



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
Division of Fire Prevention  
Codes Enforcement Section**

500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1162  
Telephone: (615) 741-7190 Fax: (615) 253-3267

**NOTICE**

August 25, 2010,

To: Builders, Architects, Engineers, and Code Officials

Re: Residential Buildings Required to be approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is issued to make you aware that rules for residential buildings covered by the 2006 International Building Code will be enforced beginning in October. Approval by the State Fire Marshal's Office of all R1, R2, R3, and R4 residential buildings will be required. Previously, only 3-story and 2-story residential buildings with 12 or more units were required to receive approval. To receive approval, plans must be submitted, and a review fee paid. The construction will be inspected by a Deputy State Fire Marshal. Approval by the State Fire Marshal's Office is not required in areas that have are exempt per T.C.A. § 68-120-101(b)(2).

Plans submitted for residential occupancies covered by the 2006 International Building Code that are one (1) or two (2) story(s) in height having a gross area of less than five thousand (5,000) square feet must be sufficiently detailed and describe the site, foundation, framing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical and sprinkler systems. Plans are not required to be designed by registered design professionals unless the project's complexity warrants otherwise. Buildings larger than this require plans to be developed by a registered design professional.

One- and two- family dwellings and townhouses up to three stories in height built to the 2009 International Residential Code are not required to submit plans; however, they may be required to obtain a residential building permit beginning in October.