



## BUILDING CODE DESIGN CRITERIA

### CONSTRUCTION CODES

#### **Commercial**

2012 International Building Code  
2012 International Fire Code  
2012 Uniform Mechanical Code  
2012 Uniform Plumbing Code  
2017 National Electrical Code (State Mandated)  
2015 International Energy Conservation Code, or  
ASHRAE 90.1-2013

#### **Residential**

2012 International Residential Code  
2015 International Energy Conservation Code

**Note:** All construction codes on this list have been amended by the City of Houston. To access the amendments, visit: <http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/code-enforcement/publications.html>

### STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS

#### **Basic Wind Speed:**

- IRC** - 110 mph (3-second gust)
- IBC** - Risk Category I:  $V_{ult}$  130 mph  
Risk Category II:  $V_{ult}$  139 mph  
Risk Category III & IV:  $V_{ult}$  150 mph

**Seismic Design Category:** A

**Weathering Probability:** Negligible (IRC)

#### **Roof Design Load:**

- IRC** - Varies (Refer to Table R301.6)
- IBC** - Varies (Refer to Table 1607.1 and Section 1607.12.2)

**Soil Class:** Expansive\*

**Wind Exposure Category:** B\*

**Ground Snow Load:** 0

**Frost Line Depth:** 6 inches

**Maximum rainfall rate:** 8 inches/hour

*\* These are general requirements for Houston and certain conditions may vary depending on the location.*

### PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- 2 sets of plans
- Applicable Energy Software Report, or prescriptive compliance shown on the plans
- TDLR numbers for accessibility: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/ab/ab.htm#techinfo>
- Asbestos Survey for existing building(s) – (TDH Toxic Substances Control Division • (800) 572-5548)

**Note:** This information is general in nature; for minimum submittal requirements, you may obtain a copy of the prerequisite checklist online or at the CACD office. For specific questions, consult with a Senior Plan Analyst at (832) 394-8810 or Senior Inspector (832) 394-8840.

### WEBSITE INFORMATION

Check plan review status and schedule inspections - [www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/city-of-houston-permits/online-permits.html](http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/city-of-houston-permits/online-permits.html)  
Building Code Enforcement Home Page - [www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/building-code-enforcement.html](http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/building-code-enforcement.html)  
Public Works and Engineering website - [www.publicworks.houstontx.gov](http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov)  
Planning and Development website - [www.houstontx.gov/planning](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning)  
Fire Department website - [www.houstontx.gov/fire/](http://www.houstontx.gov/fire/)  
City Website - [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

For questions please contact the Plan Review Section at 832-394-8810 or email at [rmcacd@houstontx.gov](mailto:rmcacd@houstontx.gov).