



ASHRAE Central Arizona Chapter – P.O. Box 45104, Phoenix, AZ 85064-2061

*November 5th, 2013*

**Town of Queen Creek Code Adoption & Energy Efficiency Concerns**

Addressed to:

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To Whom It May Concern,

We have noted over time that a handful of municipalities have considered, or are considering, delaying updates to building energy codes (i.e., in most cases, from every three years to every six years) and, at worst, rolling back codes to earlier, less energy-efficient versions of the codes.

In several municipalities, lawmakers are examining such proposals on the grounds that code and standard updates are considered too costly to implement or update on a “frequent” basis.

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These proposals are problematic for ASHRAE for several reasons:

- Codes and standards developed and revised on a regular three-year basis ensure that the latest advances in efficiency- and safety-related technologies and techniques (which are moving forward at a faster rate than ever) are codified, made available to technical professionals and code officials in a way to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.
- As noted above, the public benefits from up-to-date codes and standards: families and building owners want safe and efficient homes and buildings; owners and tenants want to ensure customer and employee safety *and* keep their overheads low; and taxpayers bear the costs of legal actions and high building operations and maintenance costs when codes and standards are not updated regularly.
- Delaying code and standard update cycles puts a state far behind others. For example, if a local municipality enacts a delay law this year, the 2012 standards and codes wouldn't be implemented until 2015, while other municipalities would, presumably, have adopted 2012 *and* 2015 editions. This means that the construction industry and code inspectors would need to absorb six years of new information at one time. Also, consumers would have less access to technologies developed since the last update because the design community and code officials would have inadequate safety installation information.

Recently, ASHRAE entered into a partnership with several other organizations who are similarly worried about these developments. As suggested by its name, the Coalition for Current Safety Codes Advisory Committee is not focused on the energy efficiency standards and codes about which ASHRAE chapters and members are experts, but the trend toward code rollbacks and delays in code updates that have the potential to impact any and all model codes and standards, including energy efficiency-related measures developed and maintained by ASHRAE.

Therefore, the local Arizona ASHRAE chapters support updated code adoption by local municipalities including:

- ASHRAE Standards 90.1 (“Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings”), and 100 (“Energy Conservation in Existing Buildings”)
- ASHRAE Standard 189.1 (“Standard for the Design of High-Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings”) as a “green” code
- ASHRAE Standards protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the general public – notably, Standards 62.1 (“Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air

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Quality”), 62.2 (“Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings”), 170 (“Ventilation of Health Care Facilities”), and 180 (“Standard Practice for Inspection and Maintenance of Commercial-Building HVAC Systems”)

For more details on ASHRAE, please visit [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org)

Sincerely submitted,

*ASHRAE, Central Arizona Chapter*

Grassroots Government Activities Committee (GGAC) Chairman & President-Elect

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