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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Iowa Licensed Design Professionals  
And Other Interested Parties**

**FROM: W. Stuart Crine, State Building Code Commissioner**

**DATE: December 16, 2009**

**RE: Update of the Iowa State Building and Fire Codes**

On December 8, 2009, the Department of Public Safety, Division of the State Fire Marshal, completed the Administrative Rule process, which updated both the State Building Code and the State Fire Code. The updated codes will go into effect on January 1, 2010. However, as with previous adoptions, there will be a ninety (90) day transition during which buildings subject to the State Building or Fire Codes may be constructed to either the new (2009 edition) or previous (2006 edition) edition of the adopted codes if the project is commenced no later than March 31, 2010. "Commenced" shall mean that the submitter has obtained preliminary approval from the State Fire Marshal's Office prior to April 1, 2010. If final approval for the project design has not been obtained prior to October 1, 2010, the project is subject to the newly adopted codes.

The State Building Code has been updated to include the following code volumes and editions:

- 2009 International Building Code
- 2009 International Residential Code
- 2009 International Mechanical Code
- 2009 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2009 International Existing Building Code
- 2008 National Electrical Code (No edition change)

When the updated codes were originally announced, the provision in the International Residential Code which requires the installation of residential sprinklers in one and two family dwellings and townhouses was included with a delayed effective date of January 1, 2013. However, when the proposed administrative rules were reviewed by the Administrative Rules Committee (ARC) of the State Legislature in a hearing last week, it was determined that the residential sprinkler requirements will be delayed until the end of the upcoming legislative session.

The State Fire Code has been updated to the following code volumes and editions:

- 2009 International Fire Code
- 2009 International Building Code, Chapters 2 – 7, and sections 804 and 805

Please be aware that some amendments were made to the adopted codes so I strongly recommend that you review the actual administrative rule language at the following links:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/ACODocs/chapterList.aspx?pubDate=12-02-2009&agency=661>

This web page will list all of the administrative rules adopted by Department of Public Safety. The rules affected by these changes are as follows:

State Fire Code - Chapters 200, 201, 202, and 205  
State Building Code – Chapters 300, 301, and 303  
State Historic Code – Chapters 350

In addition to updating the editions of the adopted codes, the design standards for all remaining occupancies listed in Iowa Administrative Code 661- Chapter 5, have been moved to Iowa Administrative Code 661-Chapter 201 and 202:

Chapter 201:

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Residential Care Facilities
- Adult Day Care Centers
- Elder Group Homes
- Child Day Care (with more than 7 children)

Chapter 202:

- Small group homes (specialized licensed facilities) licensed pursuant to Iowa Code section 135C.2

If you any questions regarding these issues, please feel free to contact us at (515) 725-6145 or at [bcinfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:bcinfo@dps.state.ia.us).

Sincerely,

W. Stuart Crine  
State Building Code Commissioner