

## Building Codes—Public Law 699 Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the new statewide code go into effect?

The new codes will be adopted on Jan 1, 2010 by the Technical Codes and Standards Board.

2. Will towns have to adopt this code?

No. The Board will adopt the code statewide and it is expected that buildings will be built to this code, even in towns that have no enforcement program.

3. Can towns amend the code to make it stricter than the state code?

No. The building codes will be similar to the plumbing code in that only the state Board can amend it. The state Board will create a process where amendments can be submitted to the Board by towns, however.

4. What happens before Jan 1, 2010?

Towns will continue to use their existing codes until the new state codes are adopted. Towns that don't have a code now, may adopt the state model building codes (which are the 2003 version of the IBC and IRC codes).

4a. When do towns have to start enforcing the new code?

Towns with more than 2000 residents who previously had adopted a building code must begin enforcing the state code on June 1, 2010. Towns with more than 2000 residents who did not previously adopt a building code must begin enforcing the state code on Jan 1, 2012. Towns with less than 2000 residents do not have to enforce building, energy or rehab codes.

5. What codes will the state Board adopt?

We expect the state Board to customize the 2009 IBC, IRC, IEBC and IECC codes. Drafts of the 2009 codes are already in circulation, so it makes sense to skip 2006 codes and move directly to the 2009 codes.

6. What steps are being taken to implement the new law?

The first step is to appoint the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board and to hire the staff that will support this Board. The Board will be seated by November, 2008 and is expected to begin its work at the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009.

7. How do I nominate people to the Board?

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