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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION**

**BUILDING CODES COUNCIL**

CHAPTER8

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 6‑9‑40 and 40‑1‑70

8‑900. International Fire Code.

**Synopsis:**

 The South Carolina Building Codes Council proposes to amend Chapter 8, Article 9, of the Code of Regulations regarding the International Fire Code.

 A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on October 26, 2018.

**Instructions:**

 Replace regulation as shown below. All other items and sections remain unchanged.

**Text:**

Article 9

International Fire Code

2018 International Fire Code Modification Summary

8‑900. International Fire Code.

NOTE‑This article is based upon the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, in accordance with the statutory amendments to acts governing the Building Codes Council, except for the modifications referenced below.

This code is identical to the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code except for the following modifications:

8‑901. IFC Section 202 General definitions.

Recreational Fire: An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial to include sky lanterns, cooking, warmth or similar purpose.

8‑902. IFC Section 202 General definitions.

Primitive Camp Structure: Shall include any structure permanent or temporary in nature, used for outdoor camping (transient), open on at least one side with no fully enclosed habitable spaces, less than 400 square feet under roof, and not classified as a residential occupancy due to lack of electrical, plumbing, mechanical and sprinkler systems.

8‑903. IFC Section 202 General definitions.

Add to the listing of A-3 occupancies the following use: Structures, without a commercial kitchen, used in agritourism activity as defined by S.C. Code Ann. 46-53-10(1).

8‑904. IFC Table 315.7.6(1) Pile Separation Distances

Use this table instead of the table in the 2018 IFC.

TABLE 315.7.6(1)

SEPARATION DISTANCE BETWEEN WOOD PALLET STACKS AND BUILDINGS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| WALL CONSTRUCTION | OPENING TYPE | WOOD PALLET SEPARATION DISTANCT (FEET) |
|  |  | Less than 50 pallets | 51 to 200 pallets | Over 200 pallets |
| Masonry  | None | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Masonry | Fire‑rated glazing with open sprinklers | 2 | 5 | 20 |
| Masonry | Fire‑rated glazing  | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Masonry | Plain glass with sprinklers | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Noncombustible | None | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Wood with open sprinklers |  | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Wood | None | 15 | 30 | 90 |
| Any | Plain glazing | 15 | 30 | 90 |

8‑905. IFC Section 503.2.1 Dimensions.

 Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6 and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

8‑906. IFC Section 507.1 Required water supply.

 An *approved* water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises on which facilities, buildings, or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction to meet the necessary fire flow as determined by the fire code official. Where public water supply is inadequate or not available, an approved alternate water source meeting the fire flow requirements shall be provided. Fire flow performance tests shall be witnessed by the *fire code official* or representative prior to final approval. Exception. One and two family dwellings, including attached or detached accessory structures.

8‑907. IFC Section 507.5.1 Where required.

Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 500 feet (152 m) from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an *approved* route around the exterior of the facility or building, on‑site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the *fire code official.*

Location. The location and number of hydrants shall be designated by the fire official, but in no case shall the distance between installed fire hydrants exceed 1000 feet (305 m). Fire hydrants shall be located within 500 feet (152 m) of all fire fighter access points when measured along the normal routes of fire department vehicle access which conforms to the requirements of Section 503. No point of the exterior of a building shall be located more than 500 feet (152 m) from a hydrant accessible to fire department vehicles as provided in Section 503.

Exceptions:

 1. For Group R‑3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183 m).

 2. For buildings equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183 m).

8‑908. IFC Section 901.6.3 Records.

 Records of all system inspections, tests, and maintenance required by the referenced standards shall be maintained. Copies of the inspection reports shall be sent to the local jurisdiction by the servicing vendor as prescribed by the Fire Code Official.

8‑909. IFC Section 903.2.9 Group S‑1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings containing a Group S‑1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

 1. A Group S‑1 fire area exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m2).

 2. A Group S‑1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

 3. The combined area of all Group S‑1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 square feet (2230 m2).

 4. A Group S‑1 fire area used for the storage of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

 5. A Group S‑1 occupancy used for the storage of upholstered furniture or mattresses where the fire area exceeds 2,500 square feet (232m2).

Exception: This section, when acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction, does not apply to self‑storage facilities that are single‑story fire areas less than 12,000 square feet, and the building is only accessible from exterior entry points and is not provided with interior hallways, spaces or corridors.

8‑910. IFC 1016.2 Egress through intervening spaces.

Egress through intervening spaces shall comply with this section.

 1. *Exit access* through an enclosed elevator lobby is permitted. Access to not less than one of the required *exits* shall be provided without travel through the enclosed elevator lobbies required by Section 3006 of the International Building Code. Where the path of *exit* access travel passes through an enclosed elevator lobby, the level of protection required for the enclosed elevator lobby is not required to be extended to the *exit* unless direct access to an *exit* is required by other sections of this code.

 2. Egress from a room or space shall not pass through adjoining or intervening rooms or areas, except where such adjoining rooms or areas and the area served are accessory to one or the other, are not a Group H occupancy and provide a discernible path of egress travel to an *exit*.

 **Exception:** *Means of egress* are not prohibited through adjoining or intervening rooms or spaces in a Group H, S, or F occupancy where the adjoining or intervening rooms or spaces are the same or a lesser hazard occupancy group.

 3. An *exit access* shall not pass through a room that can be locked to prevent egress.

 4. *Means of egress* from *dwelling units* or sleeping areas shall not lead through other sleeping areas, toilet rooms or bathrooms.

 **Exception:** Dwelling units or sleeping areas in R‑1 and R‑2 occupancies shall be permitted to egress through other sleeping areas serving adjoining rooms that are part of the same dwelling unit or guest room.

 5. Egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets, or spaces used for similar purposes.

 **Exceptions:**

 1. *Means of egress* are not prohibited through a kitchen area serving adjoining rooms constituting part of the same *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit*.

 2. *Means of egress* are not prohibited through stockrooms in Group M occupancies where all of the following are met:

 2.1 The stock is of the same hazard classification as that found in the main retail area.

 2.2 Not more than 50 percent of the *exit access* is through the stockroom.

 2.3 The stockroom is not subject to locking from the egress side.

 2.4 There is a demarcated, minimum 44‑inch‑wide (1118 mm) *aisle* defined by a wall not less than 42 inches high or similar construction that will maintain the required width and lead directly from the retail area to the *exit* without obstructions.

8‑911. IFC Section 2307.4 Location of dispensing operations and equipment.

The point of transfer for LP‑gas dispensing operations shall be separated from buildings and other structures in accordance with NFPA 58 Table 6.7.2.1 and IFC Section 2306.7.

 Exception: The point of transfer for LP‑gas dispensing operations need not be separated from canopies that are constructed in accordance with the International Building Code and that provide weather protection for the dispensing equipment.

 LP‑gas containers shall be located in accordance with Chapter 61. LP‑gas storage and dispensing equipment shall be located outdoors and in accordance with Section 2306.7.

8‑912. IFC Section 2307.7 Public fueling of motor vehicles.

“Self‑service LP‑gas dispensing systems, including key, code and card lock dispensing systems, shall be limited to the filling of permanently mounted containers providing fuel to the LP‑gas powered vehicle”, is removed.

8‑913. IFC Section 6101.1 Scope.

 Storage, handling and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas (LP‑gas) and the installation of LP‑gas equipment pertinent to systems for such uses shall comply with this chapter and NFPA 58. Properties of LP‑gas shall be determined in accordance with Annex B of NFPA 58.

8‑914. IFC Section 6103.2.1.1 Use in basement, pit or similar location.

 LP‑gas containers complying 6103.2.2 shall be permitted to be used in basements and above grade underfloor spaces provided such location has adequate ventilation for equipment utilization. Equipment with attached cylinders shall not be left unattended or stored in such location after use. LP‑gas container storage shall comply with Section 6109.7. Self contained torch assemblies may be used in accordance with 6103.2.1.6.

8‑915. IFC Section 6103.2.1.6 Use with self‑contained assemblies.

 Portable LP‑gas containers are allowed to be used to supply approved self contained torch assemblies or similar appliances. Such containers shall not exceed a water capacity of 2.7 pounds (1.2 kg).

8‑916. IFC Section 6106.1 Attendants.

 Dispensing of LP‑gas shall be performed by a qualified attendant that meets the requirements of this section and NFPA 58 Section 4.4.

8‑917. IFC Section 6107.4 Protecting containers from vehicles.

 Exception: An alternative method may be used that meets the intent of this section with the approval of the AHJ.

8‑918. IFC Section 6109.13 Protection of containers.

 LP‑gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicle protections shall be required as required by the fire code official in accordance with IFC 312 or NFPA 58 8.4.2.2.

8‑919. IFC Section 6110.1 Temporarily out of service.

 Containers not connected for service at customer locations. LP‑gas containers at customer locations that are not connected for service shall comply with all of the following:

 1. Have LP‑gas container outlets, except relief valves, closed and plugged or capped.

 2. Be positioned with the relief valve in direct communication with the LP‑gas container vapor space.

8‑920. IFC Section 6111.2.1 Near residential, educational and institutional occupancies and other high‑risk areas.

 Separation distance requirements may be reduced to not less than 50 feet as approved by the fire code official, based upon a completed fire safety analysis and consideration of special features such as topographical conditions, capacity of the LP‑gas vehicle and the capabilities of the local fire department. The Office of the State Fire Marshall will provide an approved fire safety analysis to be utilized for this specific requirement.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

 There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions for these regulations.

**Statement of Rationale:**

 The updated regulations will reflect modifications made to the 2018 International Fire Code adopted by the Building Codes Council.