

The following are the Final Amendments to 2018 edition of the *Life Safety Code*® (NFPA 101):

1.1.1 Title.

NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, shall be known as the *Life Safety Code*®, is cited as such, and shall be referred to herein as “this Code” or “the Code.”

1.1.1.1 Anytime a reference is made to NFPA 1 or NFPA 101 within this Code, it shall be the Florida specific version of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101.

1.1.6 Areas Not Addressed.

1.1.10 The Florida Building Code shall be referred to anytime a reference is made to the building code or to NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, in this Code or an adopted standard.

1.3 Application

1.3.1* New and Existing Buildings and Structures.

The Code shall apply to both new construction and existing buildings and existing structures.

1.3.1.1 If deemed necessary by an AHJ for a complete, accurate, and thorough firesafety plans review or inspection, the AHJ may request assistance from the building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical or similar specialty inspector; however, nothing in this rule gives authority or jurisdiction to any person other than a firesafety inspector certified under Section 633.216, Florida Statutes, to perform firesafety inspections required by law, rule, ordinance, or code.

1.7 Conflicts.

1.7.1. When a requirement differs between this Code and a referenced document, the requirement of this Code shall apply.

1.7.2 When a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement occurs, the specific requirement shall apply.

1.8 Florida Fire Prevention Code and Florida Building Code Interrelation. The Florida Fire Prevention Code contains several provisions and requirements that may interrelate with the Florida Building Code. It is not the intent of this Code that such interrelation result in duplicate reviews and inspections by either the firesafety authority or the building official. The authority having jurisdiction over firesafety is responsible for enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code hereof, and, in the event that a dispute arises regarding the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code as related to the enforcement of the Florida Building Code, the authority having jurisdiction over firesafety shall resolve the dispute by the procedure set forth in Chapter 633 and Chapter 553, Florida Statutes, as required by Section 633.104(5), Florida Statutes.

2.2* NFPA Publications

National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

- ~~NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, 2015 edition.~~

3.1 General

The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this *Code*. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning included, common usage of the terms shall apply. The following terms, for the purposes of this Code, shall have the meanings given in this chapter, if not otherwise modified by another chapter. Words used in the present tense shall include the future; words used in the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter; the singular number shall include the plural, and the plural number shall include the singular. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using the definition within the Florida Building Code.

3.1.1 Where terms are not defined in this chapter, within another chapter, or the Florida Building Code, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged, shall be a source for ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.3.99 Fire Code. The fire code enforced by the jurisdiction or agency enforcing this Code. The Florida Fire Prevention Code as defined in F.S. 633.202.

6.1.14 Multiple Occupancies.

6.1.14.1.3* Where incidental to another occupancy, areas used as follows shall be permitted to be considered part of the predominant occupancy and shall be subject to the provisions of the *Code* that apply to the predominant occupancy:

- (1) Mercantile, business, industrial, or storage use
- (2) * Nonresidential use with an occupant load fewer than that established by Section 6.1 for the occupancy threshold
- (3) Portions of buildings used as accessory offices or for customary non-hazardous uses necessary for transacting the principal business in storage and industrial occupancies need not be separated from the principal use.
- (4) Industrial occupancies producing, using, or storing low hazard products in accordance with Subdivision 6.2.2 need not be separated by fire-resistant construction from the occupancies to which they are accessory.

6.1.14.1.3.1 Incidental use areas shall be separated as required by Table 508.2.5 of the Florida Building Code where Table 508.2.5 permits an automatic fire-extinguishing system without a fire barrier, the incidental use area shall be separated by construction capable of resisting the passage of smoke.

6.1.14.1.4 The following accessory occupancies shall not be required to be separated from the primary occupancy as required in 6.1.14.4:

- (1) A kitchen in an assembly occupancy does not constitute a mixed occupancy.
- (2) Accessory uses in industrial and storage occupancies as otherwise provided in 6.1.14.1.3(1)
- (3) Rooms or spaces used for customary storage of non-hazardous materials in assembly, business, educational, industrial, mercantile, hotel and dormitory, and apartment occupancies which in aggregate do not exceed 10% of the major floor area in which they are located. Protection from hazards shall be as otherwise provided in the specific occupancy chapter.

6.1.14.4 Separated Occupancies.

6.1.14.4.7 For one-story or two-story structures that are less than 10,000 square feet, whose occupancy is defined in the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code as business or mercantile,

the authority having jurisdiction shall enforce the wall fire-rating provisions for occupancy separation as defined in the Florida Building Code.

Table 6.1.14.4.1 Footnote:

*Where the building is two stories or less in height and the total building square footage is less than 10,000 square feet, no separation is required.

7.2.1.3 Floor Level.

7.2.1.3.3 Thresholds at door openings shall not exceed ½ in. (13 mm) in height.

7.2.1.3.3.1 Thresholds at exterior sliding doorways serving dwelling units shall not exceed ¾ inch (19.1mm) in height.

7.2.1.14 Special-Purpose Horizontally Sliding Accordion or Folding Door Assemblies. Special-purpose horizontally sliding accordion or folding door assemblies shall be permitted in means of egress, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The door leaf is readily operable from either side without special knowledge or effort.
- (2) The force that, when applied to the operating device in the direction of egress, is required to operate the door leaf is not more than 15 lbf (67 N).
- (3) The force required to operate the door leaf in the direction of travel is not more than 30 lbf (133 N) to set the leaf in motion and is not more than 15 lbf (67 N) to close the leaf or open it to the minimum required width.
- (4) The door leaf is operable using a force of not more than 50 lbf (222 N) when a force of 250 lbf (1100 N) is applied perpendicularly to the leaf adjacent to the operating device, unless the door opening is an existing special-purpose horizontal-sliding accordion or folding exit access door assembly serving an area with an occupant load of fewer than 50.
- (5) The door assembly complies with the fire protection rating, if required, and, where rated, is self-closing or automatic-closing by means of smoke detection in accordance with 7.2.1.8 and is installed in accordance with NFPA 80.
- (6) The door, if power operated, shall be capable of being operated manually in the event of power failure.

7.2.2.2.3 Spiral Stairs.

7.2.2.2.3.3 Where the occupant load served does not exceed ~~three~~ five, spiral stairs shall be permitted, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The clear width of the stairs shall be not less than 26 in. (660 mm).
- (2) The height of risers shall not exceed 9½ in. (240 mm).
- (3) The headroom shall be not less than 6 ft 6 in. (1980 mm).
- (4) Treads shall have a depth not less than 7½ in. (190 mm) at a point 12 in. (305 mm) from the narrower edge.
- (5) All treads shall be identical.
- (6) Handrails shall be provided on both sides of the stairway.

7.2.2.5.3* Usable Space. Enclosed, usable spaces within exit enclosures shall be prohibited, including under stairs, unless otherwise permitted by 7.2.2.5.3.2.

7.2.2.5.3.1 Open space within the exit enclosure shall not be used for any purpose that has the potential to interfere with egress.

7.2.2.5.3.2 Enclosed, usable space shall be permitted under stairs, provided that ~~both~~ all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The space shall be separated from the stair enclosure by the same fire resistance as the exit enclosure.
- (2) Entrance to the enclosed, usable space shall not be from within the stair enclosure. (*See also 7.1.3.2.3.*)
- (3) The space is not used for the storage of combustible or flammable liquids, or otherwise hazardous materials.

7.2.2.6.3.1 Separation and Protection of Outside Stairs.

7.2.2.6.3.1 Outside stairs shall be separated from the interior of the building by construction with the fire resistance rating required for enclosed stairs with fixed or self-closing opening protectives, except as follows:

- (1) Outside stairs serving an exterior exit access balcony that has two remote outside stairways or ramps shall be permitted to be unprotected.
- (2) Outside stairs serving two or fewer adjacent stories, including the story where the exit discharges, shall be permitted to be unprotected where there is a remotely located second exit.
- (3) In existing buildings, existing outside stairs serving three or fewer adjacent stories, including the story where the exit discharges, shall be permitted to be unprotected where there is a remotely located second exit.
- (4) The fire resistance rating of a separation extending 10 ft (3050 mm) from the stairs shall not be required to exceed 1 hour where openings have a minimum 3/4 -hour fire protection rating.
- (5) Outside stairs in existing buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 shall be permitted to be unprotected.
- (6) As specifically permitted within Chapter 30, outside stairs serving four or fewer stories shall be permitted to be unprotected if connected to each end of an open-ended corridor that is an interior exit access corridor open on each end with no intervening doors or separation from the corridor, provided the following requirements are met:
 - (a) The building, including open-ended corridors, and stairways and ramps, shall be equipped throughout with an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.
 - (b) The open-ended corridors otherwise comply with applicable requirements for exit access corridors.
 - (c) At any location in an open-ended corridor where a change of direction exceeding 45 degrees (0.79 rad) occurs, a clear opening of not less than 35 square feet (3.3 m²) or an outside stair shall be provided. Where clear openings are provided, they shall be located so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

7.5.2 Impediments to Egress.

7.5.2.3 Hurricane Protection Devices. The temporary installation or closure of storm shutters, panels, and other approved hurricane protection devices shall be permitted on emergency escape and rescue openings in residential occupancies during the threat of a storm. Such devices shall not be required to comply with the operational constraints of 7.2.1.5. While such protection is provided, at least one means of escape from each occupied unit shall be within the first floor of the unit and shall not be located within a garage. Occupants in any part of the unit shall be able to access the means of escape without passing through a lockable door not under their control.

8.2.1 Construction.

8.2.1.1 Buildings or structures occupied or used in accordance with the individual occupancy chapters, Chapters 11 through 43, shall meet the minimum construction requirements of those chapters.

8.2.1.2 The Florida Building Code NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction, shall be used to determine the requirements for the construction classification.

8.3.2 Walls.

8.3.2.4 Each new Fire Wall, Fire Barrier, Fire Partition, Smoke Barrier, Smoke Partition, or any other new wall required to have protected openings shall be permanently identified with signs or stenciling above any decorative ceiling and in concealed spaces with the wording, "FIRE AND SMOKE BARRIER – PROTECT ALL OPENINGS," or similar language. Such signs or stenciling shall be in 4 inch high letters, ½ inch stroke, and not more than 15 feet on-center.

9.6.1* General.

9.6.1.1 The provisions of Section 9.6 shall apply only where specifically required by another section of this Code or where supervision of a new fire sprinkler system or new fire alarm system is required by the Florida Building Code.

9.6.3.5 Unless otherwise provided in 9.6.3.5.1 through 9.6.3.5.8, notification signals for occupants to evacuate shall be audible, and visible signals in accordance with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. and ICC/ANSI A117.1, American National Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, or other means of notification acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction shall be provided

11.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements.

Minimum construction requirements shall be in accordance with the applicable occupancy chapter and with the Florida Building Code.

12.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements

12.3.5.1 The Where the occupant load exceeds 100, the following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1):

- (1) Dance halls
- (2) Discotheques
- (3) Nightclubs
- (4) Assembly occupancies with festival seating

13.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements.

13.3.5.1 Where the occupant load exceeds ~~100~~ 300, the following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1):

- (1) Dance halls
- (2) Discotheques
- (3) Nightclubs
- (4) Assembly occupancies with festival seating

16.7.2 Emergency Egress and Relocation Drills.

16.7.2.2 Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Not less than one emergency egress and relocation drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session, unless both of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) In climates where the weather is severe, the monthly emergency egress and relocation drills shall be permitted to be deferred.
 - (b) The required number of emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted, and not less than four shall be conducted before the drills are deferred.
- (2) The monthly, frequency specified by 16.7.2.2(1) shall be permitted to be bimonthly in adult day-care centers.
- (3) All occupants of the building occupancy shall participate in the drill.
- (4) One additional emergency egress and relocation drill, other than for day-care occupancies that are open on a year-round basis, shall be required within the first 30 days of operation.
- (5) Fire emergency egress and relocation drills conducted must include, at a minimum:
 - (a) One fire emergency egress and relocation drill using the established napping or sleeping times.
 - (b) One fire emergency egress and relocation drill using an alternate evacuation route. Occupants of rooms that are not on the ground level or that have a window for rescue shall be permitted to use the main classroom door to exit and then travel in a different direction from that point.
 - (c) One fire drill in the presence and at the request of the authority having jurisdiction.

17.7.2 Emergency Egress and Relocation Drills.

17.7.2.2 Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Not less than one emergency egress and relocation drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session, unless both of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) In climates where the weather is severe, the monthly emergency egress and relocation drills shall be permitted to be deferred.
 - (b) The required number of emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted, and not less than four shall be conducted before the drills are deferred.
- (2) The monthly, frequency specified by 16.7.2.2(1) shall be permitted to be bimonthly in adult day-care centers.
- (3) All occupants of the building occupancy shall participate in the drill.
- (4) One additional emergency egress and relocation drill, other than for day-care occupancies that are open on a year-round basis, shall be required within the first 30 days of operation.
- (5) Fire emergency egress and relocation drills conducted must include, at a minimum:
 - (a) One fire emergency egress and relocation drill using the established napping or sleeping times.
 - (b) One fire emergency egress and relocation drill using an alternate evacuation route. Occupants of rooms that are not on the ground level or that have a window for rescue shall be permitted to use the main classroom door to exit and then travel in a different direction from that point.
 - (c) One fire drill in the presence and at the request of the authority having jurisdiction.

18.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification. Occupant notification shall be accomplished automatically in accordance with 9.6.3, unless otherwise modified by the following:

(1) Paragraph 9.6.3.2.3 shall not be permitted to be used.

(2) * The private operating mode, as described in NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, in lieu of audible alarm signals, visible alarm-indicating appliances shall permitted to be used in critical patient care areas.

(a) Only the attendants and other personnel required to evacuate occupants from a zone, area, floor, or buildings shall be required to be notified.

(b) Notification of personnel as specified in 18.3.4.3.1(2)(a) shall include means to readily identify the zone, area, floor, or building in need of evacuation.

(3) The provision of 18.3.2.5.3(13)(c) shall be permitted to be used.

19.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification. Occupant notification shall be accomplished automatically in accordance with 9.6.3, unless otherwise modified by the following:

(1) * The private operating mode, as described in NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, in lieu of audible alarm signals, visible alarm-indicating appliances shall permitted to be used in critical patient care areas.

(a) Only the attendants and other personnel required to evacuate occupants from a zone, area, floor, or buildings shall be required to be notified.

(b) Notification of personnel as specified in 18.3.4.3.1(2)(a) shall include means to readily identify the zone, area, floor, or building in need of evacuation.

(c) Existing installations that exceed the requirements of private operating mode, as described in NFPA 72, shall be permitted to remain.

(2) Where visual devices have been installed in patient sleeping areas in place of audible alarm, they shall be permitted where approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

(3) The provision of 19.3.2.5.3(13)(c) shall be permitted to be used.

22.7.2 Combustible Personal Property. Books, clothing, and other combustible personal property allowed in sleeping rooms shall be stored in closable metal lockers or an approved fire-resistant container. This does not apply to one- and two-occupant rooms equipped with an approved fire sprinkler system in which the storage container shall be no larger than 3 cubic feet per person.

24.3.5* Extinguishment Requirements.

~~24.3.5.1 All new one- and two-family dwellings shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 24.3.5.2.~~

30.2.2.3 Stairs.

30.2.2.3.1 Stairs complying with 7.2.2 shall be permitted.

30.2.2.3.2 Reserved

30.2.2.3.3 Spiral stairs complying with 7.2.2.2.3 shall be permitted within each dwelling unit.

30.2.2.3.4 Winders complying with 7.2.2.2.4 shall be permitted within each dwelling unit.

30.2.2.3.5 Outside stairs complying with the exception in 7.2.2.6.3.1(6) shall be permitted.

31.3.4.3 Notification.

31.3.4.3.5 Emergency Forces notification shall be accomplished in accordance with 9.6.4.

31.3.4.3.5.1 Fire Department Notification shall not be required in existing apartment buildings 4 stories or less in height, when all of the following are provided:

- (1) An approved sign is provided at each manual fire alarm pull box reading "Local Alarm Only - In Case of Fire Call 911." The lettering and numbers on approved signs shall have a minimum height of ½ inch, with a minimum ⅛ inch stroke width, and shall be white in color on red background located no higher than 4 inches directly above the manual fire alarm box and;
- (2) A combination visual and audible notification device is provided at an approved location on the outside wall

31.3.5.12 High-Rise Building Sprinklers.

31.3.5.12.1 All high-rise buildings, other than those meeting 31.3.5.12.2 or 31.3.5.12.3, shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 31.3.5.2. For high-rise buildings that are condominiums, this requirement shall not apply until January 1, 2024.

31.3.5.12.2 An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required where every dwelling unit has exterior exit access in accordance with 7.5.3.

31.3.5.12.3* An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required in buildings having an approved, engineered life safety system in accordance with 31.3.5.12.4.

31.3.5.12.4 Where required by 31.3.5.12.3, an engineered life safety system shall be developed by a registered professional engineer experienced in fire and life safety system design, shall be approved by the authority having jurisdiction, and shall include any or all of the following:

- (1) Partial automatic sprinkler protection
- (2) Smoke detection systems
- (3) Smoke control systems
- (4) Compartmentation
- (5) Other approved systems

31.3.5.12.4.1 When used to satisfy the requirements of 31.3.5.12.3, the term "Engineered Life Safety System" shall only apply as an alternative to complete automatic fire sprinkler protection in existing high-rise buildings.

Annex

~~A.18.3.4.3.1(2) It is the intent of this provision to permit a visible fire alarm signal instead of an audible signal to reduce interference between the fire alarm and medical equipment monitoring alarms for the use of the private operating mode in the patient care areas, including patient sleeping areas, of health care facilities and to provide notification of a fire event only to the staff trained to direct emergency response. This may be accomplished by visual or audible alarm signals in areas usually occupied by staff such as the nurse station, utility rooms, medication room, and staff break room.~~

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