

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE
2019 EDITION**

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A Book Report prepared by the Sacramento Association of Building Officials
Code Development Committee

NOTE: This report is not intended to replace the book Significant Changes to the California Fire Code, 2019 Edition. SVABO members are encouraged to purchase the publication in preparation for the 2019 California Building Code as the publication offers additional information, insights and comments regarding the significance of the changes briefly identified in this report.

Legend:

California changes to the International Fire Code are *italicized*
Changes that appear in both the International Fire Code and the California Fire Code are shown in normal font
Portions of the International Fire Code that are not adopted by California are shown in ~~strikeout~~

| Section | Code Change | Significance | Remarks |
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| PART 1 ADMINISTRATION AND DEFINITIONS – CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 | | | |
| Chapter 1 | | | |
| 1.1.7.3.1 | <i>Clarifies that either the CRC or the CBC may be used for Detached one- and two-family dwellings, efficiency dwelling units, lodging houses, live/work units, townhouses with not more than 3 stories above the grad plane with separate means of egress, and their accessory structures.</i> | Although this requirement has been in effect since 2016, there have been an issue: many jurisdictions and designers apply the most restrictive provisions of the CRC and the CBC for the same application. | |
| 1.11.6 | <i>Clarifies that the Fire Code Official is not required to issue a Certificate of Occupancy for Group R-3 and U occupancies.</i> | The responsibility for issuing a Certificate of Occupancy for Groups R-3 and U is by the Building Official. | |
| Chapter 2 | | | |
| 202 | CARE SUITE <i>has been redefined to include both I-2 and I-2.1.</i> | Revised definition coordinates with other changes made to the CFC in Chapters 9 and 10. | |

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| 202 | <i>COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY has been redefined to exclude Foster Family Agencies, Foster Family Homes, Small Family Homes and Noncustodial Adoption Agencies.</i> | Coordinates with other California Regulations. In addition, this change moves these facilities to typical R-3 occupancies, thereby removing the approval by the Fire Code Official to clear the STD 850 form, which is no longer issued by Community Care licensing. | |
| 202 | <i>A definition for CONGREGATE LIVING HEALTH FACILITY (CLHF) corresponding to Health and Safety Code Section 1250 has been added.</i> | Coordinates with other California laws regarding the number of patient beds. | |
| 202 | <i>The definition of "FOSTER FAMILY HOME" has been removed and the definition of "Residential Group R-3" and "Residential Group R-3.1" has been revised.</i> | Coordinates with other California Regulations, specifically Title 22. this change moves several occupancies such as Foster Family Agencies, Foster Family Homes, Small Family Homes and Noncustodial Adoption Agencies to typical R-3 occupancies, thereby removing the approval by the Fire Code Official to clear the STD 850 form, which is no longer issued by Community Care licensing. | |
| 202 | <i>The definition of a NON-PATIENT CARE SUITE has been added.</i> | This definition coordinates with requirements for these types of suites in Chapter 4 and other changes to Chapters 9 and 10. | |
| 202 | <i>New definition for OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION RESIDENTIAL GROUP R-2.2 (CDCR ONLY) has been added to coordinate with the Penal Code for Community Correctional Reentry Centers.</i> | Required for compliance with SB 221 of 2017 which required the SFM, in consultation with Dept of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish minimum standards for the prevention of fire and protection of life safety in any structure used or intended to be used as a community correctional reentry facility. Corresponding changes have also been made to Sections 1019.3 (stories with 1 exit), 1020.4 (dead ends), 1030.1 (emergency escape and rescue openings), 804.3.3.2 (minimum critical radiant flux), 906.1 (portable fire extinguishers), 907.2.9 (fire alarms), and 907.2.10.12 (smoke | |

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| | | alarms) | |
| PART 2 GENERAL SAFETY PROVISIONS – CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 | | | |
| 314.4 | The change modifies existing requirements to clarify that the safety provisions for the indoor display of motor vehicles applies to both liquid- and gaseous-fueled vehicles. Gives the Fire Code Official authority to require batteries to be disconnected OR remain connected in order to maintain safety provisions. | Recognizes alternate fuels and advanced technology. Applies to situations such as a vehicle dealership, an automobile museum or a single vehicle displayed in a Mall. | |
| 315.3.1 | Exceptions added that remove the clear height requirement above storage in sprinklered or non-sprinklered areas of buildings along the walls only. | Brings IBC requirements into conformance with NFPA 13. NOTE: these are general exceptions and have not been added to Chapter 32 piled high storage | |
| 315.1 315.7 105.6.29 | Requirements for separation from buildings, property lines and limitations to contiguous areas of outdoor storage of wood pallets. Requires an operational permit for the storage of combustible pallets. | Combustible pallets have been the cause of severe fires: this revision provides the Fire Code Official a better tool to regulate their outdoor storage. | |
| 403.12.3 403.12.3.1 | The threshold for crowd managers has been reduced from 1,000 to 500 people for certain events. | Exceptions allow exception for religious outdoor events, outdoor events with less than 1,000 persons and when the Fire Code Official thinks crowd managers are not necessary. | |
| 404.2.3 404.2.3.1 404.2.3.2 404.2.3.3 | Updates and prescribes details for facility lockdowns. | Given the recent increase in school and workplace violence, this proposal is intended to address the various security means and methods proposed by teachers, parents and state legislators. | |
| PART 3 – BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN FEATURES – CHAPTERS 5 THROUGH 12 | | | |
| 510 | Requirements for emergency responder radio coverage have been revised to address industry and equipment enhancements with a new reference to NFPA 1221. | Emergency responder radio coverage is now required for 95% of the building. System is required to be monitored for malfunction. | |
| 603.1 603.3 | Fuel oil storage allowances have been revised to clarify applicability to internal combustion engines such as emergency generators and fire pumps. | The intent is to identify the difference in application between portable and nonportable units. | |

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| | Fuel oil storage is increased to 1,320 gallons if the tank is listed UL 142 and the building is sprinklered. | | |
| 605.11, 608 | <i>Adoption of the 2018 IFC provisions relating to Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems and Stationary Storage Battery Systems are moved to Sections 1204 and 1206.</i> | California amendments have been removed and the Model Code serves as California Code. See Sections 1204 and 1206. | |
| 605.13 605.16 605.17 | Adds requirements addressing safety concerns for lower flammability refrigerant gasses. The change addresses a new class of refrigerants with very low flammability characteristics (Group A2L) | | |
| 608.3 | Adds listing and capacity requirements for non-metallic cooking oil storage. | Applies to fresh oil and used oil. | |
| 804.3.3.1, 804.3.3.2, 804.3.3.3 | <i>Adds allowances for Class A or Class 1 floor coverings in patient care areas in Group I-3 prison care facilities.</i> | Modifications and additions were necessary to meet the requirements for health care facilities while still maintaining a minimum level of fire safety in Group I-3 prison care facilities. | |
| 807.1 807.2 807.5 | The limitations on combustibles decorative materials have been clarified as to where they apply. | | |
| 807.4 | Artificial decorative vegetation is separated from natural vegetation (Section 806). Requirements added specific to artificial decorative vegetation. | Artificial decorative vegetation items that do not comply with NFPA 701 in large quantities have been shown to generate massive amounts of heat when they burn. The change quantifies the previous term "limited quantities" of non-compliant artificial vegetation is limited: Wreaths – 50% of the door; garland – 30% of the wall; other items 36" tall. | |
| 901.4.6.1 901.4.6.2 901.4.6.3 901.4.6.4 | Additional requirements have been added for automatic sprinkler riser rooms and fire pump rooms. | Rooms are not required, but when provided they must be readily accessible at all time (but may be locked), Maintain 40 deg. F and provided with permanent lighting. | |
| 901.6.2 | Test criteria have been added to the code with a reference to NFPA 4 to ensure that where multiple fire protection systems or life safety systems are integrated, all the acceptance process and subsequent testing must | Makes sure that all life-safety and fire protection systems operate as an integrated system. | |

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| | evaluate all of the integrated systems as a whole. | | |
| 901.8.2 | Authorizes the code official to allow the removal of occupant-use hose lines. | Encourages evacuation of untrained occupants rather than stay and fight response to fire. | |
| 903.2.1 | Clarifies the requirements for fire sprinkler protection in Group A occupancies. | | |
| 903.2.3 | Provides occupant load threshold for automatic fire sprinkler systems in Group E occupancies. | Clarifies an occupant load threshold of 300 persons regardless of the area served. | |
| 903.2.16, 903.2.16.1, 903.2.5.4, 907.2.28, 907.2.28.1, 907.6.4 | <i>Modifications to update the Fire Code to match regulations in the model code and to provide clarity for Group L occupancies.</i> | | |
| 903.3.1.1.2 | Removes fire sprinkler requirements from small (55 sf and less) bathrooms in Group R-4 occupancies. | Provides for consistency for all Group R occupancies. | |
| 903.3.1.2.1 | Correlates automatic sprinkler system requirements with IBC Chapter 7 for exterior Group R balconies. | Correlates IFC and IBC requirements. | |
| 903.3.1.2.3 | Adds fire sprinkler (or alternate protection) to attics of Group R occupancies sprinklered NFPA 13R | Change addresses concerns about fires in taller residential buildings including podium buildings. Section is generally modeled after 2015 IFC Section 903.2.8.3 for Group R-4, Condition 2 buildings. | |
| 903.3.3 | The code now directs the user to the sprinkler design standard to address obstructions. | Replaces vaguely worded “installed with due regard to obstructions.” | |
| 904.12 | Fire extinguishing systems for commercial cooking equipment now required to comply with NFPA 96. Also permits protection by a water mist system conforming to NFPA 750. | Directs the user to the standard required. | |
| 904.13 | Requires automatic fire-extinguishing system to protect domestic cooking appliances in I-1, I-2 Condition 1 and R-2 college dormitories. | Provides reference to UL Standard UL 300A which is an appropriate standard for domestic cooking appliances (not UL 300 standard for commercial cooking appliances). | |
| 904.14 Table | Aerosol fire-extinguishing systems are now recognizes by the code as an alternative fire-extinguishing system | Fire suppression systems may be aerosol type | |

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| 901.6.1 | and NFPA 2010 “Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire-Extinguishing Systems” has been added to Chapter 20. | | |
| 905.3.1 | Standpipe systems are now required in buildings four or more stories in height. In addition, a Class I standpipe is allowed in Groups B and E occupancies rather than Class III | Height in feet of 30 remains. | |
| 905.3.10 | Clarifies where standpipes are required in Group I-3 prisons. | | |
| 905.4 | Standpipes serving open stairways may now be located in a breezeway or open corridor between two open stairs located not more than 75 feet apart. Standpipes are no longer required to be located at the intermediate landings and are now required on the main floor landings. | Change correlates with NFPA 14. Added cost for valves at intermediate landings no longer considered justified. | |
| 905.11 | Revision authorizes fire code official to require locking caps on dry standpipe hose connection outlets. | Will improve security by preventing items being stuffed into standpipes and making sure all standpipes are closed: where there are a series of standpipes, one open end can significantly reduce flow and pressure in the system. | |
| 906.1 | Permits schools to have additional options for portable fire extinguisher locations. | Option allows portable fire extinguishers inside of classrooms in lieu of centrally located or distributed fire extinguishers. | |
| 907.1.2 | Aligns requirements for fire alarm plans and documentation requirements with NFPA 72. | Removes IFC’s prescriptive list of requirements and replaces with “prepared in accordance with NFPA 72. | |
| 907.2.1 | Fire alarms now required in Group A occupancies where there are 100 or more occupants on a level above or below the lowest level of exit discharge. | Adds to the locations where fire alarms are required. | |
| 907.2.10 (Deleted) | Fire alarm systems are no longer required in Group R-4 occupancies. | Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms are still required in Group R-4 Occupancies. | |
| 907.5.1, 907.5.2.2, 907.5.2.5 | Correlates fire alarm provisions and modifications for care facilities. | | |
| 907.5.2.2.4 | Large public venues (15,000 seats or more) are now | Correlates with the alarm and accessibility | |

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| | required to provide real-time captions that are integrated into the emergency voice/alarm communication system. | requirements (Chapters 9 and 11) of the IBC. | |
| 907.6.1.1 | <i>Modifications to only require Class A circuits for fire alarm "riser circuits" in high-rise buildings.</i> | Class A circuits are no longer required other than for "riser circuits" in high-rise buildings. | |
| 909.5.3, 909.5.3.1 | <i>Clarifies door opening protectives for buildings required to have smoke control systems.</i> | | |
| 910.5 | Maintenance and testing frequencies for smoke and heat vents and mechanical smoke removal are specified in the code. | Insures that smoke and heat vents are tested on a regular schedule to ensure proper operation. | |
| 915.2.3, 915.4.2 | <i>Adds requirements correlating with California Statute for carbon monoxide alarms and detectors in Group E occupancies.</i> | Coerelates the CFC with California Education Code Section 32080 and clarifies that referenced standard UL 2034 is specific to residential carbon monoxide alarms and detectors only. | |
| 916 | Requirements for gas detection systems are clarified and consolidated in new Section 916. | Should make the code requirements clear and concise. | |
| Table 1004.5 1004.8 | Table changed to 150 sf/occ for business areas, and 50 sf/occ for concentrated business uses when approved by the code official. | The method for calculating loading for business areas has been increased. | |
| 1005.3.1 | Clarifies the stairway minimum width for Group A Occupancies and eliminates a not needed California Amendment from 2001. | | |
| 1006.2.1 | Determination of cumulative occupant load for spaces with one exit has been modified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of exits from foyers, lobbies, vestibules and similar spaces need not be based on cumulative Occupant Loads for areas discharging through such spaces, but the capacity of the exits from such spaces shall be based on the applicable cumulative occupant load. Maximum occupant load for R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies with one exit has been increased | Revised section 1006.2.1 correlates with Section 1004.2.1. Exceptions based on R occupancies without fire sprinklers have been eliminated as R occupancies are required to be fire sprinklered. | |

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| | from 10 to 20. | | |
| 1006.2.1, Table 1006.2.1, 1008.3.2, 1020.1, 1024.6 | Modifications to means of egress relating to Group I-2 and I-2.1 care facilities. | Section 1006.2.1 Exception 2 was amended to clarify that 2 means of egress are required from Group I-2 sleeping rooms > 1,000 sf and other rooms > 2,500 sf | |
| 1006.2.2.6 1006.2.1 1017.2 | The allowances for single-exit Group R spaces have been reformatted and the approach to accumulating loads from adjacent spaces discharging through lobbies has been clarified. | Number of exits from a lobby does not need to be based on cumulative occupant loads BUT the exit width does. Spaces with one exit for R-2, 3 and 4 Occupancies increased from 10 to 20. | |
| 1006.3 1006.3.1 | The determination of egress requirements has been clarified where the occupants must travel to an adjacent story to reach a complying exit or exits. | A new section clearly states that in situations where occupants egress through an adjacent story , the additional occupant load is not considered when determining the required number of exits from the adjacent story. | |
| 1008.2.3 | Introduces illumination requirements to the exit discharge. Also recognizes safe dispersal areas. | Illumination of the entire exit discharge and safe dispersal area is now required. | |
| 1008.3.5 1008.2.2 | In group I-2 occupancies, the required exit illumination level of 0.2 footcandles must now be available upon the failure of a single lamp in a multi-lamp fixture. | Because of the possible critical nature of moving patients in Group I-2 occupancies, the code now recognizes that the failure of one lamp in multi lamp fixtures cannot jepordize patient safety. | |
| 1008.2.3 | Illumination of the exit discharge can now terminate at a safe dispersal area. | Reduces the amount of light required for safe exiting from a building. | |
| 1009.7.2 | When the building is protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system, fire-rated exterior walls with fire-protected openings is no longer required between the area of assisted rescue and the interior of the building. | Section 1009.3.3, Exception 2 allows elimination of areas of refuge at stairways (and elevators if applicable).This change mirrors the sprinkler allowances from inside the building. | |
| 1010.1.1 | Provisions addressing limits to the width and height of door openings have been selectively reformatted and revised to correlate with the technical accessibility requirements of ICC A117.1 | Brings consistency between IBC requirements and ICC A117.1 | |
| 1010.1.4.4 | Guidance has been provided to allow for enhanced | Remote operation of locks now permitted | |

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| | security measures on educational classroom egress doors and yet still continue to comply with applicable means of egress requirements. | provided means of egress is maintained. | |
| 1010.1.9.8 1010.1.9.8.1 | Delayed egress locks are now permitted on egress doors serving Group E classrooms with an occupant load of less than 50 and to secondary exits or exit access doors serving courtrooms. | Increases the allowed use of delayed egress locks. | |
| 1010.1.9.9 1010.9.1.10 | Criteria for electrically locked egress doors has been clarified and correlated. | Section 1010.1.1.9 has been revised to exclude H occupancies and eliminate the long list of occupancies where it is allowed. It also clarifies the action required when a sensor detects an approaching occupant and to correlate with other code sections addressing types of locking systems. | |
| 1010.1.9.12 | Previously limited to buildings 4 stories in height, stairways are permitted to be secured from the stairway side where there is a system to allow emergency personnel to simultaneously unlock all doors. | Increases the allowable use of securing stairway doors. | |
| 1010.1.10 | Sensor release of electrically locked doors is now allowed on egress doors in Groups A and E. Also clarifies that panic hardware is only required on swinging doors. | Both these locking arrangements release the electric lock when power is lost. | |
| 1010.3 | New conditions of use are now provided to the Building Official to evaluate security access turnstiles that are located in a manner to obstruct a means of egress. | Gives guidance to the Building Official. | |
| 1011.6 | The method of determining the required width and depth of a stairway landing has been clarified. | The revised language specifies the minimum width and depth for all stairway landings. This modification now specified that a landing depth is 48" or the width of the stair, whichever is less and that the width must be at least as wide as the stair it serves. | |
| 1013.2 | The permitted height of floor level exit signs has been raised to 18 inches maximum AFF. | Permits the installation of taller baseboards. | |
| 1015.6 1015.7 | The prescriptive requirements addressing the installation of personnel fall arrest/restraint anchorage | Integrated requirements of the IFC with the IMC for fall protection. | |

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| | exception has been revised to reference ASSE Z 359.1 | | |
| 1017.3 | Additional language clarifies that the common path of egress travel limitations must be applied to each room or space on every story. | This is considered to be a clarification and does not change existing requirements. | |
| 1022.3.1 | When a stairway and connecting exit passageway are pressurized, there is no longer a requirement to separate the two components. | Eliminates the door between a pressurized stairway and an adjoining exit passageway. | |
| 1023.5 1024.6 | Security system and two-way communication system components are now specifically permitted to penetrate the fire-resistance-rated enclosure of exit passage ways, interior exit stairways, and interior exit ramps. | It was deemed that the small amount of penetrations required for these systems, when properly protected, would not unacceptably compromise the occupants safety. | |
| 1025.1 | Luminous path marking is no longer required in high-rise buildings of Groups I-2, I-3 and I-4 occupancies. | Groups I-1 and I-2 have been removed because emergency generators are regularly maintained in these occupancies and staff is trained to defend in place. I-4 was removed because it was determined that this occupancy would seldom occur in a high-rise occupancy. | |
| 1026.4 1026.4.1 | The method of determining the refuge area of a horizontal exit has been modified to allow a more appropriate determination of the occupant load assigned to the refuge area. | The capacity is now determined by the total occupant load of the adjoining compartment or the door capacity, whichever is less. | |
| 1029.6 1029.6.3 1029.7 1029.9.1 | The various assembly seating methods have been clarified through the introduction of a new definition for open-air assembly seating and an expanded definition for smoke-protected assembly seating. | Open air seating is now essentially “smoke protected seating” and accrues the benefits traditionally assigned to smoke protected seating. | |
| 1029.9.1 | Minimum aisle widths in assembly occupancies have been clarified and a reference to minimum widths for accessible routes has been added. | No actual change, revisions for clarity and consistency with other code sections. | |
| 1030.1 | Occupancies where emergency escape and rescue openings are required has been clarified and the minimum number required in a residential basement has been revised. | Emergency escape and rescue openings now required in R-2 occupancies located in stories with only one exit or exit access and Groups R-3 and R-4 occupancies. Basements are required to have at least one. | |
| 1030.1.1 | Fall prevention devices are now allowed on emergency | Repeats a section from the IRC in the IFC for | |

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| | escape and rescue openings provided that they comply with ASTM F2090. | clarity and coordination. | |
| 1031.2.2 | Change provides guidance to allow enhanced security measures yet still meet egress requirements on existing classroom doors. | A high priority in many locations is the safety of occupants at schools and classrooms in the event of a threatening situation. These revisions provide guidance in the code which balances security with the need to also provide for free and immediate egress. | |
| 1031.4 | This modification clarifies that exit signs in existing buildings shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the building code that was in effect at the time of construction and the applicable provisions of Section 1104 | Previous code language had been interpreted to require changes to exit signage every time the requirements in the Fire Code were revised. | |
| 1031.10 | Inspections and testing of emergency lighting have been relocated into Chapter 10 and revised to allow self-diagnostics. | Moves the requirements from Chapter 6 (general emergency and standby power requirements) to Chapter 10 (Means of Egress) | |
| 1103.5.1 | A Section has been added to Chapter 11 requiring the retrofit of a fire sprinkler system in existing Group A-2 Occupancies where alcoholic beverages are consumed if their occupant load is 300 or more. | Requires retrofit in existing buildings. | |
| 1103.9 | Carbon monoxide alarms are no longer required to be retroactively installed in Groups I-1, I-2, I-4 and R Occupancies The retroactive installation of carbon monoxide alarms is only required in sleeping rooms and dwelling units. | The revisions have changed from requiring in all buildings of an occupancy type to sleeping rooms and buildings with identified hazards such as an attached garage or fuel burning appliance. Battery alarms are permitted. | |
| 1104.16.2 | Door and window openings within 10 feet of a fire escape must be protected 45 minutes unless the building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. | Correlates with the IEBC | |
| 1105.6.2 | Fire rated doors with hold-open devices in existing I-2 occupancies have 3 closing options: 1.Actuation of smoke detectors Actuation of the fire alarm system within the zone. Activation of the fire sprinkler system within the zone. | Options are now provided for doors with hold-opens in fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers and fire walls. | |

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| Chapter 12 | New chapter added to the CFC at address all configurations of energy systems. Includes emergency power, standby power, fuel cell power and stationary battery storage system requirements from 2015 IFC Chapter 6 and new requirements. | Requirements have been brought together for the user's convenience. | |
| 1204.5 | Rapid shutdown of solar photovoltaic systems is required to reduce shock hazard to emergency responders. Required building signage requirements is included. | Helps protect emergency responders. | |
| 1206.2 | This revision removes battery storage system requirements from Section 608 to Section 1206.2 and includes battery technologies and required safety features. | Newer battery technology is included. | |
| PART 4 – SPECIAL OCCUPANCIES – CHAPTERS 20 THROUGH 39 | | | |
| Chapter 22 | Reference to new standard NFPA 652 “Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust,” is added to provide guidance and criteria when evaluating combustible dust hazards. | NFPA 652 provides a process to conduct a dust hazard analysis and evaluate a facility to quantify the hazard and identify remedial actions and protections levels. | |
| 2303.2.1 | Height of emergency disconnect switches for fuel dispensing operations shall be not less than 42 inches nor more than 48 inches AFF to the activation button. | Adds switch height to requirements: Clearly identified Readily accessible >20 feet, <100 feet from outdoor dispensing operations. | |
| 2306.7.3.1 | Authorizes the Fire Code Official to require additional vehicle impact protection at fuel dispensing devices to protect outdoor vehicle dispensing facilities. | Provides authority but does not mandate additional protection. | |
| 2309.6 2309.6.1 | The requirements for repairing vehicles fueled by compressed or liquefied hydrogen gas have been updated to address current technologies and processes. | The technical language addressing repairs, purging, defueling, and methods of discharge is deleted and replaced with a reference to NFPA 2, Hydrogen Technologies Code. | |
| 2311.6 | The requirements for repairing vehicles fueled by compressed or liquefied natural gas have been updated to address current technologies and processes. | | |

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| 2311.8 | The requirements for repairing vehicles fueled by lighter-than-air compressed or liquefied compressed gas have been updated to address current technologies and processes. | The technical language addressing repairs, purging, defueling, and methods of discharge is deleted and replaced with a reference to NFPA 2, Hydrogen Technologies Code. | |
| 2403.2.1.3 | The size of the area where classified electrical wiring and equipment around a spray booth has been reduced to 3 feet. | Change correlates with changes to NFPA 70 National Electrical Code and NFPA 33 "Standard for Spray Application Using Flammable or Combustible equipment. | |
| 2404.2 2404.3.1 914.9 | Requirements for spray booths and spray operations are correlated between the IFC and the IBC: 1-hour separation is required between spray booths and spray booths and the remainder of the building. | This change correlates the IFC and the IBC requirements. | |
| 2810 | New Section adds criteria for outdoor pallet storage at pallet manufacturing and recycling facilities. Includes size of separate piles, distance between piles, buildings and property lines. | Allows minimum distances to be reduced based on providing additional fire protection features. | |
| Chapter 31 | New definition for umbrella structures added, regulation of umbrella structures when they exceed 400 sf. | Umbrella structures now included under a definition of a tent. | |
| 3103.3.1 | Special amusement structures located in temporary tents are now required to be protected with automatic sprinkler systems. | Just because a temporary amusement structure is located in a tent does not reduce or eliminate the inherent hazards associated with these facilities. This change "closes a loophole" | |
| 3103.6 3103.9 | Temporary tents and membrane structures are required to provide construction documents to address their structural integrity Larger tents (50 occupants or more) have been added to the list of structures that must comply. | Chapter 16 of the IBC has been coorelated for temporary tents. | |
| 3104.2 | The application of testing for flame spread of tent membranes has been clarified. | The revisions apply the appropriate test methodology to the fabric material. | |
| 3105 105.6.47 105.7.22 | The term "Temporary Stage Canopy" has been changed to "Temporary special event structure" and the requirements for temporary stage structures are expanded to include all temporary structures greater than 400 sf when used at special events. | This change will ensure that all temporary structures not regulated by the IBC will be regulated by this chapter of the IFC and will be included in plan review and inspection requirements. | |

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| 3106 | This new section adds requirements specific to out-door public gatherings and improves correlation of requirements in the IBC and IFC. | This section addresses recent outdoor assemblies where several fatal events related to outdoor public gatherings as a result of structural failure. | |
| 3107.13 | Requirements for the use and separation of LP gas containers in and around tents and membrane structures have been revised. | | |
| Chapter 32 | The requirements of Chapter 32 High-piled combustible storage have been updated to correlate with the current NFPA 13 requirements and recent FM Global tests. | This chapter has not been updated since 2000 edition of the IFC. | |
| 3304.5 3308 3309.1 | Criteria for requiring fire watch has been added to the IFC along with clarification to the functions and duties of the fire watch personnel. | The intent is to improve the effectiveness of fire prevention programs on active construction sites. | |
| Chapter 38 | New Chapter 38 Higher Education Laboratories has been added to the IFC. Correlating IBC Section 427 has been added. | Higher education laboratories present unique challenges for fire safety. This new chapter provides guidance. | |
| Chapter 39 | New Chapter 39 Processing and Extracting Facilities has been added to specifically regulate the process of extracting oils from plant materials. | New chapter establishes regulations for the extraction of oil from plant material using solvents as a medium. | |
| PART 5 – HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – CHAPTERS 50 THROUGH 67 | | | |
| Table 03.1.(1) | Consumer Fireworks: Addresses the explosive nature of Division 1.4G explosives and removes the 100% increase in quantity for sprinklers where these items are stored. | The combined changes address a number of hazards associated with consumer fireworks. Removes consumer fireworks as a special exception and consolidates the requirements into its own category. | |
| 5003.1.1(1) 503.11.1 6303.1.1.2 | The maximum allowable quantity of Class 3 oxidizers is increased by approximately 10% in control areas and Groups M and S occupancies. | Change recognizes changes that have occurred in Class 3 Oxidizer packaging methods to align with international metric (SI) weight and volume capacities. | |
| 5003.8.3.4 | The fire-resistance-rating of the floor of a control area in Type IV buildings is now allowed to be reduced to 1-hour if the building is fire sprinklered and does not exceed 3-stories in height. | Fire-rating for floors of Type IV buildings are now the same as Type IIIA and VA buildings. | |
| 5005.1.12 | Requirements for leak detection and emergency shutoff | Wording has not changed, but the | |

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| | for high hazard gasses and liquids only apply when the maximum allowable quantity per control area is exceeded. | requirements have been relocated with the result that requirements for leak detection and emergency shutoff do not apply universally | |
| 5103.2 5104.1.2 | Limitations of aerosol products in plastic containers is revised and the use of Plastic Aerosol X products is prohibited in higher life hazard occupancies. | Packaging for aerosol products is limited to 33.8 Oz (1,000 ml) for plastic and metal containers and 4 oz (118 ml) for glass containers under specified conditions. | |
| 5103.2.2, 5104.2.2, 5104.3.3, 5104.8, 5106.2.2 | <i>Specific fire protection requirements have been added to address aerosol cooking spray products.</i> | When initially developed, FM determined that aerosol products with a flash point off 500 df could be ignored. Aerosol cooking sprays, with a flash point of less than 500 df have been determined to pose hazards. This modification addresses those hazards. | |
| 5306.1 5306.2 | The requirements for construction and ventilation of interior medical gas rooms and cabinets are revised. | One-hour separation is required for medical gas storage rooms and ventilation increased from 24 square inches to 36 square inches. When the maximum allowable quantity of gas is in the control area is exceeded, the control area is classified as Group H. | |
| 5307.1 5307.3 | Requirements for liquefied CO ₂ in beverage dispensing applications has been correlated with the requirements for gas detection systems. | Requirements have been revised among others is 2 detectors are required. | |
| 5307.4 | Carbon dioxide enrichment systems are now regulated by the IFC when the system contains more than 100 pounds of CO ₂ or when the refill connection is remote from the tank or vessel. | This is in response to the proliferation of indoor marijuana cultivation facilities that use carbon dioxide enrichment to enhance plant growth. | |
| 5703.6.2.2 | <i>Below-grade or underground piping systems connected to a tank in an underground area: additional language added to provide clarity to Section 5703.6.2.2.</i> | Clarifies existing requirements. | |
| 5707, 5801.1 | On-demand mobile fueling is allowed at approved locations and under the control of a permit issued by the fire department. | New regulations for mobile fueling have been added to the IFC. | |
| 6104.3 | New footnote g specifies separations between above-ground LP-gass containers and public ways. | Above ground LP-gas containers with a water capacity of 2,000 gallons or less shall be | |

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| | | separated from the public ways by a distance of not less than 5 feet. Containers with a water capacity greater than 2,000 gallons shall be separated from public ways in accordance with this table. | |
| REFERENCED STANDARDS AND APPENDICES A THROUGH N | | | |
| NFPA 13 section 23.2.1.1 | <i>Requires a water flow test to be conducted within 6 months of plan review.</i> | This change will provide more accurate design supply information for fire suppression systems and will correlate with many fire department current practices. | |
| NFPA 72-2016 Section 23.8.1.2.1.1 | Patient room smoke detectors in Group I-2 and R-2.1 occupancies shall not include a positive alarm sequence. | Eliminates delaying of the alarm activation in Group I-2 and R02.1 patient rooms. | |
| E102.1.7.1 | This change revises the oxidizer classification of sodium-dichloro-s-triazinetrione (sodium dichloroisocyanurate anhydrous) | Changes the oxidizer classification for water and swimming pool treatment products from Class 3 to a lesser hazard Class 2. | |
| Chapter N | New chapter that provides specific regulation to address the hazards associated with large trade shows and exhibitions. Many of these regulations may be found elsewhere in the IFC but the appendix provides a single location for regulations dealing with these events. | New Chapter conveniently places all regulations for large trade shows in a single location. | |