

CHAPTER 23.45 LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 2006 EDITION

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23.45.100 Local amendments to the International Fire Code, 2006 Edition

The amendments to the 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code are listed hereinafter by section. The last digits of the section number (after the title and chapter digits) refer to the section of the International Fire Code to which the amendment applies, i.e., 23.45.103.3.1.1 refers to section 103.3.1.1 of the International Fire Code (2006 Edition). The 2006 International Fire Code and its Appendices, except for Appendix A, shall be adopted as amended.

23.45.102.1 Construction and design provisions

Add the following to the end of Item 3:

...except in reference to voluntary upgrades, as defined and governed by the adopted International Existing Building Code (IEBC) per AMC 23.65.

23.45.105.1.2 Types of permit

Delete Item 2, Construction Permit.

23.45.105.6 Required operational permits

Amend **105.6** as follows:

Delete sections **105.6** and subsections **105.6.1** through **105.6.46**, except tables 105.6.8 and 105.6.20.

Replace **105.6** with the following:

The code official is authorized to issue operational permits for the operations set forth in 105.6.1 through 105.6.17.

Add 17 new subsections as follows:

105.6.1 Amusement buildings. An operational permit is required to operate a special amusement building as defined in Section 202 of this code.

105.6.2 Carnivals and fairs. An operational permit is required to operate a carnival or fair.

105.6.3 Compressed gases. An operational permit is required for the storage, use or handling at normal temperature and pressure (NTP) of compressed gases in excess of the amounts listed in Table 105.6.8.

105.6.4 Connection to municipal fire alarm. An operational permit is required to connect a private fire alarm system to the municipal fire alarm circuit.

105.6.5 Exhibits and trade shows. An operational permit is required to operate exhibits and trade shows.

105.6.6 Explosives. An operational permit is required for the manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of any quantities of explosives, explosive materials, fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects within the scope of chapter 33.

105.6.7 Hazardous materials. An operational permit is required to store, transport on site, dispense, use or handle hazardous materials in excess of the amounts listed in table 105.6.20.

105.6.8 High- pile storage. An operational permit is required to use a building or portion thereof as a high-pile storage area exceeding 500 square feet (46 m²).

105.6.9 Liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings. An operational permit is required to display, operate or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings.

105.6.10 LP-gas. An operational permit is required for:

1. Storage and use of LP-gas.

Exception: A permit is not required for individual containers with 500-gallon (1893 L) water capacity or less serving occupancies in Group R-3.

2. Operation of cargo tankers that transport LP-gas.

105.6.11 Open burning. An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.

Exception: Recreational fires.

105.6.13 Places of assembly. An operational permit is required to operate a place of assembly with an occupant load of 1000 or more.

105.6.14 Private fire hydrants. An operational permit is required for the removal from service, use or operation of private fire hydrants.

Exception: A permit is not required for a private industry with trained maintenance personnel, private fire brigade or fire department to maintain, test and use private hydrants.

105.6.15 Pyrotechnics special effects material. An operational permit is required for use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material.

105.6.16 Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies. An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet (19 m²), or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²).

Exceptions:

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Fabric canopies and awnings open on all sides which comply with all the following:
 - 2.1 Individual canopies shall have a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m²).
 - 2.2 The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) shall not exceed 700 square feet (65 m²) total.
 - 2.3 A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to structures and other tents shall be provided.

105.6.17 Gates and restricted access roads. An operational permit is required to install, maintain, and continue use of gates and restricted access egress on fire department access roads.

23.45.308.3.1 Open-flame cooking devices

After the words “combustible balconies” add “and decks”.

23.45.308.3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices

After the words “combustible balconies” add “and decks”.

23.45.311.1.1 Abandoned premises

Amend paragraph by deleting reference to “the International Property Maintenance Code”.

23.45.401.3 Emergency forces notification

Amend by adding new subsection 401.3.4 to read as follows:

23.45.401.3.4 False alarm charges

The owner of a building containing a fire alarm or fire protection system shall pay a charge in accordance with section AMC 8.40.040 for each and every false alarm to which the fire department responds.

As used in this section, “*false alarm*” means an alarm signal generated by a fire alarm system reporting an alarm for which no fire or emergency actually exists, and includes system malfunctions, faulty operation of detectors, and false alarms

not classified above. It does not include incidents where the detector or system operated as designed, such as but not limited to, a smoke detector sounding from someone smoking under the detector or a manual pull station being pulled.

23.45.405 Emergency evacuation drills

Amend by adding a new subsection 405.10 to read as follows:

23.45.405.10 False alarm

False alarms may not be counted as a fire drill for the purposes of this section.

23.45.408.5.4 Drill frequency

Amend by deleting the last sentence and replacing with:

Drills shall meet the requirements of 23.45.408.10.6

23.45.408.10 Group R-4 occupancies

Amend by adding new section as follows:

408.10.6 Occupants needing physical assistance

408.10.6.1 Applicability. The provisions of this section apply to all Groups R-4 and I-1 occupancies where the occupants need physical assistance from staff or others to respond to emergencies.

408.10.6.2 Definitions. Evacuation capability means the ability of occupants, residents, and staff as a group either to evacuate a building or to relocate from the point of occupancy to a point of safety; Point of safety means a location (a) exterior to and away from a building or (b) within a building of any type construction protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system; and is either (1) within an exit enclosure meeting the requirements of section 1020 or (2) within another portion of the building separated by smoke partitions meeting the requirements of IBC section 710, with not less than one half hour fire resistance rating, and the portion of the building has access to a means of escape or exit conforming to the requirements of this code and does not require return to the area of the fire.

Prompt evacuation capability means a group has the ability to move reliably to a point of safety in a manner equivalent to the ability of a household in the general population as measured under section 408.10.6.3.

Slow evacuation capability means a group has the ability to move reliably to a point of safety in a manner not as rapid as members of a household in the general population, as measured under section 408.10.6.3.

Impractical evacuation capability means a group does not have the ability to reliably move to a point of safety in a timely manner as measured under section 408.10.6.3.

408.10.6.3 Fire drills. A fire drill conducted by the fire official or other approved licensee shall make the initial determination of evacuation capability. Changes to the evacuation capability shall be based on a record of drills conducted by the facility and recorded for review by the fire official or other licensing official. The drills shall be conducted six (6) times a year on a bi-monthly basis, with at least two (2) drills conducted during the night when residents are sleeping. Records shall indicate the time taken to reach a point of safety, date and time of the drill, location of simulated fire origin, escape paths used, and comments relating to residents who resisted or failed to participate in the drills. The relation of drill time to evacuation capability is as follows:

1. Three (3) minutes or less – prompt;
2. Over three (3) minutes but under 14 minutes – slow; or
3. Fourteen (14) minutes or more – impractical.

408.10.6.4 Evacuation capability and fire protection requirements. Fire protection requirements of a facility under this section are as follows:

408.10.6.4.1 Prompt evacuation capability. Evacuation capability of three minutes or less indicates prompt evacuation capability. In facilities maintaining prompt evacuation capability, the requirements of the code for Groups I-1 or R-4 occupancies shall be followed.

408.10.6.4.2 Slow evacuation capability. Evacuation capability of more than three but less than 14 minutes indicates slow evacuation capability. In facilities maintaining slow evacuation capability, the facility must be protected by (a) an automatic smoke detection system, using addressable smoke detectors, designed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72; and (b) an automatic sprinkler system, with quick response or residential sprinklers, installed in accordance with section 903.3.1.2 and NFPA 13R, or 903.3.1.3 and NFPA 13D approved previously to the adoption of this code.

408.10.6.4.3 Impractical evacuation capability. Evacuation capability of fourteen minutes or more indicates impractical evacuation capability. In facilities maintaining impractical evacuation capability, the facility must be protected by (a) the protections for a facility with slow evacuation capability under Section 408.10.6.4.2; (b) one-half hour fire-resistive construction throughout the facility; and (c) direct egress from sleeping rooms for occupants needing evacuation assistance either (1) to the exterior at grade level, to an exterior porch or landing via a thirty-six (36) inch wide door; or (2) if the sleeping rooms are separated from the rest of the building by smoke partitions installed in accordance with section 710, by egress windows conforming to the provisions of Section 1026.

23.45.508.2 Type of water supply

Amend by adding a second paragraph and a new exception to 508.2 to read as follows:

The water system shall be designed to the standards of, and have the approval of the water utility providing service in the area. If the water system for a structure is not in an area served by a water utility, it shall meet the standards of the nearest water utility.

Exception: In areas of jurisdiction not served by a water utility, the requirements for water systems as outlined in section 508 need not be met, provided all structures other than structures regulated by the IRC and U occupancies are at least type A construction as defined in the International Building Code, 2006 Edition, or are provided with an approved sprinkler system in accordance with section 903.3.

23.45.508.5.4 Obstruction

Amend by adding a third sentence at the end of the paragraph to read as follows:

No vehicle shall be parked within fifteen (15) feet of the front and ten (10) feet of the sides of a fire hydrant, fire department connection, or fire protection control valve on private or public property.

23.45.901 General

Add a new subsection to read as follows:

901.10 Damage protection. When exposed to probable vehicular damage due to proximity to alleys, driveways or parking areas, standpipes, post indicator valves and sprinkler system or standpipe system, connections, shall be protected in an approved manner.

23.45.901.6.2 Records

Add a new subsection 901.6.2.2 to read as follows:

901.6.2.2 Records. A copy of all inspection reports required by this section shall be sent to the Fire Prevention Division.

23.45.903.2.2 Group E

Delete 903.2.2 and replace with the following:

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings that contain a Group E occupancy and for every portion of educational buildings below the level of exit discharge. The use of a fire wall does not establish a separate building for purposes of this section.

Exception: Buildings with Group E occupancies having an occupant load of 49 or less.

Daycare uses licensed to care for more than five (5) persons between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. shall be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with subsection 903.3.1 or an approved equivalent system.

23.45.903.2.5 Group I

Delete exception and replace with:

Exception: Group I-1 facilities shall be protected throughout with an automatic sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2. Existing group I-1 facilities with a previously approved and installed sprinkler systems designed in accordance with NFPA 13D and 903.3.1.3 shall be considered as in compliance.

23.45.903.2.7 Group R

Amend section by adding a new sentence to read as follows:

Any Group R-4 occupancy meeting the requirements for construction as defined for group R-3 or constructed in accordance with the IRC shall be sprinklered according to the requirements of 903.3.1.2.

23.45.903.2.10.1 Stories and basements without openings

Amend paragraph by deleting the words:

“where the floor area exceeds 1,500 square feet and”

23.45.903.2.12 Other hazards

Amend by adding the following subsection:

903.2.12.3 Pit sprinklers. Sprinklers shall be installed in the bottom of all new and existing elevator pits below the lowest projection of the elevator car but no higher than 24” from the bottom of the pit.

23.45.903.3.1.1.1 Exempt locations

Amend by adding the following:

5. **Machine rooms, machine spaces, control rooms, and control spaces.** Sprinkler heads, non-elevator related equipment, and unrelated piping, shall not be installed in new and shall be removed from existing elevator machine rooms, machine spaces, control rooms, and control spaces.

23.45.903.3.5 Water supplies

Add a new subsection as follows:

903.3.5.3 Hydraulic calculations. Sprinkler system design shall include a minimum 15% safety factor for flow at the supply.

23.45.903.4.1 Signals

Amend section by adding a new sentence to read as follows:

Central stations, remote stations or proprietary monitoring stations shall be located within the Municipality of Anchorage or shall have a local representative capable of responding to the location within sixty (60) minutes of notification.

23.45.903.6.2 Alterations and additions to E occupancies

Add a new subsection to read as follows:

903.6.2 Alterations and additions to E occupancies. An approved automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all buildings containing a group E occupancy in accordance with section 903.2.2 whenever an addition or a level 2 alteration is made to an existing structure containing an E Occupancy.

23.45.907.2.1 Group A

Delete Exception.

23.45.907.2.2 Group B

Delete Exception.

23.45.907.2.4 Group F

Delete Exception.

23.45.907.2.7 Group M

Delete Exception #2.

23.45.907.2.8.1 Manual fire alarm system

Delete Exception #2.

23.45.907.2.9 Group R-2

Amend first paragraph to read as follows:

A manual fire alarm system and an automatic fire detection system with smoke detection in the public and common use areas shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where:

Amend by deleting exception # 2.

23.45.907.15 Monitoring

Amend by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

907.15.1 Connection to municipal fire alarm circuit.

- A. A person having a private fire alarm system for one building may connect the system to a municipal fire alarm circuit, or directly connect the system to the fire department communications center, after obtaining a permit for the connection from the fire chief. The fire chief may issue a permit for the connection if it is determined the connection:
1. Is compatible with the municipal fire alarm circuit or system.
 2. Connects an adequate, properly installed and maintained private alarm system.
 3. Substantially benefits the municipal fire prevention system.
- B. The permit required by this section shall be issued subject to the Fire Department rules and regulations and shall be conditional upon such reasonable requirements, terms and conditions as the fire chief may require.
- C. A permit may be revoked by the fire chief for noncompliance with the permit standards, rules, regulations, conditions, or restrictions. The permit may be revoked by the fire chief if, in the fire chief's discretion, it is found the disconnection of the private alarm system is in the best interests of the Municipality. The permit holder may appeal a decision to revoke a permit to the Building Board.
- D. The permit holder shall pay the Municipality for the cost of a radio fire alarm box or for covering an existing radio fire alarm box, and for the cost of the initial hookup (one box per building). The permit holder shall pay the cost of providing, installing and maintaining the private system, up to the radio fire alarm box. The maintenance of the private system shall be by a qualified person engaged in the business of installing and maintaining a supervisory fire alarm system, who shall use NFPA 72 as an installation and maintenance standard.
- E. It shall be unlawful for a person not authorized by the fire chief to connect or disconnect, temporarily or otherwise, a private fire alarm system, or other wires or conduits leading to a municipal fire alarm circuit or municipal fire system. The fire chief shall authorize specific connection or disconnection by written permit.
- F. The permit holder shall pay the following fees for the connection of the private fire alarm system, for one building, to the municipal fire system:
1. Permit Fee \$10
 2. Initial Connection Fee \$150
 3. Annual Inspection Fee \$1,200

- G. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, or corporation to do any act prohibited under this section or to fail to do any act required under this section. Any person, firm, association, and/or corporation violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties and remedies set forth in section 23.10.025.

23.45.908.7 Carbon monoxide detectors

Add new section in section 908 Emergency Alarm Systems:

908.7 Carbon monoxide detectors. The provisions of this section shall apply to Group I-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies. At least one (1) carbon monoxide detector shall be installed on each floor level. If a floor level contains bedrooms or sleeping rooms, at least one (1) detector shall be located in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area, outside of the bedrooms/sleeping rooms.

Carbon monoxide detectors shall be listed and installed in accordance with their listing. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all sleeping rooms with intervening doors closed.

Exceptions:

1. Carbon monoxide detectors are not required in dwelling units and structures with no combustion appliances and with no attached garage.
2. Carbon monoxide detectors are not required in dwelling units and structures with only direct vent combustion appliances and with no attached garage.
3. Carbon monoxide detectors are not required in Group I-1 and R-2 occupancies where all combustion equipment is located within a mechanical room separated from the rest of the building by construction capable of resisting the passage of smoke. If the structure has an attached parking garage, the garage shall be ventilated by an approved automatic carbon monoxide exhaust system designed in accordance with the mechanical code.

908.7.1 Interconnection. In new construction, all carbon monoxide detectors located within a single dwelling unit shall be interconnected in such a manner that actuation of one alarm shall activate all of the alarms within the individual dwelling units.

908.7.2 Power source. In new construction, carbon monoxide detectors shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Wiring shall be permanent and without disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. Carbon monoxide detectors shall be permitted to be cord-and-plug type with battery backup, or battery powered in existing construction.

23.45.1003.1 Applicability

Amend section by adding an exception to read as follows:

Exception: Stairs or ladders used only to attend equipment are not considered elements of the means of egress system.

23.45.1008.1.8.6 Delayed egress locks

Revise item number 3 to read as follows:

3. The door locks shall have the capability of being unlocked by a signal from an approved location.

23.45.1019.1 Minimum number of exits

Amend section by adding an exception to read as follows:

Exception: Basements or the first level below the first story in all occupancies except R-3, used exclusively for the service of the building may have access to only one (1) exit. For any other use except R-3, the basement or first level below the first story shall have at least two (2) exits arranged in accordance with section 1015.2. For the purpose of this exception, storage rooms, laundry rooms, maintenance offices and similar uses shall not be considered as providing service to the building.

23.45.1026.1 General

Amend section 1026.1 by deleting all exceptions, except numbers 5 and 6.

23.45.1028 Maintenance of the means of egress

Add the following section:

1028.8 Protection from falling snow and ice. Where the accumulation of snow and/or ice on a structure creates a hazardous condition, the areas below the accumulation shall be protected from falling snow and/or ice. These areas shall include (but not be limited to) building entrances and exits, pedestrian areas, parking lots, driveways, public right-of-way, children’s play areas, and utility locations for gas meters, fire department connections, and electrical meters, services and disconnects.

23.45.1102.1 Definitions

The first sentence of the definition of “*Airport*” is revised to delete the words:

“with an overall length greater than 39 feet (11887mm) and an overall exterior fuselage width greater than 6.6 feet (2012mm).”

23.45.2211.2.3 Drainage and disposal of liquids and oil-soaked waste

Subsection 2211.2.3, first paragraph of the International Fire Code is revised by adding a sentence to read:

“Where oil separators or traps are provided, neither the oil nor water phase may drain to septic systems, dry wells, or other means of underground discharge.”

23.45.2403.5 Use period

Add a new exception to read as follows:

Exception: Seasonal Use Structures permitted under AMC 23.10.104.2

23.45.3404.2.13.1.3 Out of service for one year

Amend by adding new sentence at the end of the paragraph to read as follows:

This shall not apply to residential R-3 occupancies (single family and duplex) properties.

23.45.APPENDIX D Section D104.1

Amend by deleting “three” after shall have at least and adding “two.”