupancy loads greater than 100 for assembly occupancies. This bill includes local amendments consistent with previously adopted local amendments to change the occupant load from 300 to 100 for these new sections.
- 5) Current amendment to Section 910.2.1 was deleted because the National Code has come into line with our past amendment. Table 910.2.2 was added from the 2012 Edition of the code because the new edition references a Table in the International Fire Code, which is a code we do not adopt.
- 6) Table 1607.1 was updated to conform to a County roof design load that has been in effect for over 30 years.
- 7) Section R302.2 was updated to maintain current construction practices regarding separation walls in townhouses.
- 8) Section R101.2.3 and R326.1 updated to maintain current code requirements for swimming pools without having to adopt an additional code that addresses swimming pools.
- 9) M1503.1 of the International Residential Code and 402.1 of the International Mechanical Code added another option to cross ventilation that will allow a window within 12 feet of the range cooking surface as an acceptable venting alternative.

### **Proposed Changes to the Electrical regulations and 2014 National Electrical Code**

- 1) Section 3.202 was updated to change the qualifications for Electrical Board members to allow four licensed contractors instead of two licensed contractors. The general public representatives were changed from four to just two members from the general public. This will put the County in line with the state board and make it easier to find qualified members for the electrical board.
- 2) Section 3.208 revised to reflect current practices in administering the exam.
- 3) Section 210.12 was amended in exception number (2) to allow delay enforcement of this Section until January 1, 2017 because currently the industry has not adequately produced the product needed at this time to meet the requirements of this Section.