



New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

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CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION APPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY CODES, FORMS SPRINKLER SYSTEM TASK FORCE

Albuquerque – Today the Construction Industries Commission (CIC) approved the adoption of some of the country's most energy efficient and cost effective building codes. At least 12 other states have taken similar action.

Adoption of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code is a requirement for over \$30 million of federal recovery money already received by the state.

In addition, the CIC voted to delete the mandatory residential automatic fire suppression requirement, but voted to have the Construction Industries Division establish a task force to study the cost effectiveness and feasibility of the residential fire sprinkler rule.

"I congratulate the CIC for today's bold action. This is an enormous step forward for New Mexico's environment and our green economic initiatives," said Regulation and Licensing Superintendent Kelly O'Donnell.

Citing feedback received during June's public hearing process, CID presented recommendations for updates to the New Mexico building codes. The CIC postponed today's meeting by 2 weeks in order to take into consideration the volume of public comment received during the public hearing process.

The approved codes:

- Include improved indoor air quality and increased energy and water efficiency.
- New Mexico buildings would see a 20 percent energy efficiency increase over buildings built to the 2006 codes.
- Homeowners could save an average of \$25 a month in energy bills. Energy savings in commercial buildings could range from \$1,000 to \$6,000 a year, depending on building type and size.

The new codes go into effect Jan. 1, 2011 and after a six-month grace period during which plans can be submitted under either the new or old codes, will be mandatory July 1, 2011.

New Mexico is the 12th state in the union to adopt the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, developed by the International Code Council (ICC).

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