



## **STATEMENT OF INTENTION MANAGING TECHNICAL BUILDING CODES FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION**

### ***Background:***

Governments in many countries have established arrangements for the development and application of technical building codes which set out detailed standards for residential construction work.

The way that building codes are developed and implemented in each country varies. The difference generally relates to the level of industry involvement in the development of these codes, the legal effect that the code has, whether the code is freely available and whether every building must comply or whether the code is advisory.

The IHA is committed to working together to identify proven strategies that will assist member countries to promote the need for an agreed technical building code with a clear pathway for its implementation. This can give certainty to home builders about the way to design and construct new homes.

This effort will work to further the IHA's priorities of housing affordability, availability, and choice of housing, by supporting the economies of IHA member countries for future success.

### ***Common Goal:***

The IHA Members have agreed to a common goal to support the development of technical building codes for residential construction that:

- establish a minimum acceptable building standard, agreed by government and industry, for the safety, health, affordability, and other such issues related to new housing construction and allows builders to understand the technical construction requirements (rules) for home building;

- are easily accessible,
- written in clear, consistent language understood by users at all levels;
- have clear legal force by reference in national, state or local building laws to ensure codes are consistently applied across a country (or region);
- are developed by governments in consultation with industry;
- are only altered or updated after a minimum time period of five (5) years, to assist in industry certainty and education;
- have a clear process for making changes to the building codes which includes who may put forward changes, how those changes are assessed for their impact on new home construction costs, how often changes can be made and who is responsible for approving changes.

***Intent:***

The signatories – designated "we" in this public statement – have a common interest in supporting the continuing development and implementation of technical building codes.

In pursuit of this:

- We will share knowledge, best practices, and strategize regarding the development of technical building codes.
- We will share information on our respective participation of industry in the development of technical building codes in our respective countries.
- We will collaborate to communicate that it is critical that the advancement of technical building codes for home building and renovations do not have a negative effect on housing affordability.
- We will collaborate with relevant existing industry organizations, associations, interest groups, or other forums to advance the above.

***Review Commitment:***

This statement is not intended to be legally binding on any of the IHA Member Organizations. No cause of action will arise with respect to compliance, or lack thereof, of any signatory party to the guidance and intent expressed in this Statement.

This Statement is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against any of the IHA Member Organizations supporting this Statement.

The IHA Members will conduct a biennial review of this Statement of Intention and ratify or revise it, based upon consensus.

**This statement became effective as confirmed by the members on August 30, 2018.**

**This statement was updated and reconfirmed on September 30, 2021.**

**This statement was reconfirmed on March 2, 2024.**



IHA Secretariat

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