The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia.

### Q: What are the building codes for Virginia?

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), which consists of three stand-alone parts:

- Part I: Virginia Construction Code
- Part II: Virginia Existing Building Code
- Part III: Virginia Property Maintenance Code

Other Virginia building and fire related regulations include the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR), and the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations (MHSR).

### Q: What code edition (year) should I be using?

2021 Virginia USBC (effective January 18, 2024)

2021 Virginia SFPC (effective January 18, 2024)

2021 IBSR (effective January 18, 2024)

2021 Virginia MHSR (effective July 1, 2021)

### Q: What is an industrialized building?

Industrialized buildings, sometimes referred to as modular buildings, are factory-built buildings constructed in accordance with the Virginia USBC and the Virginia IBSR. An industrialized building will have a Virginia registration seal near the electric panel.

### Q: What is a Manufactured Home?

Manufactured homes, sometimes referred to as HUD homes, are built in a factory on a permanent chassis, are transportable in one or more sections, are used as single family dwellings, and may be sited with or without a permanent foundation. A manufactured home will have a HUD label on the exterior of each unit.

### *Q*: Where can I get a building permit?

Each locality in Virginia has a building department that enforces the USBC, including issuing permits. Visit DHCD's Code Officials Directory to find contact information for your local building department: https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/code-officials-directory

### *Q:* If I have a complaint, who do I contact?

Site Construction (Local Building Department)

Industrialized Buildings or Manufactured Home Consumer Complaints (State Building Codes Office)

Contractor complaints (Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation -DPOR)

The USBC also includes an appeal process should any party be aggrieved by a decision of the local building department.

# Q: Does the State provide training for building officials and others?

The State manages and provides training through the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA).

# Q: Who can attend the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy?



JPVBCA provides training required for the certification of the local government and the third party code enforcement personnel. JPVBCA can have upwards of 1,000 people passing through its programs in any given year. Those required to be certified

by regulation are given priority seating. However, based on availability the JPVBCA welcomes non-code enforcement personnel.

If your community is a levy-contribution locality, there are no tuition costs. However, tuition may apply for those not employed by a contributing locality. Classes are open to non-enforcement individuals based on availability and tuition rates may apply.

# Q: What is the levy and does my locality have to participate?

By regulation, a 2-percent levy on all building-related permit fees are to be collected and transmitted to DHCD for the purposes of supporting the Code Academy. This surcharge allows the JPVBCA to operate and support training programs dedicated to the training of all local government, third-party building and fire code enforcement personnel as required for certification. If your locality charges building permits fees it is required to collect and transmit these fees to DHCD.

# Q: What is the locality responsible for when hiring a new Building Official?

When appointing a permanent or acting building, property maintenance, or fire official, the locality is required to notify DHCD within 30 days of appointment or hire. The new appointed official has 12 months to obtain the required certifications.



State Building Codes Office (804) 371-7150 sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov osc@dhcd.virginia.gov

Southwest Virginia Office (Wytheville) (804) 441-4538

#### **IPVBCA**

(804) 371-7180 vbca@dhcd.virginia.gov

Website: www.dhcd.virginia.gov

X: www.twitter.com/vadhcd

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/vadhcd

# DIVISION OF BUILDING AND FIRE REGULATION

STATE BUILDING CODES OFFICE

VIRGINIA BUILDING CODE ACADEMY

### STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Represent DHCD at VBCOA, VPMIA, VFPA and other stakeholder meetings\*

Contribute newsletterarticles for industry publications\*

Provide assistance to local officials\*

Provide agency updates and other important information through the Code Connection blog and website pages\*

Provide presentations at industry and other stakeholder events and conferences\*

# REGULATORY PROCESS

Guide regulations through the regulatory system

Update the USBC.

Manufactured Home Safety Regulations, Industrialized Building Safety Regulations, SFPC, Amusement Device Regulations and Certification Standards

Identify po code issu need to addressed

### CODE OPINIONS

Provide informal code opinions to citizens, design professionals, contractors, local jurisdictions and others\*

Track staff code opinions through a database to ensure accuracy and consistency\*

Identify potential code issues that need to be addressed through the code change process\*

## MANUFACTURED HOUSING

Investigate
consumer
complaints related
to HUD's
Manufactured Home
Safety
Regulations\*

Investigate
consumer
complaints related
to Virginia's
Manufactured
Housing
Regulations\*

Assist the Virginia Manufactured Housing Board

Issue licenses to dealers, brokers and salespeople

Manage the licensing database

Conduct dealer lot audits to determine compliance with regulations\*

# INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDINGS

Issue registration seals to manufacturers

Receive, process and investigate complaints\*

Approve and regulate compliance assurance agencies

Conduct audits of plants on a regular basis\*

Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions\*

### TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Receive and process appeals

Prepare board packages

Assist the Technical Review Board

Maintain a database that tracks board decisions and interpretations

Put forward code change proposals as needed based on case outcomes

# CODE CHANGE PROCESS

Receive and process code change proposals

Administer cdpVA

Facilitate workgroups with stakeholders to vet code change proposals

Prepare workgroup agendas & board packages

Work with the code commission to incorporate proposals into regulations

Update the USBC & other regulations as needed

Contract with ICC to publish Virginia versions of the I-codes

# TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Provide training required for the certification of local government and third party enforcement personnel

Administer the certification program for code enforcement personnel required to obtain certification to ensure consistency and accuracy

Maintain current curriculum and training standards

Design, develop, deliver, and evaluate curricula for face-to-face, online, and webbased classes

Recruit, train, retain, JPVBCA instructors

\* Richmond SBCO and Southwest Virginia (Wytheville) Office