Effective October 3, 2016 the **NYS Division of Building Standards and Codes** adopted the 2015 version of the International Codes. With this adaption there are several important changes from the previous version of the NYS code. Below is a list of some of the major changes to the new code, this list does **not** represent all changes to the code. Attached to this list are the code sections that specify the code provisions.

- Emergency escape and rescue openings will now be required for basements and habitable attics. (Egress window, exterior stairs, etc.)
- Floor assemblies will require ½" drywall, 5/8" plywood, or equivalent to the underside of the framing. 2"x10" nominal lumber or larger is one of the exemptions from the underfloor protection. *(See attachment for all exemptions)*
- Arc-Fault protection will be required on all 120-volt single phase circuits
- Blower door testing for air leakage will be a mandatory requirement for all new construction.
- Garage firewall separation will become less restrictive with only a 20 min. fire rated door required and ½" drywall applied to the garage side of the wall assembly. *(See attached chart for the full list of requirements.)*
- Building thermal envelope insulation requirements change, R-5 continuous on 2x6 walls with R-20 cavity or R-25 cavity insulation, crawl spaces now require R-15 continuous (same as basement requirement). These requirements are for prescriptive building, complete performance based systems with software such as RES-Check and similar may alleviate the continuous R-5 or other requirements. *(See attachment for chart and explanation.)*

This is a partial list of code changes, other areas of the code may have also been modified from the previous version. Please feel free to contact the Jefferson County Code Enforcement office with questions or concerns.

R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue opening required.

Basements, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have not less than one operable emergency escape and rescue opening. Where *basements* contain one or more sleeping rooms, an emergency escape and rescue opening shall be required in each sleeping room. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall open directly into a public way, or to a *yard* or court that opens to a public way.

R302.13 Fire protection of floors.

Floor assemblies that are not required elsewhere in this code to be fire-resistance rated, shall be provided with a $^1/_2$-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard membrane, $^5/_8$-inch (16 mm) wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

Exceptions:

1. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.

2. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.

3. Portions of floor assemblies shall be permitted to be unprotected where complying with the following:

    1. 3.1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions does not exceed 80 square feet (7.4 m^2) per story

    2. 3.2. Fireblocking in accordance with Section R302.11.1 is installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.

4. Wood floor assemblies using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch by 10-inch (50.8 mm by 254 mm) nominal dimension, or other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.

E3902.16 Arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection.

Branch circuits that supply 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere outlets installed in kitchens, family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sun-rooms, recreations rooms, closets, hallways, laundry areas and similar rooms or areas shall be protected.....

N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2) Testing.

The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM E 779 or ASTM E 1827 and reported at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Where required by the code official, testing shall be conducted by an approved third party. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the code official. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope.

During testing:

1. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weather stripping or other infiltration control measures.

2. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures.

3. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open.

4. Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed.

5. Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off.

6. Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.

R302.5.1 Opening protection.

Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted. Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with solid wood doors not less than $1^3/_8$ inches (35 mm) in thickness, solid or honeycomb-core steel doors not less than $1^3/_8$ inches (35 mm) thick, or 20-minute fire-rated doors, equipped with a self-closing device.

R302.6 Dwelling-garage fire separation.

The garage shall be separated as required by Table R302.6. Openings in garage walls shall comply with Section R302.5. Attachment of gypsum board shall comply with Table R702.3.5. The wall separation provisions of Table R302.6 shall not apply to garage walls that are perpendicular to the adjacent *dwelling unit* wall.

TABLE R302.6
DWELLING-GARAGE SEPARATION

SEPARATION	MATERIAL
From the residence and attics	Not less than $^1/_2$-inch gypsum board or equivalent applied to the garage side
From habitable rooms above the garage	Not less than $^5/_8$-inch Type X gypsum board or equivalent
Structure(s) supporting floor/ceiling assemblies used for separation required by this section	Not less than $^1/_2$-inch gypsum board or equivalent
Garages located less than 3 feet from a dwelling unit on the same lot	Not less than $^1/_2$-inch gypsum board or equivalent applied to the interior side of exterior walls that are within this area

N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2) Insulation and fenestration criteria.

The *building thermal envelope* shall meet the requirements of Table N1102.1.2 based on the climate zone specified in Section N1101.7.

3.8. Amendments to Table R402.1.2 (Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component).

Table R402.1.2 of the 2015 IECC Residential Provisions shall be deemed to be amended by (1) designating the existing row for climate zone 6 as "option 1" and (2) adding a new row, to be designated as "option 2," for climate zone 6, such "option 1" and "option 2" rows for climate zone 6 to read as follows:

Climate Zone	Fenestration *U*-value [b]	Skylight [b] *U*-Factor	Glazed Fenestration SHGC [b,e]	Ceiling *R*-value	Wood Frame Wall *R*-Value	Mass Wall *R*-Value [i]	Floor R-Value	Basement [c] Wall *R*-Value	Slab [d] *R*-Value & depth	Crawl space [c] wall *R*-Value
6 option 1	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20+5 or 13+10 [h]	15/20	30 [g]	15 / 19	15, 4 ft.	15/19
6 option 2	0.28	0.55	NR	49	25 cavity	15/20	30 [g]	15 / 20	15, 4 ft.	15/20

g. Or insulation sufficient to fill the framing cavity, R-19 minimum.

h. The first value is cavity insulation, the second value is continuous insulation, so "13+5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 continuous insulation.

N1102.2.1 (R402.2.1) Ceilings with attic spaces.

Where Section R1102.1.2 would require R-38 insulation in the ceiling, installing R-30 over 100 percent of the ceiling area requiring insulation shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-38 wherever the full height of uncompressed R-30 insulation extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. Similarly, where Section R1102.1.2 would require R-49 insulation in the ceiling, installing R-38 over 100 percent of the ceiling area requiring insulation shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-49 insulation wherever the full height of uncompressed R-38 insulation extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This reduction shall not apply to the *U*-factor alternative approach in Section R1102.1.4 and the total UA alternative in Section R1102.1.5.