



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

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September 23, 2015

To: All Interested Parties  
From: Dave Kokot, State Building Code Council Chair  
RE: State Plumbing Code

In April of 2015 the Washington State Building Code Council (SBCC), on the advice of the Attorney General's office, confirmed that the state plumbing code is determined by the state legislature through adoption by reference of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) in RCW 19.27.031. The UPC is in effect statewide and neither the SBCC nor the local governing bodies have the authority to replace the UPC with the International Plumbing Code (IPC) as an alternate method for any type of occupancy. Further, amendments to local building codes that affect 1 to 4 unit residential buildings must be approved by the SBCC prior to enforcement.

In 2003 the state legislature passed a bill to adopt the International Building, Residential, Mechanical and Fire Codes, and the Uniform Plumbing Code. This was a compromise reached through the legislative process based on changes in model code development, and allowed the SBCC to proceed with adoption of current code editions. The state building code is established in the law to create a consistent building regulatory system for the benefit of the construction industry and the citizens of the state. To replace any of the codes that comprise the state building code would require an act of the state legislature.