



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE CODE REQUIRMENTS FOR MIXED-USE OCCUPANCIES

The Philadelphia Fire Code has requirements for buildings housing nonresidential occupancies (storefronts) below residential (apartments) occupancies. In an effort to assist you in completing an inspection of the property to ensure compliance with the code, the below listed code sections have been given in plain language for ease of understanding. The following is a suggested method to help you prioritize the list of life safety items:

- Any system that will detect a fire and/or smoke condition and immediately alert all occupants. This also includes any suppression system.
- Any code requirement that will maintain and/or supplement fire detection or suppression systems. This also includes an obstruction free means of egress & signage required to direct all occupants safely out of the building.
- The general requirements, planning, fire service features, building services & general fire protection systems needed to support all life safety systems.

The higher priority items are indicated in **bold** print. This, however, does not lessen any of the other fire code requirements. Alerting all occupants & maintaining the required supplemental systems is the priority.

CHAPTER 3- GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(304.1)- No trash or other combustible waste is allowed to be stored inside a building.

Section 305-Ignition Sources

(305.1)- Combustible materials (anything that can burn) must be kept at least 3 feet away from any type of heat source such as open flames, light fixtures or heaters.

Section 308-Open Flames

(308.1.4)- Grills or any other type of cooking device which produces an open flame are not permitted on balconies or within 10 feet of building materials that may burn.

(308.1.9)- The use of portable heaters (kerosene heaters) or cooking equipment (non-electric) that produces a flame is prohibited.

Section 314-Indoor Displays

(314.2)- Display racks, shelving and/or products for sale should be arranged in a manner that does not block access to exits.

Section 315-Miscellaneous Combustible Materials Storage

(315.2.1)- If you have sprinklers in the building, nothing should be stored within 18 inches of the sprinkler head. If you do not have sprinklers in the building, nothing should be stored within 2 feet of the ceiling.

(315.2.2)- Nothing combustible may be stored in or near the exit or exit enclosure.

(315.2.3)- Nothing combustible may be stored in a room where the building heater, electrical or mechanical equipment is located.

CHAPTER 4- EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

Section 401-General Requirements

(401.3.2.1)- Once the fire alarm sounds it must not be reset until the fire department arrives.

CHAPTER 5- FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

Section 505- Premises Identification

(505.1) - The address or building number for all buildings must be clearly visible from the street.

CHAPTER 6- BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

Section 605- Electrical Equipment, Wiring and Hazards

(605.3)- Nothing should be placed within 3 feet of an electrical panel.

(605.5)- Extension cords can only be used for portable appliances or devices and should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

(605.6)- All junction boxes, light switches and outlets must have covers on them.

Section 609- Commercial Kitchen Hoods

(M-609.2)-You must have an exhaust hood above any type of commercial cooking equipment that produce grease vapors.

CHAPTER 9- FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Section 901- General Requirements

(901.6)- Fire alarm, sprinkler and standpipe systems must be kept in working order at all times and must be repaired immediately when needed.

Section 903-Automatic Sprinkler Systems

(903.2.2)- If the building has a basement larger than 2500 square feet (50' x 50') and it does not have at least one exterior stairway or ramp leading directly from the basement to the street it must have a sprinkler system installed.

Section 904- Alternative Automatic Fire-Extinguishing System

(904.11.1)- If you use fryers you must have a Class K fire extinguisher with 30 feet of the fryer.

Section 906-Portable Extinguishers

(906.5)- Portable extinguishers must be placed in a location where they can be reached easily.

(906.6)- Fire extinguishers should be placed where they can be seen easily and the area around them cannot be blocked.

(906.7)- Portable extinguishers must be mounted on a hanger or bracket.

Section 907-Alarm System and Detection Systems

(907.1.12)-Where a nonresidential occupancy is located below a residential occupancy, a manual and automatic (smoke detection) fire alarm system shall be installed with smoke detectors installed throughout the nonresidential occupancy, manual fire alarm boxes installed at the exits in the nonresidential areas and alarm notification appliances installed throughout the building. Systems required to be installed to comply with this section shall be installed in accordance with the appropriate sections of Section 907 of the Philadelphia Building Code. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the dwelling units of the residential portions of the building in accordance with Section 907.2.

Exception: The fire alarm system is not required where an automatic sprinkler system is installed throughout the non-residential portions of the building.

(907.2)- Hard-wired smoke alarms must be installed in the residential portion of the building.

(907.2.2)- Interconnection of smoke alarms. If more than 1 smoke alarm is required to be installed they must be interconnected.

(907.2.3)- Power source for smoke alarms. Hard-wired smoke alarms must be wired directly to the buildings electrical system and must have a battery back-up.

Section 912- Fire Department Connections

(912.1.1)- If the building has a fire department connection, it must have two 2½-inch swivel fittings with the caps attached.

(912.3)- Fire department connections must be accessible at all times; they should not be blocked by fences, bushes, trees or any other objects.

(912.3.2)- There must be at least 3 feet of clearance around the fire department connection).

(912.4)- There must be a sign at the fire department connection which indicates what type of system the fd serves; such as sprinkler system, standpipe system or both.

(912.4.1)- If the building has a sprinkler system that does not cover the whole building, the signs at the fire department connection must indicate which floor or floors are sprinklered.

CHAPTER 10- MEANS OF EGRESS

Section 1003- General Means Of Egress

(1003.3)- Exits must be kept clear at all times.

(1003.4)- Exit doors must be able to be opened from the inside of the building without a key.

(1003.5)- Exit doors should not be covered with mirrors, curtains or anything that will prevent someone from finding the exit door in an emergency.

Section 1007-Exit Signs

(1007.1)- Exit signs must be placed at each exit.

(1007.2)- Exit signs must be lighted at all times.

Section 1017- Aisles

(1017.2)- Must maintain a minimum of 36 inches between aisles throughout the store including the basement.