

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 USBC Virginia Construction Code
- Part II USBC Virginia Existing Building Code
- Part III USBC Virginia 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?**

- 2015 Virginia USBC (effective September 4, 2018)
- 2015 Virginia SFPC (effective October 16, 2018)
- 2015 IBSR (effective September 4, 2018)
- 2015 Virginia MHSR (effective September 10, 2014)

**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 Industrialized Building Safety Regulations. 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 code 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.



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
*Partners for Better Communities*

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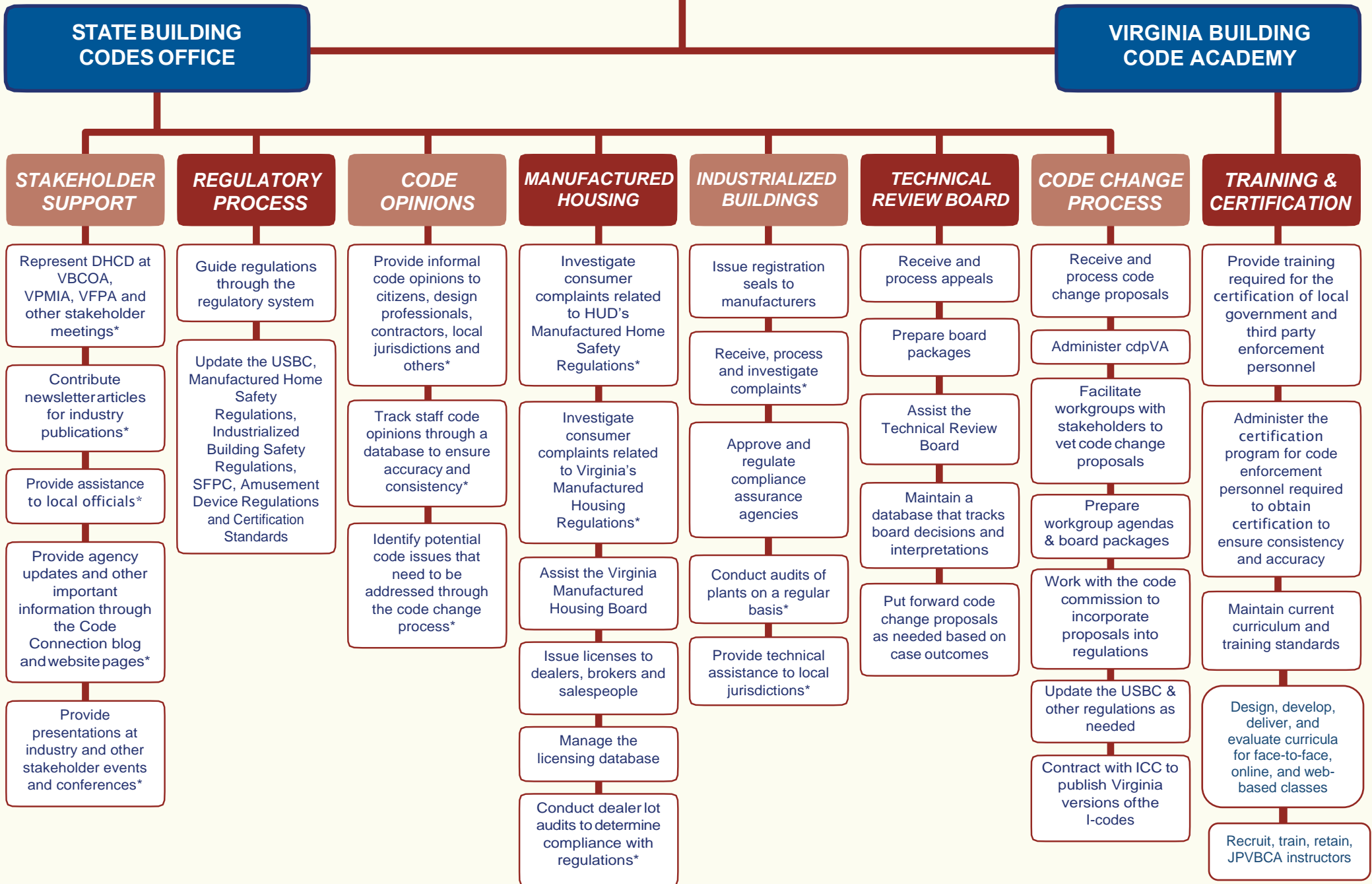
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# DIVISION OF BUILDING AND FIRE REGULATION



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