



Code Update Newsletter

The Public Works and Engineering Department
Planning and Development Services Division

"Providing information pertaining to the Codes and how they affect you"

Building Code Enforcement - February News-

This newsletter highlights several upcoming changes that may affect Building Inspection and Permitting customers. For questions regarding these items, please email lisa.brown@houstontx.gov.

2014 Fee Increase Effective February 1, 2014

Due to technical problems, the annual fee increase was delayed this year. All of the issues have been resolved, and the new fees will be effective on **February 1, 2014**. Forms, publications and web pages are updated to reflect the new fees. Please see the following links for the fees:

- [Building and Permit Fees](#)
- [Building and Trade License Fees](#)
- [Applications](#)

New Commercial One-Stop Plan Review Guideline Effective February 3, 2014

The One Stop Plan Review program was intended to provide an expedited plan review and permit process for small remodels and repairs. The program is limited to a 30 minute review. The Commercial One-Stop Qualifications have been revised due to the increased volume of construction in the Houston area. The revised document lists the various types of commercial projects that qualify or disqualify for the One-Stop Plan Review process. To download the document, [click here](#).

Increased Provisions to the City of Houston Residential Energy Conservation Code Effective February 7, 2014

Council approved an ordinance to increase energy efficiency by an additional 5% above the currently adopted Houston Residential Energy Conservation Code. The additional increase in efficiency will require a total of 15% above-code energy savings after the effective date.

These provisions will affect **new construction** of the following types of projects:

- One or Two Family Home
- Apartments 3 stories and less in height
- R-4 occupancies 3 stories and less in height

Compliance can be achieved by any of the methods codified in Section 110 of the Houston Energy Code. To access the ordinance, please [click here](#). If using the option packages compliance method, [click here](#) to access the revised form.

Please note that builders participating in the Master Plan Program (Repeat Homes) will need to submit a new set of plans for each building to note compliance with the above code provisions.

14th Houston Building Professional Institute
February 10-14, 2014

The University of Texas Construction Research Center and the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT) will offer various code training classes February 10-14, 2014 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Houston.

The training will provide valuable CEU credits for ICC, AIA, and TDLR. Classes will cover topics such as the Building, Fire, and State Plumbing Regulations, and Texas Accessibility Standards, among others.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://civileng.uta.edu/bpi>.

*****Please note that this is not a City of Houston event. *****

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

PLAN REVIEW

Commercial- (832) 394-8810
One-Stop - (832) 394-8820 (*Commercial Remodels and Residential*)

INSPECTIONS

Building – (832) 394-8840
Mechanical – (832) 394-8850
Electrical – (832) 394-8860
Plumbing – (832) 394-8870
Occupancy/Life Safety - (832) 394-8880
Sign Administration - (832) 394-8890

PERMIT OFFICE

General – (832) 394-8899
Dacoma Office – (713) 686-6224
Kingwood Office – (281) 361-9580
Utility Releases - (832) 394-8847

OTHER INFORMATION

Customer Assistance &
Code Development Office- (832) 394-9494
Automated Inspection Request Line - (713) 222-9922
Other City Departments- Dial 311

For Additional Permit Information:

You may obtain information about permits by visiting our website at www.houstonpermits.com. You will then be linked to our database of sold permits. If you have questions about any of these permits, please contact our Code Enforcement Group at (832) 394-9494.

To Reach Other City of Houston Departments:

<http://www.houstontx.gov> or dial 311