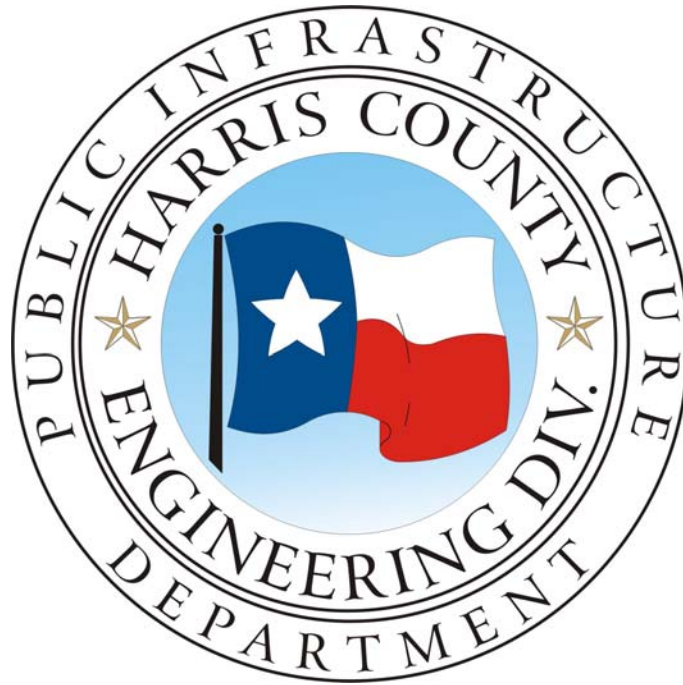


# HARRIS COUNTY FIRE CODE



AS:

ADOPTED: September 14, 2004

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2005

**HARRIS COUNTY  
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT  
ENGINEERING DIVISION  
and  
HARRIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

**ARTHUR L. STOREY, JR. PE  
COUNTY ENGINEER**

**MICHAEL MONTGOMERY  
HARRIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL**





**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

**FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES  
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

480 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Suite 105, Houston, TX 77060  
281-931-1085 • 281-931-5874 (fax)  
www.co.harris.tx.us/finarshal

M. S. Montgomery  
Fire Marshal

**COPY**

September 3, 2004

TO: Judge Robert A. Eckels  
Commissioner El Franco Lee  
Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia  
Commissioner Steve Radack  
Commissioner Jerry Eversole

CC: Arthur L. Storey, Jr.  
Jackie Freeman  
John Blount  
Raymond Anderson

**SUBJ: Harris County Fire Code, Agenda Item 040914-114**

Court Members,

The Fire Marshal's Office and Public Infrastructure Department respectfully request that Commissioners Court consider and approve the attached Court Order, prepared by the County Attorney's Office, for the adoption of the Harris County Fire Code, as described in the Mid-Year Review and as attached here. Further, we ask that Court approved the required positions, vehicles, lease space, and related equipment as described in the attachments.

As directed by the Court on 29 April 2003, the Fire Marshal's Office and the Public Infrastructure Department have worked diligently with the Fire Code Committee to devise a set of Regulations that meets the intended purpose and are acceptable to all. (The Fire Code Committee is made up of representatives of the Court as well as the County Engineer's Office and the Fire Marshal's Office. Outside the County organization, we have representatives of the engineering community, architects, private inspectors, contractors and building owners.) Further, the public notification period requested by Court is complete, and support letters have been received by the following organizations.

Associated General Contractors  
American Institute of Architects  
Houston Council of Engineering Companies  
Greater Houston Builders Association  
Houston Bldg Owners & Managers Association  
Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce  
Houston Real Estate Council  
Humble Area Chamber of Commerce  
BMS Management Inc  
Senterra Real Estate Group  
City of Houston Fire Department  
City of Jersey Village  
Greater Houston LEPC

Cypress Creek Volunteer Fire Dept  
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department  
Huffman Volunteer Fire Department  
Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department  
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 7  
Harris County Emergency Services District 9  
Harris County Emergency Services District 13  
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 16  
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 20  
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 25  
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 28  
Harris County Emergency Service District No. 60

Following approval by the Court and prior to the January 1, 2005 effective date of the Code, the Fire Marshal's Office and the Public Infrastructure Department plan to hire and train County staff, and to hold seminars for the design and development community. A list of the necessary positions and effective dates are included in the attachments.

Should you have any questions please contact me at (281) 931-0267 or Mr. John Blount with the Public Infrastructure Department at (713) 316-3578.

Sincerely,

Mike Montgomery  
Director/Fire Marshal

Vote of the Court:  
Judge Eckels  
Comm. Lee  
Comm. Garcia  
Comm. Radack  
Comm. Eversole

Yes	No	Abstain
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Presented to Commissioners Court

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## EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A - ADDITIONS, INSERTIONS, DELETIONS AND CHANGES  
TO INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2003 EDITION

## **HARRIS COUNTY**

### **FIRE CODE**

#### **CHAPTER 1 – ADMINISTRATION AND PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

##### **SECTION 101.1 - AUTHORITY**

This Code is adopted as a fire code by the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, acting in its capacity as the governing body of Harris County. The authority of Harris County to adopt this Code and the contents hereof is derived from Chapter 233, Subchapter C, Texas Local Government Code, Section, §233.061 et seq. This Code may be amended at any time by a majority of Commissioners Court.

##### **SECTION 101.2 – SCOPE OF REGULATIONS**

This Code applies in unincorporated areas of Harris County, Texas after the effective date of this code.

##### **SECTION 101.3 - PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Code is to provide minimum requirements, with due regard to function, for the design and construction of Public Buildings and Commercial Establishments to reduce the risk to life and property from fire. Fire safety in regard to operation and use of buildings and structures after construction,

whether or not their construction was subject to this Code, shall be enforced independent of this Code by the County Fire Marshal in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to his independent authority to inspect for the presence of fire and life safety hazards and order their correction under Chapter 352 of the Texas Local Government Code. This Code is not intended in any way to limit the statutory authority of the Fire Marshal, and it is intended that such authority be retained to the fullest extent that the law would authorize.

#### **SECTION 101.4 - CONSTRUCTION OF REGULATIONS**

This Code is to be construed liberally to accomplish its purpose. Where no applicable standards or requirements are set forth in this code, or are contained within other laws, codes, regulations, ordinances or order adopted by the County, compliance with applicable standards of the National Fire Protection Association or other nationally recognized fire safety standards, as approved, shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with the intent of this code. Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority of the Fire Code Official to determine compliance with codes or standards for those activities or installations within the code official's jurisdiction or responsibility. Requirements that are essential for the public safety of a building or structure or for the safety of the occupants thereof or the general public which are not specifically provided for by this code shall be determined by the Fire Code Official. The codes and standards

referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 45 of this Code, and such codes and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of such reference. Where differences occur between the provision of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement within this Code, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

#### **SECTION 101.5 - ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

This Code is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing laws, regulations, easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. Except as provided in Part 9, where this Code and other legal requirements conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

#### **SECTION 101.6 - WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The degree of fire protection required by this Code is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. This Code does not imply that any building or the uses permitted within any building will be free from a fire hazard. This Code shall not create liability on the part of Harris County or any officer or employee thereof for any damages that result from reliance on this Code or any administrative decision lawfully

made thereunder. The granting of a permit or issuance of a Certificate of Compliance does not imply that the building can be insured for fire coverage.

#### **SECTION 101.7 - FINDINGS OF FACT**

It is hereby found by the Commissioners Court of Harris County that fires have occurred in the past within its jurisdiction and are likely to occur in the future, and that damage to property and loss of life occurs for many reasons including fires that could have been prevented or minimized by providing additional safety guards to provide adequate egress time and protection for people exposed to fire.

#### **SECTION 101.8 - BASIS FOR REGULATION**

The Harris County Fire Code shall consist of this Code plus the *International Fire Code*, 2003 Edition, including appendix chapters B, C, D and G, which code and appendices are incorporated herein as if fully set out herein, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, prescribed in Exhibit A hereto.

#### **SECTION 101.9 – ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS AND METHODS.**

The provisions of these Regulations are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by these Regulations, provided that any such alteration has been approved by the fire code official. The fire code official is authorized



to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

## **PART 2 - USE OF TERMS**

### **SECTION 102.1 - CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

A “Certificate of Compliance” means a certificate issued by the County Engineer indicating Construction is in compliance with the Harris County Fire Code as of a specific date and for a specific occupancy. The certificate may be filed in the Real Property Records as outlined in Section 107.1 of this Code. A Certificate of Compliance under this Fire Code shall not be construed as authorizing the owner or operator of any building to afterward operate or maintain such building in such a way as to create, cause or allow the existence of a fire or life safety condition, which condition shall be subject to the independent enforcement authority of the County Fire Marshal.

## **SECTION 102.2 - CERTIFICATE OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

A “Certificate of Non-Compliance” means a certificate issued by the County Engineer indicating Construction is not in compliance with the Harris County Fire Code as of a specific date. This certificate may be filed in the Real Property Records as outlined in Section 107.1 of this Code.

## **SECTION 102.3 - CONSTRUCTION**

“Construction” means the initial permanent construction, all subsequent interior build-outs, or Substantial Improvement of a public building or commercial establishment and all related improvements on a site. A permit is required prior to the start of any construction, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, the installation of piles, or the placement of a manufactured building on a foundation.

## **SECTION 102.4 - COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL**

“County Building Official” means the individual appointed by Commissioners Court who is a registered professional engineer or registered architect in the State of Texas and is an employee of the County Engineer, or a designee of such individual.

## **SECTION 102.5 - COUNTY ENGINEER**

“County Engineer” means the holder of the statutory office of County Engineer for Harris County or the employee(s) designated by the County Engineer to perform a task required by this Code.

## **SECTION 102.6 - COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL**

“County Fire Marshal” means the holder of the statutory office of County Fire Marshal for Harris County or the employee(s) designated by the County Fire Marshal to perform a task required by this Code.

## **SECTION 102.7 - PERSON**

“Person” includes any individual or group of individuals, corporation, partnership, association, or any other organized group of persons, including State and Local governments and agencies thereof.

## **SECTION 102.8 - PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

“Public Buildings and Commercial Establishments” include any building where the public may gather or where a good or service is provided for compensation. This definition includes, but is not limited to auditoriums, classrooms, churches, libraries, restaurants, theaters, schools, daycare facilities, nursing homes,

hospitals, correctional facilities, hotels, motels, dormitories, department stores, shopping centers, doctor offices, general offices, laundries and warehouses. Not included in this definition is an industrial facility having a fire brigade that conforms to requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or apartment buildings.

### **SECTION 102.9 - SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT**

A “Substantial Improvement” is the repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, where the cost of the said improvement equals or exceeds 50% of the value of the structure either before the improvement is started or, if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. An improvement is started when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not the alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. For purposes of determining if an improvement is a Substantial Improvement, the applicant for a permit must submit data reflecting the value of the structure prior to being damaged, improved or modified and the cost of the restoration, improvement or modification. Costs shall include the value of all labor and materials.

For the purpose of determining the value of the structure before being repaired, reconstructed or improved, the Harris County Appraisal District’s assessed

value for the structure will be used. If the applicant wishes to contest this value an independent certified appraisal may be submitted. Upon review and concurrence by the Harris County Appraisal District, this appraised value for the structure will be used for determining if the improvement is substantial.

The County Building Official may require the submittal of an independent certified damage assessment in cases where the structure has suffered other than minor damage.

#### **SECTION 102.10 - UNINCORPORATED AREA**

“Unincorporated Area” means the area in Harris County, Texas, which is not within an incorporated area of a city, town, village or within 2500 feet of the centerline of the Houston Ship Channel.

### **PART 3 - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 103.1 - ADMINISTRATION BY THE COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL**

The County Building Official or the County Building Official’s designee is responsible for the administration of this Code, issuance of permits required by this Code, enforcement of this Code and maintenance of proper records.

## **SECTION 103.2 - RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL**

The County Fire Marshal or the County Fire Marshal's designees may conduct inspections provided for in this Code.

## **SECTION 103.2 - RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER OFFICIALS**

Under this Code the County Building Official is responsible for all administrative decisions, determinations and duties. The County Building Official may seek and secure the assistance of other officials of Harris County in making decisions and determinations and in performing the administrative duties but is not required to conform to the recommendations of others, provided however, any decision by the County Building Official may be appealed by the process in Section 106.1 et seq. of this Code.

## **PART 4 - PERMITS**

### **SECTION 104.1 - PERMITS REQUIRED**

No person shall perform or authorize Construction, within the unincorporated areas of Harris County without first securing a permit under this Code.

## SECTION 104.2 - APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

The application for a permit will be on a form prescribed by the County Engineer and must be supported by the following:

- (1) a completed Fire Code Design and Compliance Review Sheet provided by the County Building Official and signed and sealed by a duly licensed architect or engineer authorized to practice in the State of Texas;
- (2) a floor plan to scale for each level of the building including the following:
  - (a) types of construction materials and class of interior finish;
  - (b) location of all exits with distances between exits called out – exit width, type and any special requirement shall be stated;  
and
  - (c) location of any fire alarm equipment, automatic sprinklers, emergency lighting, etc. required to meet this Code.

If unable to determine from the information submitted whether a permit should be issued, the County Building Official may require the submission of additional information, drawings, specifications or documents.

### **SECTION 104.3 - DETERMINATION OF PERMIT ELIGIBILITY**

After the application is filed, the County Building Official shall determine if the proposed public building or commercial establishment meets the minimum requirements of this Code based on the information provided.

- (1) If it is determined the proposed Construction meets the requirements, then a permit will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees outlined in Section 108.3.
- (2) If it is determined that the proposed Construction does not comply with the requirements of this Code, then the application package shall be returned to the applicant with an explanation of why it was not approved.

### **SECTION 104.4 - ISSUANCE OF PERMITS**

When the County Building Official determines a permit shall be issued, the County Building Official shall issue the permit after the proper fee is collected. The permit shall be issued as an addendum to the development permit issued under the Regulations of Harris County, Texas for Flood Plain Management.

### **SECTION 104.5 - TERM OF PERMITS**



Construction must be started within 180 days of the date the permit is issued or the permit shall be null and void. Upon written request, two six-month extensions may be obtained.

## **PART 5 - PERMITTEE**

### **SECTION 105.1 - RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL PERMITTEES**

All permit holders, must:

- (1) post the permit on the jobsite in a place visible from the nearest road or street;
- (2) post and maintain the street number on the jobsite in a place visible from the road or street and in a manner meeting the requirements of the standards for permanent numbers set forth in The International Fire Code Section 505.1; and
- (3) allow the County Building Official or County Fire Marshal to inspect the work pursuant to a permit. The County Building Official or County Fire Marshal may make as many scheduled or unscheduled inspections as deemed necessary to enforce this Code.

All holders of a permit issued pursuant to this Code that wish to make a change to the proposed Construction of the public building or commercial establishment or to perform any Construction other than as authorized by the permit must

submit supplemental drawings and/or specifications to the County Building Official for review. If the changes do not comply with this Code, the County Building Official shall not approve the change. If a change complies with this Code and is approved, a copy of the supplemental drawings and/or specifications shall be added to the permittee's file, and the County Building Official shall amend the permit.

## **SECTION 105.2 - INSPECTIONS**

- (a) The permittee shall ensure their Engineer, Architect, or International Code Council Certified Building Official (ICC-CBO) has made sufficient inspections so that they can complete the as-built certificate as outlined below.
- (b) When the structure is complete and ready for habitation, an as-built certification form supplied by the County Building Official must be completed, signed and sealed by a licensed engineer authorized to practice in the State of Texas, a registered architect authorized to practice in the State of Texas, or an ICC-CBO, indicating that, to the best of his or her knowledge, all the minimum requirements of this Code have been met. If the building, has an automatic fire protection system, a completed Form 009 as promulgated by the State Fire Marshal's office shall be

included with the as-built certificate. Receipt by the County Building Official of a completed, signed and sealed as-built certificate will serve as a request for final inspection.

- (c) Once a completed, signed and sealed as-built certificate has been turned into the County Building Official, and the County Building Official determines, after a final occupancy inspection is conducted, that the Construction complies with this Code, the County Building Official will issue a Certificate of Compliance. The County Building Official, at such time, will provide a release of final utilities to the appropriate utility company. Should the County Engineer determine that the applicable certifications have not been provided and/or the provisions of Section 105.1 of this Code were not followed, then enforcement procedures as outlined in Part 7 shall commence.
- (d) Should the County Building Official have to make additional inspections due to non-compliance with this Code, additional fees may be assessed as outlined in Section 108.3 hereof.

## **PART 6 - APPEALS AND HEARING PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION 106.1 - APPEALS**

If a permit applicant is denied a permit, the applicant may appeal the denial as provided in this Section. The term “appellant” is used to refer to the appealing party. An appellant must seek remedy under this procedure before seeking remedy in court. Application for a permit is deemed to be a waiver of the right to challenge this Code before exhausting remedies herein provided.

- (a) To initiate an appeal an appellant must submit a written request for an exception to this Code to the Hearing Examiner who has been appointed by Commissioners Court.
- (b) A Hearing Examiner appointed by Commissioners Court will set a time for a hearing, which will be scheduled as soon as practicable, preferably 15 days of the receipt of the written request, and shall prepare a Notice of Public Hearing naming the time and date of the hearing. Copies shall be distributed as follows:
  - (1) The original copy and the Certificate to Commissioners Court will be filed with the Clerk of Commissioners Court and the Clerk will prepare a file for the Hearing Notice.
  - (2) The Examiner will create a working or hearing file with one copy contained therein.
  - (3) The Examiner will give one copy to the Appellant.

- (4) The Examiner will deliver one copy to the County Building Official and another copy to the Fire Marshal. The hearing will be conducted as provided in Section 106.2, below.
- (c) An appeal will not abate the decision of the County Building Official pending the decision of the Hearing Examiner.

### **SECTION 106.2 - HEARING BEFORE THE EXAMINER**

At hearings before the Examiner, the Examiner will hear the testimony of the County Building Official and any witnesses called by the County Building Official. The Examiner will hear the testimony of the appellant and any witnesses called by the appellant. The Examiner will review all documents and exhibits submitted by the parties. The Examiner will not be bound by formal rules of evidence and will control the evidence, reserving the power to exclude testimony or exhibits he or she does not consider relevant. The Hearing Examiner will maintain an accurate record of the evidence adduced at the hearing.

### **SECTION 106.3 - FILING OF EXAMINER'S DECISION**

The Examiner will prepare a written decision as soon as possible, preferably within three working days of the hearing. A copy of the decision will be filed with the Clerk of Commissioners Court, the members of the Commissioners

Court, with the County Building Official, the County Engineer, and with the Fire Marshal. The original will be sent to the appellant's address shown on the permit or permit application. If a variance is granted, the County Building Official shall prepare the appropriate permit with any special requirements that may be required by the conditions of the variance.

#### **SECTION 106.4 - REVIEW BY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

If the County Engineer or the appellant wishes to appeal the Examiner's decision, a written objection must be filed with the Clerk of Commissioners Court within ten (10) days of the date the Examiner's decision is filed. The Clerk will notify the Hearing Examiner who will place the matter on the Agenda of Commissioners Court for review at the next meeting of Commissioners Court. If the objection is filed by the County Engineer, notice that the matter is on the Agenda will be sent to the appellant by mail at the appellant's address shown on the permit or application. Commissioners Court will review the matter. The Commissioners Court may either affirm or reverse the decision of the Hearing Examiner. The County Engineer's decision will remain in effect pending the review of Commissioners Court.

## **SECTION 106.5 - VARIANCES**

If any person wishes an exception to any provision of this Code, that person shall request a variance in the manner prescribed for the filing of an appeal. The Hearing Examiner shall hold a hearing, and deny or grant the variance.

Variations will be granted only if the following are met:

- (1) the applicant has shown good and sufficient cause;
- (2) it has been determined that failure to grant the variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant;
- (3) the granting of a variance will not result in an increased risk of fire, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or create nuisances, cause fraud or victimization of the public; and
- (4) variations shall only be issued upon a determination that a variance is the minimum necessary, considering the fire hazard, to afford relief.

Economic hardship shall not constitute the sole basis for granting a variance. A hearing before Commissioners Court regarding variations shall be requested in the manner provided in Section 106.4 of this Code. If a variance is granted a permit shall be issued and the permittee shall conform to all applicable provisions of this Code except the Sections for which a variance is granted.

## **PART 7 - ENFORCEMENT**

### **SECTION 107.1 - ENFORCEMENT**

If any person violates any provisions of this Code, the County Building Official may notify the County Attorney and request that the County Attorney take whatever action is necessary to remedy the violation, including but not limited to filing suit to enjoin the violation and/or seek a civil penalty under Texas Local Government Code § 233.067 of up to \$200 for each day a violation exists. If a violation continues, Harris County may file a Certificate of Non-Compliance in the Real Property Records of Harris County. Once the violation has been resolved any individual may request a Certificate of Compliance be filed in the Real Property Records of Harris County. A fee for this action will be charged in accordance with Section 108.3 of this Code. The violator shall bear this and all other costs of effecting compliance. Should the building be occupied without final occupancy inspection as required under this Code, the County Fire Marshal may file a complaint with the District Attorney's Office under Section 352.016 of the Texas Local Government Code.

#### **SECTION 107.2 - VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF REGULATIONS**

Any person having knowledge of a violation of this Code may file a complaint with the County Building Official or the County Fire Marshal.



### **SECTION 107.3 - CONTEMPT OF COMMISSIONERS COURT**

Commissioners Court may punish contempt by fine or imprisonment in accordance with the provisions of Section 81.023, Texas Local Government Code, as amended. Any person securing a permit under this Code does so on the representation to Commissioners Court that he or she will comply with the terms of the permit and with these requirements and other County regulations. Violations of such representations to Commissioners Court constitute contempt of Commissioners Court. Additionally, Commissioners Court has the power to enforce its Orders by civil contempt. If the Commissioners Court finds the defendant to be guilty of contempt, it will enter such Orders consistent with general law as it deems appropriate to punish the person guilty of contempt, and will enter such other and further Orders enforceable by civil and criminal contempt, and consistent with its authority under general laws, as Commissioners Court deems necessary to enforce and protect its jurisdiction over the matter, and to uphold the integrity of this Code. Procedures for contempt proceedings before Commissioners Court will be consistent with procedures in actions before other courts in this State for enforcement of Court Orders, and for the protection of the jurisdiction of Courts by the process of contempt.

## **PART 8 - FORMS AND RECORDS**

### **SECTION 108.1 - FORMS**

Forms to be used in the administration of this Code shall be promulgated by the County Building Official.

### **SECTION 108.2 - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS**

All applications for, and file copies of, permits must be maintained by the County Building Official for a retention period of three (3) years. Drawings and specifications on file with the County Building Official may be destroyed after completion of the structure.

### **SECTION 108.3 - FEES**

Fees for permits and inspections are to be set by Commissioners Court. Fees shall be paid by cash, cashiers check, money order, or personal check. Should the check be returned for insufficient funds the permit(s) issued becomes null and void. Fees shall be paid at the time permit is delivered to the permittee unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the County Auditor. The fees are shown on Table I:

**TABLE I**

<b>PERMIT &amp; SERVICES</b>		<b>COST</b>		
Public Building or Commercial Establishment		\$500		
First Re-Inspection		\$0		
Subsequent Re-Inspection		\$100		
Certificate of Compliance		\$100		
Permit fees are not refundable or transferable.				
Inspection fees are charged for each visit to the jobsite.				

## **PART 9 – SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION**

The provisions of this Code are severable. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, section, provision, or part of this Code should be invalid or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions and it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Commissioners Court that this Code would have been adopted as to the remaining portions, regardless of the invalidity of any part. In the event that any provision of this Code might be interpreted in such a way as exceeding the County's authority, such provision should be construed to apply only to the extent authorized by law.

## EXHIBIT A

### ADDITIONS, INSERTIONS, DELETIONS AND CHANGES TO INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2003 EDITION

The following additions, insertions, deletions, and changes are made to the *International Fire Code*, 2003 Edition, as adopted by Harris County.

Chapter 1 is deleted. Chapter 1- That document entitled Chapter 1, Administration and Preliminary Provisions, as adopted by Harris County and to which this Exhibit is attached is substituted in its place. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Harris County Fire Code which might otherwise be interpreted to the contrary, the Harris County Fire Code shall not be construed as requiring any license or permit not specifically required by Chapter 1 unless required by other applicable law.

The definitions of **Fire Chief** and **Fire Code Official** in Section 202 are amended to read:

**FIRE CHIEF.** The Harris County Fire Marshal.

**FIRE CODE OFFICIAL.** The “County Building Official” as defined in Section 102.4.

Chapter 4 is deleted in its entirety. This deletion shall not be construed as preventing the Fire Marshal, in an appropriate circumstance, from using the provisions of such chapter in his determination and remedying, independent of Chapter 233 of the Local Government Code, of fire and life safety hazards under Chapter 352 of the Local Government Code.

Section 506 is deleted in its entirety.

Section 508.1 is amended by adding the following sentence:

A water supply as otherwise required by this section will not be required if the responsible emergency services district or fire department provides a letter stating they can provide sufficient fire flow for the specific project.

Section 910.2.1 is amended by revising the provision reading:

**Exception:** Group 2-1 aircraft repair hangars.

to read as follows:

**Exceptions:** 1. Group 2-1 aircraft repair hangars.

2. Buildings protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.

Section 910.3.4 is amended by revising the provision reading:

**Exception:** Where areas of buildings are equipped with early suppression fast-response (ESFR) sprinklers, draft curtains shall not be provided within these areas. Draft curtains shall only be provided at the separation between the ESFR sprinklers and the conventional sprinklers.

to read as follows:

**Exceptions:** 1. Areas of buildings that are equipped with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.

2. Where areas of buildings are equipped with early suppression fast-response (ESFR) sprinklers, draft curtains shall not be provided within these areas. Draft curtains shall only be provided at the separation between the ESFR sprinklers and the conventional sprinklers.

Section 3204.3.1.1 is amended by deleting the second paragraph, regarding geographic areas in which storage of flammable cryogenic fluids in stationary containers outside buildings is prohibited.

Section 3404.2.9.5.1 and Section 3406.2.4.4 are deleted, provided that Sections 3404.2.9.5.1.1 through 3404.2.9.5.6 are adopted along with the remainder of Chapter 34.

Appendix A is not adopted

Appendix B is adopted in its entirety

Appendix C is adopted, except that in Sections C103.1 C105.1, the words “Table C105.1” are deleted and are replaced by the phrase “rules of the jurisdiction in whose Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) the project is located.”

Appendix D is adopted in its entirety

Appendix G is adopted in its entirety

The following provisions of the *International Building Code*, 2003 edition, are incorporated herein as if fully set forth as part of the Harris County Fire Code, and shall be designated Appendix H, with section numbers to be referred to with the prefix “H”, such that, for example, Section 201.1 of the *International Building Code* shall be referred to as Section H201.1 of the Harris County Fire Code:

Chapter 2, entitled Definitions;

Chapter 3, entitled Use and Occupancy Classification;

Chapter 4, entitled Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy;

Chapter 5, entitled General Building Heights and Areas;

Chapter 6, entitled Types of Construction;

Chapter 7, entitled Fire-Resistant-Rated-Construction;

Chapter 8, entitled Interior Finishes;

Chapter 9, entitled Fire Protection Systems;

Chapter 10, entitled Means of Egress;

Section 1505, entitled Fire Classification and including provisions 1505.1 through 1505.7; Section 3309, entitled Fire Extinguishers and including provisions 3309.1 and 3309.2; and Section 3312, entitled Automatic sprinkler System and including provisions 3312.1 and 3312.2. of *International Building Code*, 2003 edition, are incorporated herein as if fully set forth as part of the Harris County Fire Code, and shall be designated Appendix H, with section numbers to be referred to with the prefix “H”, such that, for example, Section 201.1 of the *International Building Code* shall be referred to as Section H201.1 of the Harris County Fire Code.