

# Comprehensive Analysis and Community Input over 20 Meetings

Construction Advisory  
and Appeals Board  
Recommendation

City  
Commission  
Approval





# City of Amarillo Department of Building Safety



## 2015 Code Adoption Proposal

# CAAB Recommendation



## 2015 International Codes and 2012 National Electrical Code Adoption

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The City of Amarillo Construction Advisory and Appeals Board recommends adoption of the 2015 International Codes (ICC), 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC). The benefits of maintaining the most current codes is a set of codes consistent with advances in construction technology and improve Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, resulting in reduced community insurance rates.

“The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) assesses the building codes in effect in a particular community and how the community enforces its building codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards.

The concept is simple: municipalities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes should demonstrate better loss experience, and insurance rates can reflect that. The prospect of lessening catastrophe-related damage and ultimately lowering insurance costs provides an incentive for communities to enforce their building codes rigorously — especially as they relate to windstorm and earthquake damage.”

The Board and the Building Safety staff carefully reviewed the current municipal code and researched amendments and codes of other Texas communities. The 2015 code review process was comprehensive and well attended. The Construction Advisory Committee met for the past 5 months to investigate specific subjects. The committee heard the testimony of several local construction and design professionals on matters relating to construction in Amarillo. Over all there were over 20 meetings with the committee and numerous groups to include:

*Air Conditioner Contractors Association Electrical Contractors of Amarillo American Institute of Architects Glass Contractors of Amarillo*

*Panhandle Association of General Contractors Plumbing Continuing Education Class*

*Texas Panhandle Inspectors Association Texas Panhandle Irrigation Contractors*

*Roofing Contractors – Commercial Roofing Contractors - Residential*

*Texas Panhandle Builders Association Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors Association*

*Swimming Pool and Spa Contractors*

The International Codes are a complete set of standardized codes, created by, updated by, and consensus voted by municipal code officials, not special interest groups. The benefit of a comprehensive set of national codes is consistency between communities. This consistency simplifies education and compliance and creates ease of use. The majority of the changes have minimum impact and some updates eliminate unnecessary local amendments to the national code that create conflicts between the adopted national code and the municipal code.

### **The 2015 International Codes include:**

- A. Building Code F. Mechanical Code
- B. Existing Building Code G. Residential Code
- C. Energy Conservation Code H. Swimming Pool and Spa Code
- D. Plumbing Code I. 2014 National Electrical Code
- E. Fuel Gas Code

## Department of Building Safety

February 20, 2015

The following tables represent the input and work involved in the process of updating Amarillo's construction codes:

### Organizations in Support of Code Update

Organization	Support		Letter of Support
	Yes	No	
Texas Panhandle Roofing Contractors Association (TPRCA) *	X		February 3, 2015
Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors (PHCC) *	X		January 30, 2015
Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) *	X		February 5, 2015
Texas Blue Lake Pools	X		February 6, 2015
AAA Electric	X		February 6, 2015
Air Conditioning Contractors Association (ACCA) *	X		February 1, 2015
American Institute of Architects (AIA) *	X		February 9, 2015
Texas Panhandle Builders Association (TPBA) *	X		December 31, 2014

\*Amarillo / Panhandle / local Chapter of larger organizations

### Construction Advisory and Appeals Board (CAAB)

CAAB Representative	CAAB Meetings Attended
Gary Ward, Chairman, Heating/Air Contractor	57
Frank Wilburn, Vice Chair, Plumbing Contractor	31
Bill Chudej, Real Estate	54
Jeff Bryant, Residential Builder	9
Shannon Brooks, Insurance Agent	33
Daniel Henke, Engineer	9
Gary Strickland, Commercial Builder	37
Nolan Huckabay, Electrical Contractor	11
Dana Williams-Walton, Architect	28

### Foundation Subcommittee

Member, firm representing	Discipline
Dana Williams-Walton, Co-Chair, <i>Dekker/Perich/Sabatinini</i>	Architect
Ray Tillery, Co-Chair, <i>Amarillo Testing</i>	Engineer
Mason Rogers, <i>Amarillo AIA President, Playa Design</i>	Architect
George Abrahamson, <i>Abrahamson &amp; Associates</i>	Engineer
Mike Ritter, <i>Dekker/Perich/Sabatinini</i>	Architect
Lo Van Pham, <i>Western Builders</i>	Engineer
Brandon Robertson, <i>Western Builders</i>	Engineer
Stephen Butler, <i>A &amp; E Design</i>	Architect
Tim Pillsbury, <i>Zachary Engineering</i>	Engineer
Larry Brooks, <i>LB Associates</i>	Engineer

### Various Subcommittees Established

Subcommittee topic	Chair
Plumbing	<b>Frank Wilburn</b> , <i>Franks Plumbing</i>
Mechanical	<b>Gary Ward</b> , <i>Gary's Heating &amp; Air Conditioning</i>
Electrical	<b>Nolan Huckabay</b> , <i>AAA Electric</i>
Foundation	<b>Dana Williams-Walton</b> , <i>DPS</i> & <b>Ray Tillery</b> , <i>Amarillo Testing</i>
Commercial Roofing	<b>Jeff McMenemy</b> , <i>Tecta America</i>
Residential Roofing	<b>Chris Rhynehart</b> , <i>Rhynehart Roofing</i>
Swimming Pool	<b>Joe Jones</b> , <i>Texas Blue Lake Pools</i>

### Meetings Held --- 5 Months Invested

#	Topic – Interested Organizations - Location	Date
1	Residential Codes Update Discussion	October 8, 2014
2	Residential Codes Update Discussion	October 15, 2014
3	Review Significant Changes to the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) CAAB	October 23, 2014
4	Review Significant Changes to the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC)CAAB	October 30,2014
5	Review Significant Changes to the 2015 IEC & 2015 IRC, CAAB Meeting	November 6, 2014
6	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 IRC – Homebuilder Subcommittee	November 10, 2014
7	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 Codes - continued, CAAB Meeting	November 13, 2014
8	Review Significant Changes to the National Electrical Code (NEC)	November 19, 2014
9	Review Significant Changes to the 2015 Plumbing/Mechanical Code(IPC,IMC) CAAB	November 19, 2014
10	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 Codes - continued, CAAB Meeting	December 4, 2014
11	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 Codes - continued, CAAB Meeting	December 10, 2014
12	Texas Panhandle Builders Association review of proposed 2015 IRC	December 15, 2014
13	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 Codes - continued, CAAB Meeting	December 18, 2014
14	Review of Significant Changes to the 2015 Codes- continued, CAAB Meeting	December 22, 2014
15	Code Adoption Proposal to the 2015 Codes- CAAB Meeting	December 29, 2014
16	Code Adoption Proposal to the 2015 Codes- CAAB Meeting	January 2, 2015
17	Foundation discussion	January 3, 2015
18	Air Conditioning Contractors of America review of proposed 2015 IMC	January 14, 2015
19	Texas Panhandle Roofing Contractors Association review of proposed 2015 Code	February 3, 2015
20	Texas Panhandle Inspectors Association review of proposed 2015 Code	February 4, 2015
21	Texas Panhandle Builders Association review of proposed 2015 Code	February 17, 2015