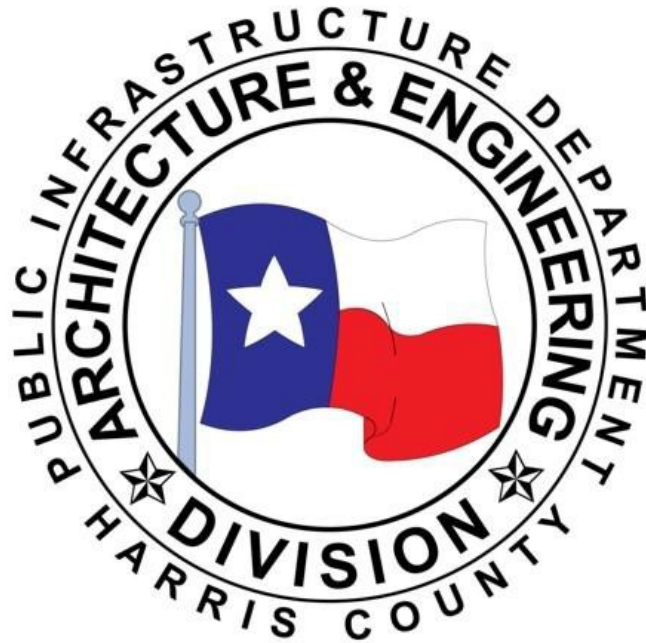


HARRIS COUNTY FIRE CODE



AS

ADOPTED: September 14, 2004

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2005

AMENDED: July 1, 2008

AMENDED: April 12, 2012

AMENDED: December 16, 2014

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2015

HARRIS COUNTY
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING
DIVISION

and

HARRIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

ARTHUR L. STOREY, JR., PE
COUNTY ENGINEER

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, CFO, MIFireE
HARRIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL

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HARRIS COUNTY FIRE CODE

PART 1 – ADMINISTRATION AND PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS SECTION 101

Occupancy prohibited before approval. No building or structure subject to this code shall be occupied prior to:

- a) **Receipt by the County Fire Code Official of a request for final inspection from the permit Holder as submitted on a form provided by the building official, and**
- b) **issuance of a Certificate of Compliance by the County Fire Code Official that indicates that Applicable provisions of this code have been met.**

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., as amended. The Harris County Fire Code as adopted on September 14, 2004 and which became effective on January 1, 2005 shall continue to apply to the construction of buildings for which construction begins prior to the effective date of this new Code. But this Code shall apply to all buildings for which Construction or Substantial Improvement, as defined in this Code, begins after the effective date of this Fire Code. This Code may be amended at any time by a majority of Commissioners Court.

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

101.3 Purpose. The purpose of this Code is to provide minimum requirements, with due regard to function, for the design and Construction or Substantial Improvement of Public Buildings, Commercial Establishments, and multifamily residential dwellings consisting of four or more units 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 County Fire Marshal, and it is intended that such authority be retained to the fullest extent that the law would authorize.

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 County 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 County Fire Code Official. The codes and standards referenced in this Code shall be those that are listed in Reference Standards of the most recently adopted edition of the International Fire Code and the International Building 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.

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.

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.

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.

101.8 Components for regulation. The Harris County Fire Code shall consist of:

- A. The International Fire Code, 2012 Edition, Chapters 2 thru 80 (Chapter 11 excluded);
 - a) Appendix B, C, D, F, G, H, I, and J;
- B. International Building Code, 2012 Edition, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 30, and 35;
 - a) Sections 1406, 1505, 1705.13, through 1705.17.2, 2403, 2406 through 2409, 3102 through 3104, and 3302;
 - b) Appendix C Agricultural Buildings;
 - c) Section 403.4.7 is amended to read, Smoke removal for floors more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
 - d) Chapter 5 Table 508.4 is amended to read,

Note: Added footnote “e” to Table 508.4 as follows:
 - e. Business occupancy adjacent to F-2, S-2, or U are not required to have separation, unless required by the Building Official and/or Fire Marshal.
- C. Section 20.5 of the Uniform Fire Code, 2010 Edition (UFC-2010) with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, prescribed herein.

101.9 Alternative materials and methods. The provisions of this Code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this Code, provided that any such alteration has been approved by the County Building Code Official, and the Fire Marshal. The County Building Code Official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the County 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

102.1 Certificate of Compliance. (a) A “Certificate of Compliance” means a certificate issued by the County Engineer indicating Construction or Substantial Improvement 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.

(b) Certificate of Compliance, Conditional or Partial. A “Conditional Certificate of Compliance” or a “Partial Certificate of Compliance means a certificate issued by the County Engineer, subject to the conditions described herein.

1. The County Fire Code Official shall notify the permit applicant in writing of any limitations or restrictions necessary to keep the permit area safe.
2. The holder of a conditional or partial Certificate of Compliance shall proceed only to the point for which approval has been given, at the permit holder’s own risk and without assurance that approval for the occupancy or the utilization of the entire premises, equipment or operation will be granted.

102.2 Certificate of Non-Compliance. A “Certificate of Non-Compliance” means a certificate issued by the County Engineer indicating Construction or Substantial Improvement 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.

102.3 Construction. “Construction” means the initial permanent construction of a public building, a commercial establishment, or a multifamily residential dwelling consisting of four or more units, and all related improvements on a site. A permit is required prior to the start of any construction. For purposes of this Code, construction begins on the date that ground is broken for a building, or if no ground is broken, on the date that:

- a) the first materials are added to the original property;
- b) foundation pilings are installed on the original property; or
- c) a manufactured building or relocated structure is placed on a foundation on the original property

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

102.4.1 County Fire Code Official. “County Fire Code Official” shall be the person appointed as the County Building Official.

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.

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.

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.

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.

102.9 Residential board and care. A residential occupancy used for lodging and boarding of four or more, but not more than 16, residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services.

102.10 Substantial Improvement. A “Substantial Improvement” is

- a) the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling of a public building, a commercial establishment, or a multifamily residential dwelling consisting of four or more units for which the cost exceeds 50% of the building’s value according to the certified tax appraisal roll for the county for the year preceding the year in which the work was begun; or
- b) a change in occupancy classification involving a change in the purpose or level of activity in a building, including the renovation of a warehouse into a loft apartment. For purposes of determining if an improvement is a Substantial Improvement, the applicant for a permit must submit data reflecting cost of the improvement, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling. Costs shall include the value of all labor and materials. A permit is required prior to the start of any Substantial Improvement. For purposes of this Code, Substantial Improvement begins on the date that the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling or the change in occupancy classification begins or on the date materials are first delivered for that purpose.

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.

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

PART 3 – GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION 103

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.

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.

103.3 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**

104.1 Permits required. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, permit, perform or authorize Construction or Substantial Improvement within the unincorporated areas of Harris County without first securing a permit under this Code.

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:

- a) The most current version of the 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;
- b) a floor plan to scale for each level of the building including, but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Types of construction materials and class of interior finish;
 - 2. Location of all exits with distances between exits called out – exit width, type and any special requirement shall be stated; and
 - 3. Location of any fire alarm equipment, automatic sprinklers, emergency lighting, etc. required to meet this Code.
 - 4. Defined occupancy classification and occupancy load
 - 5. North arrow, accurate legend, door and wall schedules
 - 6. Label specific use of each room

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.

104.3 Determination of permit eligibility. After the application is filed, the County Building Official shall determine if the proposed public building, commercial establishment, or multifamily residential dwelling consisting of four or more units meets the minimum requirements of this Code based on the information provided.

- a) If it is determined the proposed construction or substantial improvement meets the requirements, then a permit will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees outlined in Section 108.3.

- b) If it is determined that the proposed construction or substantial improvement 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.

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.

104.5 Term of permits. Construction or substantial improvement 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

105.1 Responsibilities of permittee, all permit holders, must:

- a) post the permit on the jobsite in a place visible from the nearest road or street;
- b) 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
- c) 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 or Substantial Improvement of the public building, commercial establishment, or multifamily residential dwelling consisting of four or more units or to perform any construction or substantial improvement 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.

105.2 Inspections

[A] 105.2.1 Inspection authority. The County Fire Marshal shall present credentials at a reasonable time to the occupant to enter and examine any building, structure, marine vessel, vehicle or premises for the purpose of enforcing this Code. As-built certificate may be required for all facilities listed below:

1. Hazardous group occupancies
2. Building used for high-pile storage
3. Mid and High-rise buildings
4. Licensed care facilities
5. Any and all facilities as deemed necessary by the Building Official

[A] 105.2.2 Inspections. The County Fire Marshal shall present credentials at a reasonable time to the occupant to conduct such inspections as are deemed necessary to determine the extent of compliance with the provisions of this Code and to approve reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All reports of such inspections shall be prepared and submitted in writing for review and approval. Inspection reports shall be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual. The County Fire Marshal may engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual, detailed or complex technical issues subject to the approval of the governing body. It shall be the duty of the holder of the permit or their duly authorized agent to provide a copy of all approved construction plans on site pertaining to this request for the final inspection performed by the County Fire Marshal.

[A] 105.2.2.1 Inspection requests. It shall be the duty of the holder of the permit or their duly authorized agent to notify the County Fire Marshal when work is ready for inspection of all permitted construction, operations, or licensed establishments. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to provide access to and means for inspections of such work that are required by this Code.

[A] 105.2.2.2 Approval required. Work shall not be done beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining the approval of the County Fire Code Official or County Fire Marshal. The County Fire Code Official or County Fire Marshal, upon notification, shall make the requested inspections and shall either indicate the portion of the construction that is satisfactory as completed, or notify the permit holder or his or her agent wherein the same fails to comply with this Code. Any portions that do not comply shall be corrected.

[A] 105.2.2.3 Occupancy prohibited before approval. No building or structure subject to this code shall be occupied prior to:

- a) **Receipt by the County Fire Code Official of a request for final inspection from the permit holder as submitted on a form provided by the building official, and**
- b) **Issuance of a Certificate of Compliance by the County Fire Code Official that indicates that applicable provisions of this code have been met.**

[A] 105.2.3 Concealed work. It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. Whenever any installation subject to inspection prior to use is covered or concealed without having first been inspected, the County Fire Marshal shall have the authority to require that such work be exposed for inspection. Neither the County Fire Marshal nor Harris County shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection. Photo documentation will be acceptable.

[A] 105.2.4 Approvals. Approval as the result of an inspection shall not be construed to be an approval of a violation of the provisions of this Code, Rules or Regulations. Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel provisions of this Code or of other ordinances or regulations of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

105.2.5 Phased Inspections. The County Fire Marshal may conduct phased inspections of projects that possess approved phased permits.

105.2.6 Voluntary Inspection Services. Additional inspections will be conducted, upon request from the applicant, after appropriate payment has been received.

105.2.7 Expert Inspection Analysis. The County Fire Code Official may request an expert, at the cost of the permittee, to report upon unusual, detailed or complex technical issues subject to the approval of the governing body.

105.2.8 Additional Follow-up Inspections. Should the County Fire Code Official have to make additional inspections due to non-compliance with this Code, additional fees may be assessed as outlined in Section 108.3.

105.2.9 Certificate of Compliance. If a final occupancy inspection determines that the Construction or Substantial Improvement complies with this Code, the County Fire Code Official shall issue a **Certificate of Compliance and authorize a release of final utilities to the appropriate utility company.**

Exception:

- a) Should the final inspection determine that the requirements of the code were not met; a conditional or partial Certificate of Compliance may be issued at the discretion of the County Fire Code Official.
- b) The County Fire Code Official shall notify the permit applicant in writing of any limitations or restrictions necessary to keep the permit area safe.
- c) The holder of a conditional or partial Certificate of Compliance shall proceed only to the point for which approval has been given, at the permit holder's own risk and without assurance that approval for the occupancy or the utilization of the entire premises, equipment or operations will be granted.

PART 6 - APPEALS AND HEARING PROCEDURES
SECTION 106

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 Building Official. The Building Official shall submit the appellant’s written request 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, preferable 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 County 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.

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.

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 County 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.

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.

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. Variances will be granted only if the following are met:

- a) the applicant has shown good and sufficient cause;
- b) it has been determined that failure to grant the variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant;
- c) 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
- d) Variances 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 variances 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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

108.3 Fees. Fees for permits and inspections are to be set by Commissioners Court. Fees shall be paid by any method approved by Commissioners Court. Should any payment be denied or 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 those published in the current fee schedule approved by Commissioners Court.

PART 9 – SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 109

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, DELETION AND CHANGES TO INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

2012 EDITION

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 1 is deleted in its entirety and is replaced by Part 1, Administration and Preliminary Provisions, of the Harris County Fire Code 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.

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

SECTION 202 is amended to read as follows:

[B] 24-HOUR CARE. The actual time that a person is an occupant within a facility for the purpose of receiving care. It shall not include a facility that is open for 24 hours and is capable of providing care to someone visiting the facility during any segment of the 24 hours. See definitions for Group I occupancies as adopted by Harris County.

ADULT CARE FACILITY. See Institutional I-2 occupancy definition.

[B] AMBULATORY CARE FACILITY. Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or similar care on a less-than-24-hour basis to persons who are rendered incapable of self-preservation by the services provided. This group may include but not be limited to the following:

- Dialysis centers
- Sedation dentistry
- Surgery centers
- Colonic centers
- Psychiatric centers

[A] APPROVED. Acceptable to the fire code official and/or fire chief.

[A] APPROVED CAPACITY. The maximum approved amount or number of gallons that can be received or contained; cubic contents; volume in cubic ft, or in gallons.

[A] BUILDING OFFICIAL. The County Building Official is an individual appointed by Commissioners Court who is the officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the International Fire Code, or a duly authorized representative.

CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY. A change in the purpose, classification of occupancy, level of hazard or life safety within a building or tenant space.

CHILD CARE FACILITY.

See Institutional I-2 occupancy definition.

COUNTY FIRE CODE OFFICIAL. The “County Building Official” as defined in Section 102.4 of the Harris County Fire Code as adopted by Harris County and to which this Exhibit is attached is substituted in its place.

CRITICAL FACILITIES. Those facilities essential to the preservation of life and property, including, but not limited to: schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency response installations, facilities used for the storage of critical records, and commercial installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste (Group H occupancies).

DEDICATED FUNCTION FIRE ALARM CONTROL UNIT. A protected premises fire alarm control unit which is intended to provide operation of a specifically identified fire safety function, such as a fire sprinkler alarm and supervisory control unit or an elevator recall control and supervisory control unit.

FIRE CHIEF. The Harris County Fire Marshal.

FIRE CODE OFFICIAL. The Fire Code Official is an individual appointed by Commissioners Court who is the officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the International Fire Code, or a duly authorized representative.

FIRE MARSHAL. 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.

FIRE BRIGADE Shall meet the Occupational Safety and Health Standard (OSHA) 1910.156.

FOSTER CARE FACILITIES. Facilities that provide care to no more than six children at a single family residence that is regulated by the State of Texas.

GROUP HOME. A residential board and care facility with at least four and no more than sixteen clients for social rehabilitation, substance abuse or mental health problems containing a group housing arrangement that provides custodial care but does not provide acute care.

High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) Fans - A high-volume low-speed (HVLS) fan is a type of mechanical fan used in commercial and industrial settings. HVLS fans are generally ceiling fans although some come as pole mounted fans. Unlike residential ceiling fans that are typically 36- to 52-inches in diameter, HVLS fans have very large diameters that start at 8-feet and go up to 24-feet. Unlike standard high-speed fans, HVLS fans move very slowly. With very low rotational speed, HVLS fans move large amounts of air –

hence the name, high volume, low speed.

MID-RISE BUILDING. A building with an occupied floor located more than 2 stories and less than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

Assembly Group A-3. Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A, including, but not limited to:

- Amusement arcades
- Art galleries
- Bowling alleys
- Community halls
- Courtrooms
- Dance halls (not including food or drink consumption)
- Exhibition halls
- Funeral parlors
- Gymnasiums (without spectator seating)
- Indoor swimming pools (without spectator seating)
- Indoor tennis courts (without spectator seating)
- Lecture halls
- Libraries
- Martial Arts/Dance Studios/Fitness
- Museums
- Places of religious worship
- Pool and billiard parlors
- Waiting areas in transportation terminals

[B] Institutional Group I. Institutional Group I occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, in which care or supervision is provided to persons who are or are not capable of self-preservation without physical assistance or in which persons are detained for penal or correctional purposes or in which the liberty of the occupants is restricted. Institutional occupancies shall be classified as Group I-1, I-2, I-3 or I-4.

Institutional Group I-2. This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or parts thereof housing more than 16 persons, on a 24-hour basis, who because of age, mental disability or other reasons, live in a supervised residential environment that provides personal care services. The occupants are capable of responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Convalescent facilities
- Group homes
- Half-way houses
- Residential board and care facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities

A facility such as the above with five or fewer persons shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the International Residential Code, or applicable State and Federal requirements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State Requirements, Rules, and Regulations and/or Federal Requirements, Rules, and Regulation the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

Six to sixteen persons receiving care. A facility such as above, housing at least six and not more than 16 persons receiving such care, shall be classified as a Group R-4. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State Requirements, Rules, and Regulations and/or Federal Requirements, Rules, and Regulation the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

Institutional Group I-2. This occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or custodial care on a 24-hour basis of more than five persons who are not capable of self-preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Foster care facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Detoxification facilities
- Psychiatric hospital
- Child and Adult day care facilities (in operation for more than 24 hours)

A facility such as the above with five or fewer persons shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the International Residential Code, or applicable State and Federal requirements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State Requirements, Rules, and Regulations and/or Federal Requirements, Rules, and Regulation the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

Six to sixteen persons receiving care. A facility such as above, housing at least six and not more than 16 persons receiving such care, shall be classified as a Group R-4. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State Requirements, Rules, and Regulations and/or Federal Requirements, Rules, and Regulation the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

[B] Residential Group R. Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I or when not regulated by the International Residential Code in accordance with Section 101.2 of the International Building Code.

Residential Group R-4. This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than five but not more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis in a supervised residential environment and receive custodial care. The persons receiving care are capable of self-preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Convalescent facilities
- Group homes
- Halfway houses
- Residential board and custodial care facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities

Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except for the height and area limitations provided in Section 503 of the International Building Code or shall comply with the International Residential Code, or applicable State and Federal requirements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State Requirements, Rules, and Regulations and/or Federal Requirements, Rules, and Regulation the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

READILY ACCESSIBLE. Accessible without any special tools, key, knowledge, or equipment to operate.

SPECIAL EVENT. An outdoor event that is private or open to the public where the occupant load is greater than 100; or alcohol is served or consumed or food is prepared on premises.

START OF CONSTRUCTION. Construction begins on the date that ground is broken for a building, or if no ground is broken, on the date that:

1. The first materials are added to the original property;
2. Foundation pilings are installed on the original property;
3. A manufactured building or relocated structure is placed on a foundation on the original property.

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

**CHAPTER 3
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**SECTION 319
MOBILE VENDORS**

319.1 General requirements. A portable food service unit shall obtain a permit from Harris County Permits and must be approved by Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services.

The following must be provided to obtain a permit for a food service unit.

1. An accurate scaled, dimensioned site plan, including service area, existing buildings, and distance to property line.
2. A completed application.
3. Approved plans from Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services.
4. Current tags/license.

**CHAPTER 5
FIRE SERVICE FEATURES**

SECTIONS 506.1.2 and 507.1 are amended to read as follows:

503.1.1 Buildings and facilities. Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building here after constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section

and shall extend to within 150 feet of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

Exception: The fire code official is authorized to approve any of the following conditions:

1. Buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3, the dimension shall be increased to 200 feet.
2. When fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided. An acceptable alternative is to install external remote fire hose connections per Section 915 of the International Fire Code.

506.1.2 Key boxes for nonstandardized fire service elevator keys.

Key boxes provided for nonstandardized fire service elevator keys shall comply with Section 506.1 and all of the following:

1. The key box shall be compatible with an existing rapid entry key box system in use in the jurisdiction and approved by the fire code official.
2. The front cover shall be permanently labeled with the words “Fire Department Use Only—Elevator Keys.”
3. The key box shall be mounted within 20 ft. of the main elevator bank at the lobby nearest to the lowest level of fire department access.
4. The key box shall be mounted 5 feet 6 inches (1676 mm) above the finished floor to the right side of the elevator bank.
5. Contents of the key box are limited to fire service elevator keys. Additional elevator access tools, keys and information pertinent to emergency planning or elevator access shall be permitted when authorized by the fire code official.
6. In buildings with two or more elevator banks, a single key box shall be permitted to be used when such elevator banks are separated by not more than 30 feet (9144 mm). Additional key boxes shall be provided for each individual elevator or elevator bank separated by more than 30 feet (9144 mm).

Exception: A single key box shall be permitted to be located adjacent to a fire command center or the non-standard fire service elevator key shall be permitted to be secured in a key box used for other purposes and located in accordance with Section 506.1.

507.1 Required water supply. An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction.

511 Gated communities – Refer to Local Government Code Sections 352.111 – 352.120

**CHAPTER 6
BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS**

SECTION 604.2 is amended to read as follows; **SECTIONS 604.2.19, 604.2.19.1, 604.19.1.1, 604.19.1.2, 604.2.19.2,** and **604.2.19.2.1,** are added, to read as follows:

604.2 Where required. Emergency and standby power systems shall be provided where required by Sections 604.2.1 through 604.2.19.

604.2.19 Critical facilities. Standby and emergency power. All facilities defined as *critical facilities* shall provide standby and emergency power.

604.2.19.1 Standby power. A standby power system complying with this section and NFPA 70 shall be provided for standby power loads as specified in Section 604.2.15.1.1.

[B] 604.2.19.1.1 Standby power loads. The following loads are classified as standby power loads:

1. Smoke control system.
2. Ventilation and automatic fire detection equipment for smoke proof enclosures.
3. Fire pumps.
4. Standby power shall be provided for elevators in accordance with Section 3003 of the International Building Code.

604.2.19.1.2 Pickup time. The standby power system shall pick up its connected loads within 60 seconds of failure of the normal power supply.

604.2.19.2 Emergency power. An emergency power system complying with this code and NFPA 70 shall be provided for emergency power loads as specified in Section 604.2.19.2.1.

[B] 604.2.19.2.1 Emergency power loads. The following loads are classified as emergency power loads:

1. Emergency voice/alarm communication systems.
2. Fire alarm systems.
3. Automatic fire detection systems.
4. Elevator car lighting.
5. Means of egress lighting and exit sign illumination as required by Chapter 10.

**CHAPTER 7
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATED CONSTRUCTION**

SECTION 703.1.1 is amended to read as follows:

703.1.1 Fireblocking and draftstopping. Required fireblocking and draftstopping in combustible concealed spaces shall be maintained to provide continuity and integrity of the construction. Including attics in R2 apartments, the Fire Marshal is authorized to require immediate installation of draft stops in R2 that do not exceed four stories in height. The attic space shall be subdivided by draftstops into areas not exceeding 3,000 square feet or above every two dwelling units, whichever is smaller.

**CHAPTER 9
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

SECTIONS 901.4.6, 901.6.1, 901.8, 901.9, 901.10, 902.1, 903.2.1.1 ,903.2.1.2, 903.3.1.3, 903.2.13, 903.3.7, 903.4, 903.4.1, 903.4.2, 904.11.1, 907.2, 907.2.3, 907.2.6.4, 907.2.6.4.1, 907.2.7.1 907.4.1, 907.6.2.1, 907.6.5, , 912.5 are amended to read as follows; **SECTIONS 903.2.13, 903.7, 907.2.6.4, 907.2.6.4.1, 907.6.2.1, 913.6, 913.7, 915.1, 915.2, 915.3, 915.4** and **915.5** are added, to read as follows:

901.4.6 Pump and riser room size. Fire pump, automatic sprinkler system riser rooms and any other necessary fire protection equipment shall be designed with adequate space for all equipment necessary for the installation, as defined by the manufacturer, with sufficient working space around the stationary equipment. Clearances around equipment to elements of permanent construction, including other installed equipment and appliances, shall be sufficient to allow inspection, service, repair or replacement without removing such elements of permanent construction or disabling the function of a required fire-resistance-rated assembly. Fire pump and automatic sprinkler system riser rooms shall be provided with a door(s) and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest piece of equipment.

901.4.6.1 Fire Sprinkler Riser Rooms. Automatic Fire Sprinkler Riser Rooms shall be separated from the remainder of the building by not less than one hour fire barrier, and equipped the maintain temperature and humidity requirements of the NFPA 13 and NFPA 72. Each riser room shall have an exterior access door for fire department access.

Exceptions: Automatic fire sprinkler control valve that are located on the exterior of the building, or in a vault, or located in *readily accessible* area outside of the building.

901.6.1 Standards. *Fire protection systems* shall be inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with the referenced standards listed in Table 901.6.1.

**TABLE 901.6.1
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

SYSTEM	STANDARD
Portable fire extinguishers	NFPA 10
Carbon dioxide fire-extinguishing system	NFPA 12
Halon 1301 fire-extinguishing systems	NFPA 12A
Dry-chemical extinguishing systems	NFPA 17
Wet-chemical extinguishing systems	NFPA 17A
Water-based fire protection systems	NFPA 25
Fire alarm systems	NFPA 72
Mechanical smoke exhaust systems	NFPA 204
Smoke and heat vents	NFPA 204
Water-mist systems	NFPA 750
Clean-agent extinguishing systems	NFPA 2001
External remote fire hose connection	HC Fire Code 915

- Please see Reference standards Chapter 80

901.8 Removal of or tampering with equipment. It shall be unlawful a violation of this code for any person to remove, tamper with or otherwise disturb any fire hydrant, fire detection and alarm system, fire suppression system, or other fire appliance required by this code except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training purposes, recharging or making necessary repairs, or when approved by the *fire marshal*.

901.8.1 Removal of or tampering with appurtenances. Locks, gates, doors, barricades, chains, enclosures, signs, tags or seals which have been installed by or at the direction of the *fire marshal* shall not be removed, unlocked, destroyed, tampered with or otherwise vandalized in any manner.

901.9 Termination of monitoring service. For fire alarm systems required to be monitored by this code, notice shall be made to the *fire marshal* whenever alarm monitoring services are terminated. Notice shall be made in writing, to the *fire marshal* by the monitoring service provider being terminated.

901.10 Recall of fire protection components. Any fire protection system component regulated by this code that is the subject of a voluntary or mandatory recall under federal law shall be replaced with approved, listed components in compliance with the referenced standards of this code. The *fire marshal* shall be notified in writing by the building owner when the recalled component parts have been replaced.

902.1 Definitions. The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) Fans

903.2.1.1 Group A-1. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-1 occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:

1. *The fire area exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m2).*
2. *The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.*

3. *The fire area* has an occupant load of 100 or more when alcohol is served or consumed.
4. *The fire area* is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.
5. *The fire area* contains a multi-theater complex.

903.2.1.2 Group A-2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-2 occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:

1. *The fire area* exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m²).
2. *The fire area* has an occupant load of 100 or more when alcohol is served or consumed.
3. *The fire area* has an occupant load of 300 or more.
4. *The fire area* is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

Section 903.2.13 HVLS Fans in Sprinkled Buildings. HVLS fans are allowed in buildings that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system as described below. This applies to both, new construction reviewed and inspected under the Harris County Fire Code, and existing buildings reviewed and inspected under Local Government Code 352.

1. HVLS fans are permitted in rack storage and palletized storage arrangements up to twenty (20) feet in height in buildings with thirty (30) feet or less ceiling clearance, when Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinklers are used to protect the storage array.
2. HVLS fans are permitted in light-hazard and ordinary-hazard occupancies as defined in NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*.
3. HVLS fans are permitted in sprinkled areas with palletized storage up to twelve (12) feet in height protected by control mode sprinklers.

In all cases, HVLS fans are required to be designed and installed to shut down automatically on any fire alarm signal. This includes automatic shutdown sprinkler system water-flow or manual or automatic fire alarm detection device provided in the space.

Any other use of HVLS fans in sprinkled buildings will be considered Performance Based Design to be reviewed and approved by the County Building Official and County Fire Official.

903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in one and two-family dwellings and Group R-3 and R-4 congregate living facilities shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D.

903.3.7 Fire department connections. The location of fire department connections shall be in compliance with 912.2.1 or approved by the fire code official.

903.4 Sprinkler system supervision and alarms. All valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems, pumps, tanks, water levels and temperatures, critical air pressures and water-flow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised by a listed fire alarm control unit.

Exceptions:

1. Automatic sprinkler systems protecting one- and two-family dwellings.
2. Limited area systems serving fewer than 20 sprinklers.
3. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13R where a common supply main is used to supply both domestic water and the automatic sprinkler system, and a separate shutoff valve for the automatic sprinkler system is not provided.
4. Jockey pump control valves that are sealed or locked in the open position.
5. Control valves to commercial kitchen hoods, paint spray booths or dip tanks that are sealed or locked in the open position.
6. Valves controlling the fuel supply to fire pump engines that are sealed or locked in the open position.
7. Trim valves to pressure switches in dry, preaction and deluge sprinkler systems that are sealed or locked in the open position.
8. Vaults, vault valves, post indicator valve, wall post indicator valve that are sealed and locked in the open position.

903.4.1 Monitoring. Alarms, supervisory and trouble signals shall be transmitted to an approved supervising station, through a dedicated function fire alarm control unit or a fire alarm control panel. Each alarm, supervisory, and trouble signal shall identify the building, zone or riser location when initiated or activated. When approved by the County Building Code Official, a performance based alternative may be approved.

Exceptions:

1. Underground key or hub valves in roadway boxes provided by the municipality or public utility are not required to be monitored.
2. Backflow prevention device test valves located in limited area sprinkler system supply piping shall be locked in the open position. In occupancies required to be equipped with a fire alarm system, the backflow preventer valves shall be electrically supervised by a tamper switch installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and separately annunciated.

903.4.2 Alarms. An approved audible device only, shall be connected to every automatic sprinkler system. Such sprinkler water-flow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Alarm devices shall be provided on the exterior of the building in an approved location.

Where a fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system, meet the requirements of 903.4.1. And the occupant notification section of 907.5 in all areas under the protection of the automatic sprinkler system.

For buildings without a required fire alarm system, a dedicated function fire alarm control unit is required for monitoring the fire sprinkler system

903.7 Required minimum safety pressure. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be required a minimum hydraulically calculated safety pressure of five (5) psi or greater.

904.11.1 Manual system operation. A manual actuation device shall be located at or near a means of egress from the cooking area a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) and a maximum of 20 feet (6096 mm) from the kitchen exhaust system. The manual actuation device shall be installed not more than 48 inches (1200 mm) nor less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the floor and shall clearly identify the hazard protected. The manual actuation shall require a maximum force of 40 pounds (178 N) and a maximum movement of 14 inches (356 mm) to actuate the fire suppression system. A manual system operation shall maintain thirty-six (36) inches of clear unobstructed access.

Exception: Automatic sprinkler systems shall not be required to be equipped with manual actuation means.

907.2 Where required—new buildings and structures. An approved fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code.

The automatic fire detectors shall be smoke detectors. Where ambient conditions prohibit installation of automatic smoke detection, other automatic fire detection shall be allowed.

All manual, automatic or manual and automatic fire alarm systems shall also include smoke detectors in each mechanical equipment, electrical, transformer, telephone equipment, corridors, lobbies, storage rooms larger than 200 square feet, elevator machine rooms, elevator lobbies, and other areas determined to be a special hazard by the County Fire Marshal.

A minimum of one manual fire alarm box shall be provided in an approved location to initiate a fire alarm signal for fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or water-flow detection devices. Where other sections of this code allow elimination of fire alarm boxes due to sprinklers, a single fire alarm box shall be installed.

907.2.3 Group E. A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

Exceptions:

1. In Group E occupancies an emergency voice/alarm communication system is not required when the facility occupancy load is 49 or less.

907.2.6.4 Group I-4 occupancies.

907.2.6.4.1 Group I-4 all licensed daycare centers shall have a manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

Exceptions:

In Group I-4 occupancies an emergency voice/alarm communication system is not required when the facility occupancy load is 49 or less.

907.4.1 Protection of fire alarm control unit. A single smoke detector shall be provided at the location of each fire alarm control unit, notification appliance circuit power extenders and supervising station transmitting equipment.

907.6.2.1 Fire Alarm Surge Protectors. Surge protection shall be provided on all fire alarms related components, to protect from transient voltage, including but not limited to the following: signaling line circuits (SLC), notification appliance circuits (NAC), telephone lines, AC power connections.

Section 907.6.5. Monitoring. Alarms, supervisory and trouble signals shall be transmitted to an approved supervising station, each alarm supervisory and trouble signal shall identify the building, room and location of the specific device that was initiated or activated. When approved by the County Fire Code Official, a performance based alternative may be approved.

Exception: Monitoring by a supervising station is not required for:

1. Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms required by Section 907.2.11.
2. Smoke detectors in Group I-3 occupancies.
3. Automatic sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings.

912.5 Backflow protection. The potable water supply to automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be protected against backflow as required by the Local Water Authority.

913.6 Break tank. Fire pumps shall install a break tank with a minimum capacity in accordance with NFPA 20.

913.7 Electrical outage history report. All electrical fire pumps installations shall provide documentation from an electric utility provider. The documentation shall include a list of all electrical outages for a period of the past 24 months for the permitted address.

913.8 Standby power supply for Fire Pumps. Standby power supply is required for fire pump installations in all buildings classified as Critical Facilities, and when required by the County Building Official after consideration of the occupancy classification.

SECTION 915 REMOTE FIRE HOSE CONNECTIONS

915.1 Remote fire hose connection. Where approved by the County Building Code Official or Fire Marshal, remote fire hose connections may be installed to reduce the length of the required fire hose length as required by Section 503.

915.2 External remote fire hose connection. Remote fire hose connections shall be designed using a minimum of 4 inch(102mm) diameter galvanized steel pipe for up to 1,000 ft. (305 m), or 6 inch(152mm) diameter galvanized steel pipe for over 1,000 ft. (305 m) in length, or any other equivalent pipe material approved by the County Building Official. C900 pipe may be substituted for underground line as required per Harris County design standard. The fire department connection and fire hose connection thread shall be designated by the local responding fire department.

915.2.1 Installation. A 2-1/2 inch fire department connection and hose connection shall be a minimum height of 18 inches and a maximum of 48 inches, and installed within 10-ft of a fire department access door if not fronting a fire lane access road.

915.2.2 Vehicle impact protection. Shall be provided and comply with Section 312 of the International Fire Code.

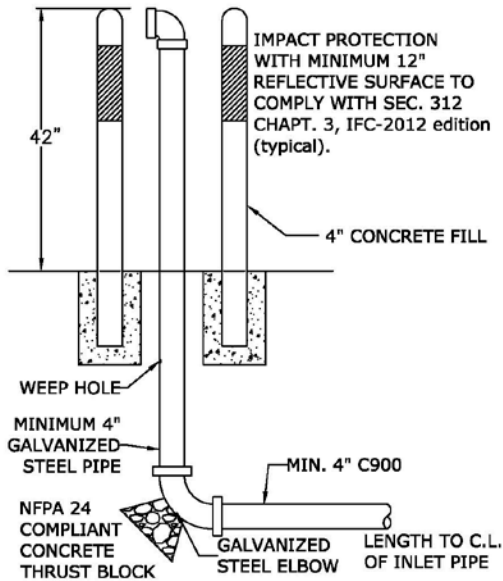
915.2.3 Signs and markings. External remote fire hose connections shall comply with Section 912 of the International Fire Code.

External Remote Fire Hose Connection

FDC INLET CONNECTION SECTION DETAIL

FDC (Fire Dept. Connection)

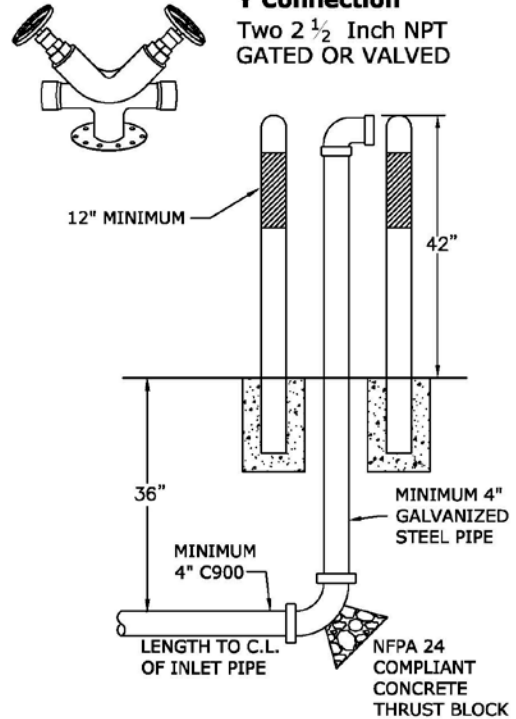
LOCATED WITHIN 10' OF FIRE LANE
TO BE DETERMINED BY FIRE DEPT.



FDC OUTLET CONNECTION SECTION DETAIL

Y Connection

Two 2 1/2 Inch NPT
GATED OR VALVED



915.3 Internal fire hose connection. Where approved by the Fire Code Official or Fire Marshal, fire hose connections shall be protected by a minimum of a 1-hr fire rated construction where the piping passes through the interior of the building.

915.4 Remote fire hose connection location(s). Where approved by the Fire Code Official or Fire Marshal, remote fire hose connections shall be installed so that all portions of the building are covered within 150 ft. of fire hose lay. Fire department connection shall be located within 10 ft of the fire lane.

Exception: Fire hose lay shall be increased up to 200 ft. when the building is protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

915.5 Maintenance, inspection, and testing. Remote fire hose connections shall be maintained, flow tested, and inspected annually. A written record shall be maintained and shall be made available to the fire code official.

CHAPTER 11
CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

Not adopted in this code body.

CHAPTER 28
LUMBER YARDS AND WOODWORKING FACILITIES

SECTIONS 2808.1 and **2808.4** are amended to read as follows; **SECTIONS 2808.11 – 2808.19** are added to read as follows:

2808.1 General. The storage and processing of wood chips, hogged materials, fines, compost and raw product produced from yard waste, debris and recycling facilities shall comply with Sections 2808.2 through 2808.19.

2808.4 Pile separation. Piles shall be separated from adjacent piles by, a minimum of 30 feet in all directions.

2808.11 Facility name. Facility name and address shall be posted at main entrance and clearly visible from the street.

2808.12 Emergency contact. 24-hour emergency contact number shall be posted at the main entrance and clearly visible from the street.

2808.13 Site map. A current site map showing all buildings; major storage, processing, and transfer areas; access roads; and fire protection features including fire lanes shall be submitted to the FMO. A copy of the approved site map shall be available at the facility for inspection.

2808.14 Public Access. Public access is limited. Property shall be fenced and have sufficient “No Trespassing” signage.

2808.15 Fire prevention. Adequate fire prevention procedures: No smoking or open flames outside designated areas; fire watch with extinguishers during hot work; separation of combustible materials from sources of ignition.

2808.16 Windrows or mulching piles design and placement: (feedstock, material in process, and finished material)

- Minimum separation 100 feet from any structure
- Minimum separation of 30 feet between piles
- No weeds, tall grass or other combustibles within 30 feet
- Accessible from all sides, in all weather conditions, by fire apparatus and heavy equipment minimum 20 feet

2808.17 Internal temperature. Means on site to reduce internal temperature if temperature exceeds allowable maximum

2808.18 Fire protection response plan:

- Local fire department is a participant in the plan
- Local fire department has a copy of the fire prevention response plan

- Employees are trained and can perform their role in an emergency
- Heavy equipment with trained operators to separate and work piles is on site or immediately available
- Adequate water supply: fixed hydrants, portable tanks, ponds, other sources
- Adequate pressure and flow rate at all locations on site (minimum of 250 GPM at 60 PSI)

2808.19 Entry Gates. Entry gates for fire department access are at least 14 feet wide and have sufficient turning radius.

2809.6 Existing Wood waste and/or recycling – Refer to FMO 1908

**CHAPTER 32
HIGH PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE**

SECTION 3201 is amended by the addition of Section 3201.5, to read as follows:

Section 3201.5 Required Specialized Engineered Plans. All high piled storage facilities shall be designed with the assistance of an engineer specializing in fire protection, licensed in the State of Texas.

**CHAPTER 56
EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS**

SECTION 5609 is amended, to read as follows, with the entire section being an addition to the Fire Code:

SECTION 5609. FIREWORKS 1.4G RETAIL STORAGE, DISPLAY, AND SALE

In addition to other provisions of the Harris County Fire Code, these sections apply:	APPLICABLE SECTIONS			
	5609.1	5609.2	5609.3	5609.4
STANDS only	X	X	X	
ALL EXCEPT STANDS, including BULK or HIGH PILE	X	X		X

SECTION 5609.1 GENERAL. The sale, storage, and display of Fireworks 1.4G is subject to the authority of the Harris County Fire Marshal, including the authority to inspect, determine the presence of fire hazards, and order correction pursuant to TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 352.016.

Section 5609.1.1 Applicability. This Section 5609 provides standards for the design and

construction of buildings in which Fireworks 1.4G are to be stored, sold, and/or displayed. **Such design and construction shall comply with this section and the Texas Fireworks Rules, current edition, as promulgated by the Texas State County Fire Marshal.**

- a. **Compliance with Fire Code.** All structures used for the storage or sale of consumer fireworks 1.4G shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Harris County Fire Code for new structures, and with applicable sections of this sub-section.
- b. **Fire Code Permit and Certificate of Compliance.** Any structure that is erected, occupied, or moved into or within the jurisdiction, is considered new construction, and requires a Fire Code permit and a Certificate of Compliance.
- c. **Definitions.**

Temporary Structure. Any structure that is erected, occupied, or moved into or within the jurisdiction, for a period of less than 180 days.

Permanent Structure. Any structure that is erected, or moved into or within the jurisdiction, for a period of more than 180 days.

Fireworks Control Area. Spaces within a building where quantities of fireworks 1.4G, not exceeding the maximum allowable quantities, are stored, dispensed, used or handled.

Section 5609.1.2 Conflict between provisions. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the Fireworks Rules, the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

Section 5609.1.3 Limit of authority. This section does not limit the authority of the County Fire Marshal to inspect any retail site location or storage facility to require additional fire protection measures.

Section 5609.1.4 Existing Facilities and Conditions. Except as specifically allowed in this section, existing facilities and conditions which do not comply with the provisions of this chapter shall come into compliance within the following time:

- a. Retail fireworks stands – October 1, 2008
- b. Retail sales sites other than stands – February 1, 2009

SECTION 5609.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RETAIL SALES, DISPLAY AND STORAGE SITES AND FACILITIES.

All Fireworks 1.4G retail sales sites, storage buildings, and control areas, including temporary storage facilities such as trailers, semi-trailers, or metal shipping containers must conform to the minimum standards of this section.

5609.2.1. General requirements.

5609.2.1.1 Change of Occupancy. Storing Fireworks 1.4G in a building for which a Permit and Certificate of Compliance has not been issued under this Code specifically in a manner not described in the application for Permit for such building shall be considered a change of

occupancy.

5609.2.1.2 Physical address and emergency contact information. All retail sales sites and storage facilities must have the physical address and a 24-hour emergency contact number prominently posted on the outside of each site, close to the main entrance, in numbers at least 4 inches in height and ½ inch stroke in width on a contrasting background, and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

5609.2.1.3 Residential Storage. Fireworks 1.4G retail storage buildings shall not be used for residential occupancies. Use of a residential building for the storage of fireworks in excess of 125 pounds of pyrotechnic material shall be considered a change in occupancy.

5609.2.1.4 Maximum allowable quantity. No more than 125 pounds of pyrotechnic material may be stored and/or displayed in any control area. In the absence of documentation approved by the County Fire Marshal, 25% of the gross weight of the fireworks, including all packaging, will be used to determine the 125 pound limitation.

4.1 The maximum allowable quantities can be increased 100 percent if the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

4.2 The maximum allowable quantities may be greater than allowed by this section, subject to approval by the County Fire Marshal, if the building meets all requirements for a Group H-3 occupancy and Section 5609.4.

The aggregate quantity in use and storage shall not exceed the quantity listed for storage in the Application for Permit.

5609.2.1.5 Minimum separation distances. Except as specified elsewhere in this section, structures shall be located in accordance with the requirements of Table 5609.2.1.5.

Exception: Trailers, semi-trailers, and metal containers used for storage only must be separated by at least 50 ft. from any building or structure other than other trailers, semi-trailers, or metal shipping containers. There is no minimum distance between multiple trailers, semi-trailers, or metal shipping containers when used for storage only.

Exception: Permanent facilities permitted before January 1, 2005 may be separated from adjacent buildings by less than 20 ft. if they are separated by a wall with a 1-hour fire resistance rating, provided existing facilities are not enlarged or expanded.

Table 5609.2.1.5 Minimum Separation Distances of Fireworks 1.4G Retail Sales Buildings, including Trailers, Semi-trailers, and Metal Shipping Containers

Type of structure	Minimum distance
From other trailers, semi-trailers, and metal shipping containers used ONLY	0 ft.
From other	5 ft.
From vehicle	10
From other buildings	20 ft.
From combustibles	30
From cooking equipment of any type, or any open flame equipment	50 ft.
Aboveground storage tanks for flammable or combustible liquid, Motor vehicle fuel-dispensing station dispensers	100 ft.
Retail propane-dispensing station dispensers	100 ft.
Aboveground bulk storage or bulk dispensing area for flammable or combustible liquid, OR	300 ft.
¹ If maximum quantity of pyrotechnic material per control area is greater than 125-lbs, refer to Table	

5609.2.2 Building Services. All building services in Fireworks 1.4G retail sales and storage buildings must comply with the provisions of this section.

5609.2.2.1 Electrical work. Electrical work performed in an unincorporated area of the state must be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Electrical Code.

5609.2.2.2 Required listing. All electrical equipment, battery-powered equipment, and electrical cords shall be listed and shall be used in accordance with their listing.

5609.2.2.3 Temporary Power. The County Fire Code Official is authorized to give permission to temporarily supply and use power for up to 180 days.

5609.2.2.4 Temporary electrical conductors. All temporary conductors shall comply with the Texas Electrical Code.

5609.2.2.5 Light fixture guards. All incandescent light fixtures within 25 ft. of any consumer fireworks shall have metal or plastic guards. All fluorescent light fixtures within 25 ft. of any consumer fireworks shall have plastic tube guards with caps or metal guards or plastic lens covers.

5609.2.2.6 Portable generators. Portable generators supplying power to consumer fireworks

retail sales facilities shall comply with this section.

6.1 Portable generators shall be located not less than 20 ft. from the consumer fireworks retail sales facility and in an area free from grass, trash, and other combustible flammable materials.

6.2 Generator fuel shall be stored in an approved safety container at least 20 ft. from the consumer fireworks retail sales facility. If the fuel is located less than 50 feet from the sales facility, the quantity shall be limited to not more than 5 gal. Where the generator fuel storage is located at least 50 ft. from the consumer fireworks retail sales facility, the quantity of such fuel is not limited.

5609.2.2.7. Internal Combustion Engines. Internal combustion engines shall not be operated inside a retail sales site. Fuels for internal combustion engines will not be stored inside a retail sales site.

5609.2.3 Means of Egress. Means of egress including, but not limited to aisles, doors, and exit discharge, shall be clear at all times when the facility or the building is occupied.

5609.2.3.1 Semi-Trailers and Shipping Containers. Trailers, Semi-trailers, and Metal Shipping Containers that are not normally occupied shall be permitted to be locked during operation. Panic hardware on exit doors shall not be required. Where an aisle is provided, the aisle shall be not less than 28 inches in clear width.

5609.2.4 Fire Protection. All Fireworks 1.4G retail sales and storage facilities must comply with this section.

5609.2.4.1 Approved storage. Finished consumer fireworks at a manufacturing or distribution facility, or retail sales site, may be stored in approved buildings, trailers, semi-trailers, metal shipping containers, or magazines.

5609.2.4.2 Fire lane access. Any portion of an exterior wall of a building, or other defined perimeter of a consumer fireworks retail sales facility, shall be accessible within 150 ft. of a public way or an approved fire apparatus access.

5609.2.4.3 Fireworks accessibility. All sales and display areas shall be designed to prohibit ready access by the public.

5609.2.4.4 External Fire Protection. Each retail sites shall be designed to provide protection against small exterior fires.

4.1 An area of at least 30 feet in width on all sides of a retail fireworks site shall be kept free of high grass, empty cardboard boxes, and trash.

4.2 Each retail sales site shall have equipment or supplies capable of extinguishing small exterior fires that could threaten the retail sales site.

5609.2.4.5 Portable Fire Extinguishers. Each retail sales site must have portable fire extinguishers in accordance with this section. All fire extinguishers shall be inspected by a Texas licensed fire extinguisher contractor annually and have a current inspection tag attached or a receipt indicating the fire extinguisher was purchased within the last 12 months.

- 5.1 At least one portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A rating shall be located within 75 ft. of trailers, semi-trailers, or shipping containers used for storage.
- 5.2 Where more than one portable fire extinguisher is required, at least one fire extinguisher shall be of the multipurpose dry chemical type if the facility is provided with electrical power.
- 5.3 If a portable generator is used, a portable fire extinguisher rated to at least 6:BC shall be immediately available and shall be located within 75 ft. of the generator.
- 5.4 Temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stands of less than 200 sq. ft. shall be required to have at least one portable fire extinguisher, with a minimum 1A rating, located in the stand.

5609.2.4.6. Interior decorations. No more than 10% of the interior surface may be covered with combustible material such as posters, signs, and decorations.

5609.2.4.7 Smoking or Open Flame Devices. Smoking is not permitted inside or within 50 ft. of the consumer fireworks retail sales or storage area.

5609.2.4.8 Signs. Signs complying with this section shall be conspicuously posted in areas where fireworks are stored or displayed for retail sale, including storage areas.

- 8.1 “FIREWORKS — NO SMOKING” signs, in letters not less than four inches high and ½-inch stroke in width on a contrasting background, shall be conspicuously posted on the exterior of each side of any fireworks 1.4G retail sales facility, on the inside and outside of each entrance door, at several locations inside and outside any fireworks 1.4G retail sales facility, AND within 10 ft. of every aisle directly serving the fireworks 1.4G retail sales area in a store.
- 8.2 “NO FIREWORKS DISCHARGE WITHIN 300 FEET” signs, in letters not less than 4 inches high and ½-inche stroke in width on a contrasting background, shall be conspicuously posted on the exterior of each side of any fireworks 1.4G retail sales facility.

5609.2.4.9 Design of Fireworks Storage Areas. Consumer fireworks storage areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with NFPA 230, Standard for the Fire Protection of Storage as follows:

- 9.1 Exterior door and window openings in consumer fireworks storage buildings shall be equipped with a means for locking.
- 9.2 Shelves and other storage areas shall provide storage for consumer fireworks in DOT

approved packaging;

9.3 Cartons shall be stacked neatly and in a stable manner; and

9.4 Consumer fireworks returned to these buildings shall be permitted to be stored temporarily in non-DOT cartons until repackaging or repacking can be performed.

5609.2.4.10 Motor Vehicle Parking. Parking areas shall be designed to prevent a motor vehicle from being parked within 10 ft. of a consumer fireworks retail sales facility, except when delivering, loading, or unloading fireworks or other merchandise and materials used, stored, or displayed for sale in the facility.

SECTION 5609.3 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL STANDS FOR FIREWORKS 1.4G. A retail fireworks stand is defined as “any retail sales site where the interior is not accessible to the public.”

5609.3.1 General Requirements

5609.3.1.1 Construction. Stands shall be constructed of wood, metal, masonry, or concrete, or combinations thereof.

5609.3.1.2 Maximum display height. The maximum height of sales displays shall be limited to 8 ft. as measured from the stand floor.

5609.3.1.3 Fireworks Accessibility. The stand design shall prevent the fireworks from being handled by persons other than those operating, supervising, or working in the stand.

5609.3.2 Building Services. All building services in Fireworks 1.4G retail stands must comply with the provisions of this section.

5609.3.2.1 Electrical service. Electrical service to the stand shall be installed in accordance with the Texas Electrical Code.

5609.3.2.2. Master switch. Each stand that utilizes electricity shall have an approved master electrical switch located near an exit door which interrupts all electric supply to devices and equipment located inside, on, and connected to the stand.

5609.3.2.3 Electrical equipment and wiring. All electrical wiring, equipment, light fixtures, and devices both inside and outside the stand, shall meet Texas Electrical Code requirements and shall be maintained to prevent electrical hazards.

5609.3.2.4 Splices. Splices in electrical wiring servicing equipment and devices inside the stand shall be enclosed in junction boxes.

5609.3.2.5 Prohibited electrical components. Drop cords with lights, extension cords, or bare wiring shall not be used in any manner inside a retail stand.

5609.3.3 Means of Egress. All exits and aisles in a retail stand must comply with this section. Customers shall not be permitted inside a consumer fireworks retail sales stand.

5609.3.3.1 Minimum number of exits. Each stand less than 16 feet in length shall have at least one walk door which opens outward, in a location approved by the County Fire Marshal. Stands measuring 16 feet or longer must have at least two walk doors which open outward, in locations approved by the County Fire Marshal.

5609.3.3.2 Maximum travel distance. Exits provided for all fireworks retail sales stands shall be arranged so that the maximum egress travel distance does not exceed 35 ft.

5609.3.3.3. Exit door (walk door) requirements. The minimum dimensions of any walk door are 28 inches wide X 72 inches high. Walk doors must not be locked from the outside when the stand is occupied, and must be immediately accessible from the inside.

5609.3.3.4 Minimum Aisle Width. A minimum distance of six feet shall be maintained from the front of the customer counter to the back side of the stand. The minimum clear exit aisle width is 28 inches.

5609.3.3.5 Exit signs. Exit signs shall not be required in all consumer fireworks retail sales stands where the interior is not accessible to the public.

5609.3.3.6 Emergency Lighting. Emergency lighting shall not be required in all consumer fireworks retail sales stands where the interior is not accessible to the public.

5609.3.4 Fire Protection. All Fireworks 1.4G retail stands must comply with this section.

5609.3.4.1 Smoke detectors. Each stand will have an operational smoke detector in each sales area. If sleeping or rest areas are provided in the stand, there must be one smoke detector in each sales area and one in each sleeping or rest area.

5609.3.4.2 Portable Space Heaters. Only heaters that do not produce open flames or those with no exposed heating elements are allowed in stands. Electric heaters shall be equipped with a tip-over switch and temperature-overheat protection.

5609.3.4.3 Cooking equipment. Cooking equipment of any type, or any open-flame equipment, shall not be permitted within 50 ft. of all stands, trailers, or shipping containers used for the storage or sale of consumer fireworks.

5609.3.4.4 Security. If the fireworks stand is used for the unattended storage of Fireworks 1.4G, it must be equipped with suitable locking devices to prevent unauthorized entry.

5609.3.4.5 Storage areas. Vacuum cleaners or other mechanical cleaning devices shall not be present inside a stand where fireworks are stored. Brooms, brushes, and dustpans used to sweep up any loose powder or dust shall be made of non-sparking materials.

5609.3.4.6 Damaged goods storage. Each stand shall have an area to store damaged fireworks that allows them to be removed and not offered for sale. Damaged consumer fireworks shall be permitted to be returned to the dealer or shall be disposed of properly.

5609.3.4.7 Retail stand fireworks control areas. In Fireworks 1.4G retail stands, a flame break approved by the County Fire Marshal, may be installed every 8-10 feet to establish retail stand fireworks control areas. No more than the amount of pyrotechnic material listed in Section 5609.2.1.4 may be stored and/or displayed in any retail stand fireworks control area.

5609.3.4.8 Approved Flame Break. An approved flame break, of not less than 3/4 inch plywood, shall be used to separate retail stand fireworks control areas. Separation shall begin at the back wall and extend to the furthest shelf point, and from the floor to the underside of roof. Fire caulking shall be applied at all penetrations and adjoining points along the 3/4 inch plywood separation.

5609.4 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL FIREWORKS SITES OTHER THAN STANDS

5609.4.1 General requirements. All indoor retail fireworks sites and storage facilities, other than stands, shall comply with the requirements of this section.

5609.4.1.1 Applicability. The requirements of this section shall apply to any indoor retail sales or storage location, including those with:

- 1.1** More than 125 pounds of pyrotechnics materials¹;
- 1.2** Storage or display of fireworks 1.4G in excess of 12 ft. in height;
- 1.3** Storage of fireworks 1.4G at manufacturing and distribution facilities; or
- 1.4** Storage or display of fireworks 1.4G in any temporary or permanent buildings, structures, trailers, semi-trailers, and metal shipping containers, or control areas that meet the definition of BULK STORAGE / MERCHANDISING, or HIGH-PILED STORAGE.

5609.4.1.2 Building Design. The retail fireworks sales building shall be a free standing, durable structure with no basement, and only one story of space accessible to the public.

5609.4.1.3 Multi-use building prohibited. The fireworks sales area shall not be part of a multi-use or multi-tenant building, except that office areas and restrooms ancillary to the building are allowed if:

- 3.1** Offices and related spaces are separated from fireworks storage or sales areas by fire barriers having a fire resistance rating of not less than 1 hour; and
- 3.2** window openings in the fire barrier wall are protected by self-closing fire doors or fixed fire windows having a fire protection rating of not less than 3/4 hour, and installed in accordance with NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows.

5609.4.1.4 Assembly and Educational Occupancies Prohibited. Assembly or educational occupancies cannot be used for the storage or sale of fireworks 1.4G.

5609.4.1.5 Plans. Permit Applications shall include, but shall not be limited to, plans sealed by a licensed engineer or architect. For all retail sales sites other than stands, the site plan must indicate:

- 5.1** The address or location of the site;
- 5.2** The name of the person to whom the permit is issued;

- 5.3 The outline and length of all building exterior walls;
- 5.4 The floor area, location, and dimensions used for fireworks sales;
- 5.5 The floor area, location, and dimensions used for fireworks storage outside the sales area;
- 5.6 The floor area, location, and dimensions used for other than fireworks sales and storage;
- 5.7 The general location, description, and distances from the exterior walls to all buildings, fireworks storage magazines, highways, and equipment for storage or dispensing of flammable liquids or compressed gas;
- 5.8 The location of the master electrical cut-off switch;
- 5.9 The location and width of all building doors and paths of egress; and
- 5.10 The maximum estimated number of cases to be stored or displayed for sale in the site.

5609.4.1.6. Minimum distance requirements. Consumer fireworks storage or work buildings shall be separated from other buildings and property lines as shown in Table 5609.4.1.6.

Exceptions:

1. Consumer fireworks storage or work buildings shall be separated from magazines and process buildings by the distances specified in NFPA 1124, Table 4.8.3.
2. Facilities in existence and continuously permitted before January 1, 2005 are exempt from compliance, provided such facilities are not enlarged or expanded beyond their January 1, 2005 operation.
3. An office area used for the operation of the site, separated by a one-hour fire rated wall from the fireworks sales or storage area, may be exempt from the distance requirements after it is reported to, and reviewed by, the County Fire Marshal.

**Table 5609.4.1.6 Minimum Separation Distances of Fireworks 1.4G, Processing Buildings,
and
Fireworks Storage Buildings from Inhabited Buildings, Passenger Railways, and Public
Highways**

Net Weight Of Fireworks 1.4G, lbs. ¹	Distance in Feet from:		
	Passenger Rail and Highways	Inhabited Buildings	Property Lines
200	50	60	30
400	50	70	35
600	50	80	40
800	50	90	45
1,000	50	100	50
2,000	58	115	60
3,000	62	124	62
4,000	65	130	65
5,000	68	135	68
6,000	70	139	70
10,000 or more	Contact HCFMO		
¹ By actual manufacturer-supplied data. In absence of net weight, 25% of the gross			

5609.4.1.7 Emergency Response Plan. The operator of each indoor retail sales site or storage facility shall prepare a written emergency response plan in accordance with Chapter 4 of this Code. The evacuation plan shall be posted in a conspicuous location that is accessible to the public as well as to persons employed or otherwise working in the facility.

5609.4.1.8 Maximum Occupant Load. The approved maximum occupant load shall be conspicuously posted near the main entrance using a format approved by the County Fire Marshal. Records of occupant load will be maintained onsite and available for inspection by the County Fire Marshal.

5609.4.2 Building Services. All building services in Fireworks 1.4G retail sales facilities other than stands must comply with the provisions of this section.

5609.4.2.1 Electrical fixtures and wiring. Electrical fixtures and wiring shall comply with the Texas Electrical Code.

5609.4.2.2. Master Switch. An outside electrical master switch shall be provided at each retail location.

5609.4.2.3 Extension cords and power strips. Extension cords, or other flexible cords and cables, shall not be used in place of permanent or fixed wiring. Further:

- 3.1** Where approved, an extension cord may be used to extend power to a single appliance or single power strip.
- 3.2** An extension cord providing power to a power strip shall be of the same or greater **wire gauge**.
- 3.3** Extension cords and power strips shall be protected from accidental damage by foot traffic, vehicles, or other means.
- 3.4** Extension cords and power strips cannot be located where the public could walk over them.
- 3.5** Power strips used for multiple appliances must contain an internal circuit breaker.

5609.4.3 Means of Egress. All means of egress in consumer fireworks retail sales facilities, other than stands, shall comply with the applicable requirements of this section.

Exception: Trailers and Containers. Trailers, semi-trailers, and metal shipping containers that are not normally occupied shall not be required to comply with local codes with regard to means of egress.

5609.4.3.1 Minimum number of exits. The minimum number of exits provided from the retail sales area shall be not less than three, or more as determined in accordance with this Code.

5609.4.3.2 Maximum travel distance. Exits provided for the retail sales area of consumer fireworks retail sales facilities, other than stands, shall be located so that the maximum egress travel distance, measured from the most remote point to an exit along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel, does not exceed 75 ft.

5609.4.3.3 Minimum aisle width. Aisles shall have a minimum clear width of 48 inches. Aisles and exit doors shall be kept free of any obstruction.

5609.4.3.4 Minimum exit door width. The minimum egress door width shall be not less than 36 inches in width and will provide a minimum clear opening width of 32 inches.

5609.4.3.5 Egress door swing. Unless approved by the County Fire Marshal, all egress doors shall be of the side- hinge swinging type and shall be arranged to swing in the direction of egress travel.

5609.4.3.6 Panic hardware. Every egress door that has a latching device shall be provided with

approved panic hardware.

5609.4.3.7 Roll-up, or lift, doors. Roll-up or lift doors may be used as egress doors when:

- 6.1** There is a readily distinguishable device that secures each door in the open position whenever the building is occupied.
- 6.2** A readily visible durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating: THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED. The sign shall be in letters 1 inch (25 mm) high on a contrasting background,
- 6.3** No more than 50% of all egress doors may be roll-up or lift type. At least 50% of all doors must swing in the direction of travel.

5609.4.3.8 Exit Door Locks. Exit doors shall be unlocked when the building is occupied; otherwise, doors shall be locked for security. All exit doors equipped with locks shall have a sign that reads "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED DURING BUSINESS HOURS" conspicuously posted near the door.

5609.4.3.9 Exit signs. All exits shall be marked by an approved exit sign.

5609.4.3.10 Egress illumination. The means of egress illumination, including the exit discharge for consumer fireworks storage or work buildings or areas, shall be in accordance with Chapter 10 of this Code.

5609.4.4 Fire Protection. All Fireworks 1.4G retail sales facilities, other than stands, must comply with this section.

5609.4.4.1 General Fire Protection.

1.1 Fire access. Any portion of an exterior wall of a building or other defined perimeter of a consumer fireworks storage facility shall be accessible within 150 ft. of a public way or an approved fire apparatus access.

1.2 Exterior Fire Protection. Each retail site shall be designed to provide protection against small exterior fires. The land surrounding an indoor retail or storage site shall be kept clear of brush, dried grass, leaves, and similar combustibles for a distance of at least 30 feet.

1.3 Interior Fire Protection.

- 1.** Any openings or penetrations in the fire barrier wall other than exit doors shall be protected in accordance with Chapter 7 of this Code.
- 2.** Facilities shall be designed so that the rays of the sun shall not come in contact with or shine through glass directly upon fireworks stored in the facility. Skylights which diffuse sun rays are permitted.

3. No stoves, cooking equipment, exposed flames, or portable heaters shall be present in any part of a retail sales or storage building. Heating of storage or sales areas shall be by means of steam, indirect hot air radiation, or hot water.
4. The facility must be designed to provide removal of trash, rubbish, and unused boxes from the sales, storage, and adjacent areas daily, to prevent unsafe accumulation. Small quantities stored in an orderly manner for reuse are allowed.
5. All trash containers shall be metal or heavy plastic, and be located 10 feet from any displayed or stored fireworks.
6. Access to fireworks when stored in a separate and distinct area away from general fireworks sales shall be restricted to employees only.

1.4 Sales Area Design.

1. Fireworks sales display areas shall be sufficiently designed to prevent customers from handling fireworks, unless an attendant is directly assisting the customer.
 1. Fireworks in the sales area shall be limited to the displayed merchandise unless stored in closed, original DOT approved packaging not accessible to the public.
 2. Sales display areas must include a continuous durable restraint around displayed fireworks separating the customers from all merchandise. The height, weight, and stability of the restraint must be designed to prevent individuals from penetrating the barrier.
 3. Fireworks sales and storage areas shall be designed to prevent the placement of fireworks within 5 ft. of any public entrance or exit in an enclosed building or structure.
2. The sales area shall be designed and constructed so that fireworks shall be under the visual supervision of a store employee or other responsible party while the store is open to the public.
 1. Partitions, counters, shelving, cases, and similar space dividers shall not exceed 6 ft. in height above the floor surface inside the perimeter of the retail sales area.
 2. Display areas shall be designed and constructed such that merchandise on display or located on shelves or counters or other fixtures will not be displayed to a height greater than 6 ft. in height above the floor surface within the retail sales area.
 3. Where located along the perimeter of the retail sales area, the maximum height of sales displays shall be limited to 12 ft.

Exception: Where approved by the County Fire Official, the maximum height of sales displays may exceed 12 ft., but only in accordance with this section and Chapter 23 of this Code.

3. Display areas shall be designed and constructed in a manner that will limit travel distance of ejected pyrotechnic components of ignition of the fireworks occurs.
 1. Shelving must be designed and installed to allow a minimum of 24-inch clearance between stored or displayed materials and any ceiling (minimum of 18 in. for fully sprinkled areas or buildings).
 2. Display areas shall be designed and constructed such that combustible materials and merchandise will not be stored directly above the consumer fireworks in retail sales displays unless a horizontal barrier is installed directly above the consumer fireworks as prescribed in 7.4.1(e) of NFPA 430, Code for the Storage of Liquid and Solid Oxidizers.
 3. Where continuous displays of merchandise are located on shelving, cases, counters, and similar display fixtures, a flame break shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 1124.
4. Only fireworks 1.4G with approved covered or safety fuses shall be permitted in a facility in which the retail sales of consumer fireworks are conducted. Only fireworks in the original and undamaged packaging shall be displayed.

5609.4.4.2 Portable fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers shall be specified as required for extra (high) hazard occupancy in accordance with NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.

- 2.1 Every indoor retail sales building shall have not less than two portable fire extinguishers with a minimum 2A rating. At least one approved Class A fire extinguisher shall be provided for each 1,000 square feet of floor space.
- 2.2 Portable fire extinguishers for indoor retail sales facilities shall be located so that the maximum distance of travel required to reach an extinguisher from any point does not exceed 75 ft. as specified in NFPA 10.

5609.4.4.3 Fire alarm system. A fire alarm system, installed in accordance with NFPA 72, shall be required in all consumer fireworks retail sales facilities. Facilities less than 3,000 sq. ft. in area AND in existence and continuously permitted before January 1, 2005 are exempt from compliance, provided such facilities are not enlarged or expanded beyond their January 1, 2005 operation.

5609.4.4.4 Automatic sprinkler system. An automatic sprinkler system shall be required in all consumer fireworks retail sales facilities. Facilities less than 6,000 sq. ft. in area AND in existence and continuously permitted before January 1, 2005 are exempt from compliance, provided such facilities are not enlarged or expanded beyond their January 1, 2005 operation.

- 4.1 All automatic sprinkler systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 13 for Bulk and High- Pile Storage.
- 4.2 The water flow alarm device shall be arranged to activate audible and visual alarms throughout the facility in accordance with Chapter 9 of this Code.
- 4.3 Storage rooms shall be protected with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13, or separated from the retail sales area by a fire barrier having a fire resistance rating of not less than 1 hour.
- 4.4 For sprinkler design considerations, Fireworks 1.4G stored and sealed in DOT approved packaging shall be considered as a Class IV commodity. Fireworks 1.4G, NOT stored and sealed in DOT approved packaging, shall be classified as a high hazard commodity.

5609.4.4.5 Smoke control. All sites must have a minimum average ceiling height of 12 ft. Smoke and heat vents designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 204, Standard for Smoke and Heat Venting shall be provided in consumer fireworks storage buildings. Facilities less than 50,000 sq. ft. in area AND in existence and continuously permitted before January 1, 2005 are exempt from compliance, provided such facilities are not enlarged or expanded beyond their January 1, 2005 operation.

CHAPTER 50 SECTION 5001.7 is amended by the addition of Section 5001.7, to read as follows:

SECTION 5001.7 REQUIRED SPECIALIZED ENGINEERED PLANS. All Group H occupancies shall be designed with the assistance of an engineer specializing in fire protection, licensed in the State of Texas.

CHAPTER 80 REFERENCE STANDARDS

CHAPTER 80 is amended to read as follows:

The opening paragraph to **CHAPTER 80** is amended as follows:

This chapter lists the standards that are referenced in various sections of this document. The standards are listed herein by the promulgating agency of the standard, the standard identification, effective date and title, and the section or sections of this document that reference the standard. If the State of Texas has adopted any of the listed standards, the more stringent and/or more current standard of the provisions shall apply.

APPENDIX B, FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS B 103.3.1

NFPA 1142, Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting

Dry hydrants are allowed in accordance with the above listed standard which is authorized by the Harris County Fire Code.

If supplied by a retention pond, civil plans must be approved by Harris County Commercial section. Design plans must be signed and sealed by an Engineer specializing in Fire Protection, or Fire Sprinkler Company licensed in the State of Texas and must be compliant to the above listed standard.

Designs will be reviewed and, for compliance with NFPA 1142, by the Harris County Fire Protection review section.

Flow testing is required and shall be the responsibility of the permittee. Testing shall be performed by a licensed Fire Sprinkler Company in accordance with NFPA 1142.

A Certificate of Compliance for the project will be issued after successful testing and approval.

For reference purpose only, Section 20.5 from NFPA 1 - the Uniform Fire Code 2010.

20.5 Residential Board and Care Occupancies.

20.5.1 Application. New and existing residential board and care occupancies shall comply with Section 20.5 and NFPA 101.

20.5.2 Operating Features.

20.5.2.1 Emergency Plan.

20.5.2.1.1 The administration of every residential board and care facility shall have, in effect and available to all supervisory personnel, written copies of a plan for protecting all persons in the event of fire, for keeping persons in place, for evacuating persons to areas of refuge, and for evacuating persons from the building when necessary. [101:32.7.1.1; 101:33.7.1.1]

20.5.2.1.2 The emergency plan shall include special staff response, including the fire protection procedures needed to ensure the safety of any resident, and shall be amended or revised whenever any resident with unusual needs is admitted to the home. [101:32.7.1.2; 101:33.7.1.2]

20.5.2.1.3 All employees shall be periodically instructed and kept informed with respect to their duties and responsibilities under the plan, and such instruction shall be reviewed by the staff not less than every 2 months. [101:32.7.1.3; 101:33.7.1.3]

20.5.2.2 Resident Training.

20.5.2.2.1 All residents participating in the emergency plan shall be trained in the proper actions to be taken in the event of fire. [101:32.7.2.1; 101:33.7.2.1]

20.5.2.2.2 The training required by 20.5.2.2.1 shall include actions to be taken if the primary escape route is blocked. [101:32.7.2.2; 101:33.7.2.2]

20.5.2.2.3 If a resident is given rehabilitation or habilitation training, training in fire prevention and the actions to be taken in the event of a fire shall be a part of the training program. [101:32.7.2.3; 101:33.7.2.3]

20.5.2.2.4 Residents shall be trained to assist each other in case of fire to the extent that their physical and mental abilities permit them to do so without additional personal risk. [101:32.7.2.4; 101:33.7.2.4]

20.5.2.3 Emergency Egress and Relocation Drills. Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted in accordance with 20.5.2.3.1 through 20.5.2.3.6. [101:32.7.3; 101:33.7.3]

20.5.2.3.1 Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted not less than six times per year on a bimonthly basis, with not less than two drills conducted during the night when residents are sleeping, as modified by 20.5.2.3.5 and 20.5.2.3.6. [101:32.7.3.1; 101:33.7.3.1]

20.5.2.3.2 The emergency drills shall be permitted to be announced to the residents in advance. [101:32.7.3.2; 101:33.7.3.2]

20.5.2.3.3 The drills shall involve the actual evacuation of all residents to an assembly point, as specified in the emergency plan, and shall provide residents with experience in egressing through all exits and means of escape required by this Code. [101:32.7.3.3; 101:33.7.3.3]

20.5.2.3.4 Exits and means of escape not used in any drill shall not be credited in meeting the requirements of this Code for board and care facilities. [101:32.7.3.4; 101:33.7.3.4]

20.5.2.3.5 Actual exiting from windows shall not be required to comply with 20.5.2.3; opening the window and signaling for help shall be an acceptable alternative. [101:32.7.3.5; 101:33.7.3.5]

20.5.2.3.6 Residents who cannot meaningfully assist in their own evacuation or who have special health problems shall not be required to actively participate in the drill. Subsection 20.4.2 shall apply in such instances. [101:32.7.3.6; 101:33.7.3.6]

20.5.2.4 Smoking.

20.5.2.4.1* Smoking regulations shall be adopted by the administration of board and care occupancies. [101:32.7.4.1; 101:33.7.4.1]

20.5.2.4.2 Where smoking is permitted, noncombustible safety-type ashtrays or receptacles shall be provided in convenient locations. [101:32.7.4.2; 101:33.7.4.2]

20.5.2.5* Furnishings, Bedding, and Decorations.

20.5.2.5.1 New draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings and decorations in board and care facilities shall comply with 20.5.2.5.1.1 and 20.5.2.5.1.2. [101:32.7.5.1; 101:33.7.5.1]

20.5.2.5.1.1 New draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings and decorations in board and care facilities shall be in accordance with the provisions of 12.6.2, unless otherwise permitted by 20.5.2.5.1.2. [101:32.7.5.1.1; 101:33.7.5.1.1]

20.5.2.5.1.2 In other than common areas, new draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging

furnishings and decorations shall not be required to comply with 20.5.2.5.1.1 where the building is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with 13.3.2.21.2 for new small facilities, 13.3.2.21.1 for new large facilities, 13.3.2.22.2 for existing small facilities, or 13.3.2.22.1 for existing large facilities. [101:32.7.5.1.2; 101:33.7.5.1.2]

20.5.2.5.2* New upholstered furniture within board and care facilities shall comply with 20.5.2.5.2.1 or 20.5.2.5.2.2. [101:32.7.5.2; 101:33.7.5.2]

20.5.2.5.2.1 New upholstered furniture shall be tested in accordance with the provisions of 12.6.3.1(1) and 12.6.3.2.1. [101:32.7.5.2.1; 101:33.7.5.2.1]

20.5.2.5.2.2 Upholstered furniture belonging to residents in sleeping rooms shall not be required to be tested, provided that a smoke alarm is installed in such rooms; battery-powered single-station smoke alarms shall be permitted in such rooms. [101:32.7.5.2.2; 101:33.7.5.2.2]

20.5.2.5.2.3* Newly introduced mattresses within board and care facilities shall comply with 20.5.2.5.2.3.1 or 20.5.2.5.2.3.2. [101:32.7.5.3; 101:33.7.5.3]

20.5.2.5.2.3.1 Newly introduced mattresses shall be tested in accordance with the provisions of 12.6.3.2 and 12.6.3.2.2. [101:32.7.5.3.1; 101:33.7.5.3.1]

20.5.2.5.2.3.2 Mattresses belonging to residents in sleeping rooms shall not be required to be tested, provided that a smoke alarm is installed in such rooms; battery-powered single-station smoke alarms shall be permitted in such rooms. [101:32.7.5.3.2; 101:33.7.5.3.2]

20.5.2.5.3 No stove or combustion heater shall be located to block escape in case of fire caused by the malfunction of the stove or heater. [101:32.2.5.2.2; 101:33.2.5.2.2]

20.5.2.5.4 Unvented fuel-fired heaters shall not be used in any residential board and care facility. [101:32.2.5.2.3; 101:33.2.5.2.3]

20.5.3 Interior Finish.

20.5.3.1 Small Facilities.

20.5.3.1.1 General. Interior finish shall be in accordance with Section 12.5. [101:32.2.3.3.1; 101:33.2.3.3.1]

20.5.3.1.2 New Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 12.5 shall be Class A, Class B, or Class C. [101:32.2.3.3.2]

20.5.3.1.3 Existing Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 12.5 shall be as follows:

- (1) Class A or Class B in facilities other than those having prompt evacuation capability
- (2) Class A, Class B, or Class C in facilities having prompt evacuation capability [101:33.2.3.3.2]

20.5.3.1.4 New Interior Floor Finish.

20.5.3.1.4.1 Interior floor finish shall comply with Section 12.5. [101:32.2.3.3.3.1]

20.5.3.1.4.2 Interior floor finish shall comply with 12.5.8.1 or 12.5.8.2, as applicable. [101:32.2.3.3.3.2]

20.5.3.1.4.3 Existing Interior Floor Finish. (No requirements.) [101:33.2.3.3.3]

20.5.3.2 Large Facilities.

20.5.3.2.1 General. Interior finish shall be in accordance with Section 12.5. [101:32.3.3.3.1; 101:33.3.3.3.1]

20.5.3.2.2 New Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 12.5 shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) Exit enclosures — Class A

(2) Lobbies and corridors — Class B

(3) Rooms and enclosed spaces — Class B [101:32.3.3.3.2]

20.5.3.2.3 Existing Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 12.5 shall be Class A or Class B. [101:33.3.3.3.2]

20.5.3.2.4 New Interior Floor Finish.

20.5.3.2.4.1 Interior floor finish shall comply with Section 12.5. [101:32.3.3.3.3.1]

20.5.3.2.4.2 Interior floor finish in exit enclosures and exit access corridors and spaces not separated from them by walls complying with 32.3.3.6 of NFPA 101 shall be not less than Class II. [101:32.3.3.3.3.2]

20.5.3.2.4.3 Interior floor finish shall comply with 12.5.8.1 or 12.5.8.2, as applicable. [101:32.3.3.3.3.3]

20.5.3.2.4.4 Existing Interior Floor Finish. Interior floor finish, other than approved existing floor coverings, shall be Class I or Class II in corridors or exits. [101:33.3.3.3.3]

20.5.3.3 Apartment Buildings Housing Board and Care Occupancies.

20.5.3.3.1 New Interior Finish.

20.5.3.3.1.1 The requirements of 20.9.3 shall apply only to the parts of means of egress serving the apartment(s) used as a residential board and care occupancy, as modified by 20.5.3.3.1.2. [101:32.4.3.1.1]

20.5.3.3.1.2 If a new board and care occupancy is created in an existing apartment building, the requirements of 31.3.3 of NFPA 101 shall apply to the parts of the means of egress serving the apartment(s) used as a residential board and care occupancy. [101:32.4.3.1.2]

20.5.3.3.2 Existing Interior Finish. The requirements of 20.9.3 shall apply only to the parts of means of egress serving the apartment(s) used as a residential board and care occupancy. [101:33.4.3.1]