

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-198**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE 2018 EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (“ICC”) CODES: (1) INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, (2) INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, (3) INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, (4) INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, (5) INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, AND (6) INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE; ADDING A SECTION 7-11 BY ADOPTING THE 2012 EDITION OF THE TEXAS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND/OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012, by Ordinance No. 2012-O-184 the City Council adopted the 2012 edition of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Residential Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, and the International Existing Building Code. .

**WHEREAS**, newer editions of those codes are now recommended for adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, these codes are designed to secure the public health and safety through structural strength, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazard attributable to the built environment, including alteration, repair, removal, demolition, use, and occupancy of building structures, or premises by regulation the installation and maintenance of all buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the above-referenced newer editions of the said ICC codes, will facilitate comprehensive inspection activities by the Building Development Service Department of City of Laredo relating to construction and to maintenance of buildings within the City of Laredo.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:**

**Section 1.** The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article I, Sections 7-1, 7-4, 7-5, 7-7, 7-8, 7-9, and 7-10 are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 7-1. Code—Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2012~~ 2018 edition of the International Building Code as published by the International Code Council and is hereby adopted as the Code of the City of Laredo, of which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the building code.



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Sec. 7-4. Mechanical code—Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2012~~ 2018 edition of the International Mechanical Code of which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the mechanical code.

Sec. 7-5. Same—Amendments—Adopted.

The following section of the International Mechanical Code are modified to be specifically tailored to the city:

*Section 101.1 Title.* These regulations shall be known as the International Mechanical Code of the City of Laredo, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

*Section 106.5.1 Work commencing before permit issuance.* Where work for which a permit is required by this code is started or proceeded prior to obtaining said permit, the fee herein specified shall be, subject to a penalty of one hundred fifty (150%) percent of the usual permit fee in addition to the required permit fees, but the payment of such fee shall not relieve any person from fully complying with requirements of this code in the execution of the work nor from any other penalties prescribed herein.

*Section 106.5.2 Schedule of Permits fees. Fee Schedule.* The fees for all mechanical work shall be as indicated in the following schedule:

Initial fee:

For issuing Permits \$50.00

Additional fees:

For the inspection of non-existing or addition to existing heating, venting, duct work, air conditioning and refrigeration system \$50.00 for the first \$1,000.00 + \$4.00 per ..... \$1,000.00 valuation

Motor 1Hp and smaller \$2.00

Motor over 1Hp and include 5Hp \$4.00

Motor over 5Hp to include 10Hp \$5.00

Motor over 10Hp to include 25Hp \$6.00

Motor over 25Hp \$15.00

Fee for inspecting boiler (based upon BTU input):

33,000 BTU (1BHp) to 165,000 (5BHp) \$6.00

165,001 BTU (5BHp) to 330,000 (10BHp) \$12.00

330,001 BTU (10BHp) to 1,165,000 (52BHp) \$50.00

1,165,000 BTU (52 BHp) to 3,300,000 (98BHp) \$50.00

Over 3,300,000 BTU (98BHp) \$50.00

In case it become necessary to make a re-inspection of a heating, ventilation, air conditioning or refrigeration system or boiler installation, the installer of such equipment shall pay a re-inspection fee of (\$50.00) fifty dollars.

*Section 106.5.3 Fee Refunds.* The Building Director shall authorize the refunding of fees as follows:

4. The full amount of any fee paid hereunder that was erroneously paid or collected.

5. Not more than (50%) fifty percent of the permits paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code.

6. Not more than (50%) fifty percent of the plan review fee paid when an application for a permit for which a plan review fee has been paid is withdrawn or canceled before any plan review effort has been expended.

The Building Director shall not authorize the refunding of any fee paid except upon written application filed by the original permittee not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.

*Section 108.4 Violation penalties.* Person who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to



comply with any of the requirement thereof or who shall erect, install, alter or repair mechanical work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the code official, or of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$200.00 and not more that (\$2,000) two thousand dollars. Each day that a violation continue after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

*Section 108.5 Stop work orders.* Upon notice from the code official that mechanical work is being done contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, such work shall immediately cease. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or the owner's agent, or to the person doing the work. The notice shall state the conditions under which work authorized to resume. Where an emergency exists, the code official shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work. Any person who shall continue any work on the system after been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable for a fine of not less than (\$200.00) two hundred dollars or more than (\$2,000.00) two thousand dollars.

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Sec. 7-7. Dwelling code.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2012~~ 2018 edition of the International Residential Code of which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the dwelling code, except for *Chapter 11 Energy Efficiency* and Section R313.2 One- and Two-Family Dwelling Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems, which is prohibited by state law SB1410 Section 12, which became law on September 1, 2009.

The following sections of the ~~2012~~ 2018 *Edition of the International Residential Code* are modified to be specifically tailored to the City of Laredo:

*Chapter 11 Energy Efficiency* is deleted.

Section R313

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

*Section R313.2* is deleted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council Chapter 11 Energy Efficiency of the 2015 edition of the International Residential Code.

Sec. 7-8. International Property Maintenance Code—Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2012~~ 2018 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code of which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the International Property Maintenance Code.

Sec. 7-9. International Energy Conservation Code—Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2015~~ 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Section C403.2.11 is amended.

*C403.2.11 Mechanical systems commissioning and completion requirements.* Mechanical systems shall be commissioned and completed in accordance with Section C408.2. (Optional)

Section C403.3 is amended.

*C403.3 Economizers (Prescriptive).* Each cooling system that has a unitary packed roof top unit shall include either an air or water economizer complying with Sections C403.3.1 through C403.3.4

*Exceptions:* Economizers are not required for the systems listed below.

1. In cooling systems for buildings located in Climate Zones 1A and 1B.
2. In climate zones other than 1A and 1B, where individual cooling units have a capacity of less than 54,000 Btu/h (15.8 kW) and meet one of the following:
  - 2.1. Have direct expansion cooling coils.
  - 2.2. The total chilled water system capacity less the capacity of fan units with air economizers



is less than the minimum specified in Table C403.3(1).

The total supply capacity of all fan-cooling units not provided with economizers shall not exceed 20 percent of the total supply capacity of all fan-cooling units in the building or 300,000 Btu/h (88 kW), whichever is greater.

3. Where more than 25 percent of the air designed to be supplied by the system is to spaces that are designed to be humidified above 35°F (1.7°C) dewpoint temperature to satisfy process needs.

4. Systems that serve residential spaces where the system capacity is less than five times the requirement listed in Table C403.3(1).

5. Systems expected to operate less than 20 hours per week.

6. Where the use of outdoor air for cooling will affect supermarket open refrigerated casework systems.

7. Where the cooling efficiency meets or exceeds the efficiency requirements in Table C403.3(2).

8. Chilled-water cooling systems that are passive (without a fan) or use induction where the total chilled water system capacity less the capacity of fan units with air economizers is less than the minimum specified in Table C403.3(1).

9. Systems that include a heat recovery system in accordance with Section C403.4.7. Section C408 is amended.

#### SECTION C408 SYSTEM COMMISSIONING (Optional)

Sec. 7-10. International Existing Building Code—Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the city council the ~~2012~~ *2018* edition of the International Existing Building Code of which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the International Existing Building Code.

**Section 2.** The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article I, is hereby amended to add the following:

#### *Section 7-11. Texas Accessibility Standards – Adopted.*

*There is hereby adopted by the city council the 2012 edition of the Texas Accessibility Standards which one (1) copy is filed in the office of building development services department and designated as the Texas Accessibility Standards.*

**Section 3.** That if any section, subsection sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional; such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council of the City of Laredo hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

**Section 4.** This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

**Section 5.** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance



of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

**Section 6.** The publishers of the City Code of Laredo, Texas are authorized to amend said code to reflect the changes adopted herein and to correct typographical errors and to index, format, and number paragraphs to conform to the existing code.

**Section 7.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS  
4 DAY OF October 2021.

  
PETE SAENZ  
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

  
JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
ANA SOPHIA GARCIA  
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY



## Final Reading of Ordinances 24.

### City Council

**Meeting Date:** 10/04/2021

**Initiated By:** Riazul Mia, Assistant City Manager

**Staff Source:** Gerardo Pinzon, Interim Building Director

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### SUBJECT

**2021-O-198** An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances in order to adopt the 2018 editions of the following International Code Council ("ICC") Codes: (1) International Building Code, (2) International Mechanical Code, (3) International Residential Code, (4) International Property Maintenance Code, (5) International Energy Conservation Code; and (6) International Existing Building Code; adding sections 7-11 by adopting the 2012 Edition of the Texas Accessibility Standards; repealing all ordinances and/or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for a savings clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

On 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012, by Ordinance No. 2012-O-184 the City Council adopted the 2012 editions of various International Code Council Codes.

### BACKGROUND

The International Code Council (ICC) updates the building and related codes approximately every three years. It publishes standards, which if adopted, provide additional guidance in the regulation of structure and development.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends approval of this ordinance.

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### Fiscal Impact

**Fiscal Year:**

**Budgeted Y/N?:**

**Source of Funds:**

**Account #:**

**Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N:**



**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

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**Attachments**

2021-O-198

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