

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2021 International Plumbing Code**

* Amendments Specific to the City of Murphy
** NCTCOG Recommended Amendment
*** Modified NCTCOG Recommended Amendment

**\*\*Table of Contents, Chapter 7, Section 714; change to read as follows:**

713     Engineered ~~Computerized~~-Drainage Design .....7-12

*(Reason: Editorial change to make compatible with amendment to Section 714.1. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*\*Section 102.8; change to read as follows:**

**102.8 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered as part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where the differences occur between the provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall be the minimum requirements. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 shall mean the National Electrical Code as adopted.

*(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)*

**\*Section 109.2; change to read as follows:**

**109.2 Schedule of permit fees.** Where work requires a permit, a fee for each permit shall be paid as required, in accordance with the schedule as ~~established by the applicable governing body.~~ as adopted by resolution of the governing body of the jurisdiction.

**\*Section 109.6; change to read as follows:**

**109.6 Refunds.** The code official ~~is authorized to establish a refund policy.~~ shall establish a policy for authorizing the refunding of fees.

*(Reason: To clarify that fees are established by the City Council. Amendment to 2015 IMC carried forward to 2021 IMC.)*

**\*Section 114; delete entire section and insert the following:**

**SECTION 114 MEANS OF APPEAL**

**114.1 Application for appeal.** Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board of appeals established by ordinance. The board shall be governed by the enabling

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ordinance.

**114.2 Application for appeal.** Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board of appeals established by ordinance. The board shall be governed by the enabling ordinance.

*(Reason: Most jurisdictions already have an ordinance establishing and governing an appeals board for this code. This also calls to the attention of jurisdictions not having such a board that it needs to be established. Amendment to 2015 IMC carried forward to 2021 IMC.)*

**\*\*Section 305.4.1; change to read as follows:**

**305.4.1 Sewer depth.** ~~Building sewers that connect to private sewage disposal systems shall be a minimum of [number] inches (mm) below finished grade at the point of septic tank connection.~~ Building sewers shall be a minimum of 12 inches (304 mm) below grade.

*(Reason: Provides sewer depth that is common in this region. Deleted reference to private sewage disposal because a private sewage disposal code is not typically adopted in this region. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Section 305.7; change to read as follows:**

**305.7 Protection of components of plumbing system.** Components of a plumbing system installed ~~along~~ within 3 feet of alleyways, driveways, parking garages or other locations in a manner in which they could be exposed to damage shall be recessed into the wall or otherwise protected in an approved manner.

*(Reason: Provide a common cutoff point to designate a general separation distance at which plumbing systems should be safe for consistency in enforcement. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Section 314.2.1; change to read as follows:**

**314.2.1 Condensate disposal.** Condensate from all cooling coils and evaporators shall be conveyed from the drain pan outlet to an approved place of disposal. ... {text unchanged} ... Condensate shall not discharge into a street, alley, sidewalk, rooftop, or other areas so as to cause a nuisance.

*(Reason: Greater specificity in prohibited locations for condensate discharge. It is the intent of this amendment to send condensate discharge into a sanitary sewer drain. Consistent with regional amendment to IMC 307.2.1. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Section 403.1; add a second paragraph to read as follows:**

In other than E Occupancies, the minimum number of fixtures in Table 403.1 may be lowered, if requested in writing, by the applicant stating reasons for a reduced number and approved by the Building

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Official.

*(Reason: To allow flexibility for designers to consider specific occupancy needs. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Table 403.1; add footnote g to read as follows:**

**Table 403.1**  
**MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED PLUMBING FIXTURES<sup>a</sup>**

g. Drinking fountains are not required in M Occupancies with an occupant load of 100 or less, B Occupancies with an occupant load of 25 or less, and for dining and/or drinking establishments.

*(Reason: Adjustment meets the needs of specific occupancy types. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Section 410.2; change to read as follows:**

**410.2 Small occupancies.** Drinking fountains shall not be required for an occupant load of ~~15~~ 25 or fewer.

*(Reason: To be consistent with Table 403.1 and 2018 IBC amendment Section 2902.1. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*\*Section 413.4; change to read as follows:**

**413.4 Required location for floor drains.** ~~Public laundries and central washing facilities.~~ Floor drains shall be installed in the following areas:

1. In public coin-operated laundries and in the central washing facilities of multiple family dwellings, the rooms containing automatic clothes washers shall be provided with floor drains located to readily drain the entire floor area. Such drains shall have a minimum outlet of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in diameter.
2. Commercial kitchens. In lieu of floor drains in commercial kitchens, the code official may accept floor sinks.
3. Public restrooms.

*(Reason: To make it more compatible with local health code practices. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

**\*Section 502.3; change to read as follows:**

**502.3 Water heaters installed in attics.** Attics containing a water heater shall be provided . . . {bulk of paragraph unchanged} . . . side of the water heater. The clear access opening dimensions shall be not less than 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm) where such dimensions are large enough to allow removal of the water heater. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:

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1. A permanent stair.
2. A pull-down stair with a minimum 300 lb. (136 kg) capacity.
3. An access door from an upper floor level.
4. Access Panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the Code Official due to building conditions.

*(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with regional amendment to IMC and IFGC. Modified 2015 amendment, carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 504.6 change to read as follows:**

**504.6 Requirements for discharge piping.** The discharge piping serving a pressure relief valve, temperature relief valve or combination thereof shall:

2. Discharge through an air gap. ~~located in the same room as the water heater.~~
4. Serve a single relief device and shall not connect to piping serving any other relief device or equipment.

Exception: Multiple relief devices may be installed to a single T & P discharge piping system when approved by the administrative authority and permitted by the manufacturers installation instructions and installed with those instructions.

5. Discharge ~~to the floor, to the pan serving the water heater or storage tank,~~ to an indirect waste receptor or to the outdoors.

*(Reason: To provide a higher degree of safety. Modified 2015 IPC amendment, carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 608.1; change to read as follows:**

**608.1 General.** A potable water supply system shall be designed, installed, and maintained in such a manner so as to prevent contamination from non-potable liquids, solids or gases being introduced into the potable water supply through cross-connections or any other piping connections to the system. Backflow preventer applications shall conform to applicable local regulations, Table 608.1, ~~except and~~ as specifically stated in Sections 608.2 through 608.17.10.

*(Reason: To recognize local requirements. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 608.17.5; change to read as follows:**

#### **608.17.5 Connections to lawn irrigation systems.**

The potable water supply to lawn irrigation systems shall be protected against backflow by an atmospheric-type vacuum breaker, a pressure-type vacuum breaker, a double-check assembly or a reduced pressure principal backflow preventer. Valves shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Where chemicals are introduced into the system, the potable water supply shall be protected against backflow by a reduced pressure principal backflow prevention assembly.

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*(Reason: To recognize regional practices. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 703.6; Delete**

*(Reason: Combined sanitary and storm water sewer is not a standard practice in this region. Increases the burden on wastewater treatment facilities)*

### **\*\*Section 712.4.3; add Section 712.4.3 to read as follows:**

**712.4.3 Dual Pump System.** All sumps shall be automatically discharged and, when in any "Public use" occupancy where the sump serves more than 10 fixture units, shall be provided with dual pumps or ejectors arranged to function independently in case of overload or mechanical failure. For storm drainage sumps and pumping systems, see Section 1113.

*(Reason: To address dual pump system. To provide reference for storm drainage systems. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 713, 713.1; change to read as follows:**

#### **SECTION 713 ~~ENGINEERED~~ ~~COMPUTERIZED~~ DRAINAGE DESIGN**

**713.1 Design of drainage system.** The sizing, design and layout of the drainage system shall be ~~permitted to be~~ designed by a registered engineer using approved ~~computer~~ design methods.

*(Reason: To eliminate computer designed drainage systems. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*\*Section 903.1.1; change to read as follows:**

**903.1 Roof extension unprotected.** Open vent pipes that extend through a roof shall terminate not less than (6) inches (152 mm) above the roof. Where a roof is to be used for assembly or as a promenade, observation deck, sunbathing deck or similar purposes, open vent pipes shall terminate not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the roof.

*(Reason: To provide regional guidelines on standard installation method for this area and address reference number correction. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*Section 1003.2; change to read as follows:**

**1003.2 Approval.** The size, type, and location of each interceptor and of each separator shall be designed and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions ~~and the~~ requirements of this section based on

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the anticipated conditions of use and in accordance with applicable local regulations. All interceptors shall be sized by an engineer. Waste that does not require treatment or separation shall not be discharged into any interceptor or separator.

*(Reason: To insure the proper sizing of interceptors. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*

### **\*\*Section 1109; DELETE**

*(Reason: Combined sanitary and drain systems are not allowed, increases the burden on wastewater treatment facilities. Amendment to 2015 IPC carried forward to 2021 IPC.)*