



State of Utah
Department of Commerce

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

FRANCINE A. GIANI
Executive Director

MARK B. STEINAGEL
Division Director

September 12, 2016

Utah Legislature Business and Labor Interim Committee,
ATTN: Bryant Howe, Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel

Dear Mr. Howe:

Enclosed please find the recommendation from the Uniform Building Code Commission for changes to the State Construction and Fire Codes Act, Title 15A. This change will be presented to the Business and Labor Interim Committee at their September 21st meeting.

Sincerely,

Justin Naser, Chairman
Uniform Building Code Commission

**Recommended Changes to Construction Codes Under
Title 15A State Construction and Fire Code Act
Proposed by the Uniform Building Code Commission**

This document has two parts. The first part is a proposed change to the State Construction Codes which has been recommended by the Uniform Building Code Commission. The second part is a summary of the reasons for the proposed change to the State Construction Codes.

Part 1

15A-3-206 Amendments to Chapters 36, and 44, and Appendix F of IRC.

- (1) In IRC, Section E3901.9, the following exception is added:
"Exception: Receptacles or other outlets adjacent to the exterior walls of the garage, outlets adjacent to an exterior wall of the garage, or outlets in a storage room with entry from the garage may be connected to the garage branch circuit."
- (2) In IRC, Section E3902.16, the following words in the first sentence are deleted:
"family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens," and
"sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, and similar rooms or areas."
- (3) In Section E3902.17:
 - (a) following the word "Exception" the number "1." is added; and
 - (b) at the end of the section, the following sentences are added:
"2. This section does not apply for a simple move or an extension of a branch circuit or an outlet which does not significantly increase the existing electrical load. This exception does not include changes involving remodeling or additions to a residence."
- (4) IRC, Chapter 44, is amended by adding the following reference standard:

| Standard reference number | Title | Referenced in code section |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| USC-FCCCHR 10 th Edition Manual of Cross Connection Control | Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research University of Southern California Kaprielian Hall 300 Los Angeles Los Angeles CA 90089-2531 | Table P2902.3" |
- (5) When passive radon controls or portions thereof are voluntarily installed, the voluntary installation shall comply with Appendix F of the IRC. An additional inspection of the installation is not required.

Part 2

Summary of Reasons for Recommended Change to the Construction Codes Under Title 15A State Construction and Fire Code Act

Excess radon gas is a naturally caused problem that occurs in a substantial number of homes throughout the state of Utah. Excess radon gas may cause cancer. It is impossible, before a home is built, to determine whether a home will have an excess radon gas problem. As a result, radon controls systems are not required to be installed in every home when it is built. However, the homeowner or contractor will often choose to voluntarily install passive radon controls when the home is being built. This is because it is far less expensive to install these controls before a home is built rather than to retrofit a home after it is built. Adding these passive controls is totally voluntary. If after a home is built, the home is determined to have an excess radon gas problem that is beyond the capacity of the passive radon controls, then a fan can be added for very little extra cost to the passive controls to make the system an active radon control system.

This recommended code change requires that when passive radon controls or portions thereof are voluntarily installed, the installation complies with Appendix F of the International Residential Code. Inspection is not required because it may delay the project which could discourage rather than encourage the installation of these items.