



Justin Guedel  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
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Dear Mr Guedel,

I am writing in support of updating the 2005 Indiana Residential Code (675 IAC 14-4.3) with the 2018 International Residential Code to govern construction of Class 2 structures.

Electrical house fires, often initially ruled as undetermined, continue to rank among the deadliest. They often start due to dangerous arcing in damaged wiring behind walls, or through damaged extension cords and outlets. Current National Electrical Code and International Residential Code requirements require smart technology devices called Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) in new homes. AFCI protection can detect and stop dangerous arcing before a fire can start.

The U.S. Fire Administration, in May of 2019, published their Residential Building Fire Trends report. Between the years of 2008 – 2017, they reported the following statistics:

- 14% decrease in fires
- 19% decrease in deaths
- 34% decrease in injuries
- 35% decrease in dollar loss

These reductions in fires, deaths, injuries and dollar loss have a strong correlation to the expanded use of AFCIs.

Currently, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is considering a rule to replace the outdated 2005 Indiana Residential Code with an amended version of the 2018 International Residential Code that would increase AFCI protection requirements in new home construction. Doing so would strengthen Indiana's electrical code, bringing it up to date and helping to keep residents safe with smart technology that has been protecting homes in surrounding states and across the U.S. since 1999.

AFCIs are a proven technology. I urge you to support updating the 2005 Indiana Residential Code (675 IAC 14-4.3) with the 2018 International Residential Code.

With kind regards,

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