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**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, October 13th, 2020**

MERIDIAN – Beginning Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Meridian Community Development Services will be adopting the following code versions.

- 2018 International Building Code (IBC), with amendments
- 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)
- 2018 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- 2018 Idaho Residential Code (IRC), with amendments
- 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), with amendments
- 2017 Idaho (Uniform) Plumbing Code
- 2018 Idaho Fire Code (IFC), with amendments
- 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- 2018 Mechanical Code (IMC), with amendments
- 2018 Fuel and Gas Code (IFGC), with amendments

**Summary-State Code Amendment Changes in the 2018 Codes**

**2018 International Building Code (IBC) – Adoption with the following amendments:**

- Correlated language with the residential code on personal care, custodial care and childcare
- Clarification language to use commercial IBC code for medical care
- Deleted previous Lap Splices amendment in masonry chapter (is now in 2018 code)
- Less restrictive threshold of when a drinking fountain is required
- Correlated language on relocatable modular buildings referencing state statute provisions

**2018 International Residential Code (IRC) – Adoption with the following amendments:**

- Correlated language with the IBC code on personal care, custodial care and child care
- More options to address protection of roof eaves close to property lines
- Elimination of requirement to protect floors of unfinished basements
- Deleted previous townhouse wall options-amendments (are now in 2018 code)
- Exceptions from smoke detectors for exterior work or trade permits
- Exceptions from carbon monoxide detectors for exterior work or trade permits
- Amended flood hazard elevation requirements
- Replacement of footing section and Table to former edition of code
- Deleted Tiny Homes Appendix amendment (is now in 2018 code available for adoption)

**2018 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) – Adoption with no amendments.**

**2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – Adoption with the following amendments:**

- Amendment, Exception for Air Leakage testing of the thermal envelope in large commercial buildings, allowing portions of building to be tested
- Deleted many of the previous residential amendments



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- Some changes to residential prescriptive insulation and fenestration requirements, and U-Factors
  - Air leakage rate for homes in Idaho is now to be less than 5 air changes per hour (ACH) vs. 7 ACH under previous code and 3 ACH for the national code
  - Blower door test required on 20% of homes built by a contractor *(this requirement is a reduction and has an implementation schedule of an additional 6 months after January 1, 2021, code adoption for soft implementation for education period for contractors)*
  - Reduction of some requirements for hot water pipe insulation
  - Lighting requires a minimum of 75% of permanently installed fixtures must have high-efficacy lamps
  - Energy Rating Index (ERI) (compliance alternative) required score is 68 or less in Climate Zones 5 & 6 *(relaxed to a figure more equivalent to the prescriptive method in Idaho)*