NEW CODES EFFECTIVE 1-1-2019

All new residential and commercial permits purchased on or after the effective date of January 1, 2019 will adhere to the new adopted codes with amendments. Builders that utilize pre-approved plans will need to submit new plans under a new permit for review. In the next few newsletters and on the codes website, we will publish the significant changes in the new codes. The full adopted ordinance can be found here. The amendments to the IRC can be found here. The significant changes to the IRC can be found here. Please send all code related comments and questions to codestalk@knoxcounty.org.

2018 IRC - Changes & Amendments

Amendments: The energy code was amended and approved to keep the R values the same as the previous code adoption. The attic is to be insulated to an R38 level, the walls an R13 and the crawl space floor system to an R19. HVAC duct insulation should have an R8 insulation in the attic and an R6 insulation in all other areas.

Section 302.5.1 Opening protection. Deleted the requirement for a self-closing or automatic closing device on doors between the garage and the living space.

For a full list of the amendments to the 2018 ICC codes click here.

2018 IRC - Significant Changes

Below is a sampling of some of the significant changes to the IRC (International Residential Code). For a more expanded list of significant changes please click here.

R311.7.5.1 Stair risers. The riser height shall be not more than 7 3/4". The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest riser height by more than 3/8". R311.7.5.2 Stair treads. The tread depth shall be not less than 10" (measured from the nosing edge to nosing edge). R311.7.8.5 All stairs shall have graspable handrails.

R408.3 Unvented crawl space. In lieu of a conditioned air supply in sealed crawl spaces, a dehumidification system sized to provide 70 pints of moisture removal per day for every 1,000 square feet of crawl space floor area.

Calendar & Events

CODES OFFICE CLOSINGS: The Knox County Code Administration will be closed on Monday January 21, 2019 for Martin Luther King Day.

ETBOA (East TN Building Officials Association) meets the second Wednesday of each month. More info at www.etboa.org. The meeting includes informative training.