



PROPERTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

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Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Overview

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) evaluates the building codes adopted in a community and the community's enforcement of these codes. BCEGS emphasizes building code requirements designed to mitigate losses from natural hazards.

The concept is simple. Communities with effective, well enforced, up to date building codes should demonstrate better loss experience when a catastrophe strikes and insurance rates can reflect that. The prospect of reducing damage to buildings and ultimately lower insurance costs provides an incentive for communities to enforce their building codes rigorously.

The evaluation process starts with PIAL collecting information from a building department in three (3) major areas.

- **Administration of Codes** – This includes a review of building code edition is in use, modifications of the codes, training and certification of code enforcers, building officials qualifications, public awareness programs and participation in code development activities and the appeal process.
- **Plan Review** – In this area, we review staffing levels, experience of personnel and level of detail in the plan review process.
- **Field Inspections** – A review of this category includes a look at staffing levels, experience of personnel, level of details on inspections, final inspections and issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.

PIAL then analyzes the data collected and assigns a classification of 1 to 10 to that community/parish. A Classification of Class 1 represents exemplary commitment to building code enforcement; a Class 10 indicates no recognized building code enforcement. Insurers can use the BCEGS classification for insurance rating and underwriting purposes, generally offering lower premiums in areas with better protection. Any building constructed in the year a community is classified or later, with a Certificate of Occupancy, may be eligible for the classification of that area.

The BCEGS program will encourage the implementation and enforcement of effective, up to date building codes. Effective building code enforcement should result in safer buildings, less damage and lower insurer cost from catastrophes.