



## 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).