



AIA San Antonio

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POSITION PAPER

Adoption of the International Plumbing Code and the International Fuel Gas Code

The San Antonio Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA San Antonio) **supports** the City of San Antonio's proposal to adopt the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC). These codes are compatible with previously adopted codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC), including the International Building Code (IBC), the International Residential Code (IRC), the International Existing Building Code (IEBC), International Fire Code (IFC), International Mechanical Code (IMC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

Adoption of the IPC and the IFGC by the City of San Antonio will lead to a fully integrated set of building codes. For years, the American Institute of Architects has been at the forefront of this issue, and has adopted a Public Policy Directive which states:

“The AIA supports regulation by a single set of comprehensive, coordinated, and contemporary codes and standards, which establish sound threshold values of health, safety, and the protection of the public welfare throughout the United States.” (www.aia.org/aiaucmp/groups/aia/documents/pdf/aias078449.pdf)

AIA San Antonio commends City Staff for its leadership in moving ahead on this issue. Taking action now will minimize incompatibility and conflict between the current ICC Family of Building Codes and the existing adopted plumbing code (Uniform Plumbing Code, UPC), which is a 'stand-alone' and is not compatible with the other ICC codes. The IPC and IFGC are performance-based codes, while the UPC is a prescriptive code and does not provide architects and engineers with the necessary design options to enhance building performance in such crucial areas as energy efficiency.

AIA San Antonio recommends the following policy:

Adoption of the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), enabling the City of San Antonio to integrate its building codes.