

**Recommended Amendments to the
2009 International Building Code**
North Central Texas Council of Governments region

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2009 International Building Code* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IBC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type~~ is deleted text from IBC. A double asterisk (**) at the beginning of a section identifies an amendment carried over from the 2006 edition of the code and a triple asterisk (***) identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2009 code.

Explanation of Options A and B:

Please note that as there is a wide range in fire fighting philosophies / capabilities of cities across the region, OPTION "A" and OPTION "B" are provided in the Fire and Building Code amendments. Jurisdictions should choose one or the other based on their fire fighting philosophies / capabilities when adopting code amendments.

Note: Historically NCTCOG has limited chapter 1 amendments in order to allow each city to insert their local policies and procedures. We now have suggested certain items to be brought to the attention of cities considering adoption of the code that may be of concern to several jurisdictions. **It is still intended to be discretionary to each city to determine which chapter 1 amendments to include.**

*****Section 101.4; change to read as follows:**

101.4 Referenced codes. The other codes listed in Sections 101.4.1 through 101.4.6 and referenced elsewhere in this code, when specifically adopted, shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the amendments as well. Any reference to NFPA 70 or the Electrical Code shall mean the Electrical Code as adopted.

(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes. The former ICC Electrical Code is now Appendix K of this code but no longer called by that name.)

*****Section 101.4.7; add the following:**

101.4.7 Electrical. The provisions of the Electrical Code shall apply to the installation of electrical systems, including alterations, repairs, replacement, equipment, appliances, fixtures, fittings and appurtenances thereto.

(Reason: This was dropped when ICC quit publishing the ICC Electrical Code, but the Electrical Code still should be referenced regardless of how it is adopted.)

*** Section 103 and 103.1 amend to insert the Department Name

SECTION 103
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY [INSERT OFFICIAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT
NAME OF JURISDICTION]

103.1 Creation of enforcement agency. The Department of Building Safety [INSERT OFFICIAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT NAME OF JURISDICTION] is hereby created and the official in charge thereof shall be known as the *building official*.

(Reason: Reminder to be sure ordinance reads the same as designated by the city.)

***Section 109; add Section 109.7 to read as follows:

109.7 Re-inspection Fee. A fee as established by city council resolution may be charged when:

1. The inspection called for is not ready when the inspector arrives;
2. No building address or permit card is clearly posted;
3. City approved plans are not on the job site available to the inspector;
4. The building is locked or work otherwise not available for inspection when called;
5. The job site is red-tagged twice for the same item;
6. The original red tag has been removed from the job site.
7. Failure to maintain erosion control, trash control or tree protection.

Any re-inspection fees assessed shall be paid before any more inspections are made on that job site.

(Reason: This fee is not a fine or penalty but is designed to compensate for time and trips when inspections are called for when not ready.)

***Section 109; add Section 109.8, 109.8.1, 109.8.2 and 109.9 to read as follows:

109.8 Work without a permit.

109.8.1 Investigation. Whenever work for which a permit is required by this code has been commenced without first obtaining a permit, a special investigation shall be made before a permit may be issued for such work.

109.8.2 Fee. An investigation fee, in addition to the permit fee, shall be collected whether or not a permit is subsequently issued. The investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee required by this code or the city fee schedule as applicable. The payment of such investigation fee shall not exempt the applicant from compliance with all other provisions of either this code or the technical codes nor from penalty prescribed by law.

109.9 Unauthorized cover up fee. Any work concealed without first obtaining the required inspection in violation of section 110 shall be assessed a fee as established by the city fee schedule.

(Reason: This fee is not a fine or penalty but is designed to compensate for time and to remove incentive to attempt to evade permits and code compliance. Text taken from former Uniform Administrative Code.)

****Section 110.3.5; jurisdiction has the option to delete depending on local inspection policies.**

(Reason: Lath or gypsum board inspections are not normally performed in this area.)

*****Section 202; amend definition of Ambulatory Health Care Facility and Fire Watch as follows:**

[B] AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE FACILITY. Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or similar care on a less than 24-hour basis to individuals who are rendered incapable of self-preservation. This group may include but not be limited to the following:

- Dialysis centers
- Sedation dentistry
- Surgery centers
- Colonic centers
- Psychiatric centers

(Reason: to clarify the range of uses included in the definition. [Explanatory note related to **Ambulatory health care facilities**: This group of uses as defined in chapter 2 includes a medical or dental office where persons are put under for dental surgery or other services. Section 903.2.2 will now require such uses to be sprinkled if on other than the floor of exit discharge or if four or more persons are put under on the level of exit discharge. Recommend (1.) jurisdictions document any pre existing non conforming conditions prior to issuing a new C of O for a change of tenant and, (2.) On any medical or dental office specify on C of O specify the maximum number of persons permitted to be put under general anesthesia.] It is recommended that before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued, a letter of intended use shall be included and a C of O documenting the maximum number of care recipients incapable of self preservation allowed.)

Option A

*****Section 202; {No amendment necessary}**

Option B

***** Section 202; amend definition to read as follows:**

HIGH-RISE BUILDING. A building with an occupied floor located more than ~~75~~ 55 feet (~~22 860 mm~~) (16 764 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

(Reason: To define high-rise, as it influences sprinkler requirement thresholds based on the fire fighting capabilities of a jurisdiction. This correction needed for Option B cities only as a basic definition of High Rise is now provided.)

****Section 304.1; add the following to the list of occupancies:**

- Fire stations
- Police stations with detention facilities for 5 or less

(Reason: Consistent with regional practice dating back to the legacy codes.)

*****Section 307.1; add the following to Exception 4:**

4. Cleaning establishments... *{text unchanged}* ...with Section 712, or both. See also IFC chapter 12, Dry Cleaning Plant provisions.

(Reason: To call attention to detailed requirements in the Fire Code.)

****Section 310.1; amend second paragraph under R-3 as follows:**

Adult care and child care facilities with 5 or fewer unrelated persons that are within a single-family home are permitted to comply with the *International Residential Code*.

(Reason: To clarify this provision which could allow unsprinklered care facilities only applies to listed under R-3)

*****Section 403.1, Exception 3; change to read as follows:**

3. Open air portions of buildings ~~Buildings~~ with a Group A-5 occupancy in accordance with Section 303.1.

(Reason: To clarify enclosed portions are not exempt.)

****Section 403.3, Exception; delete item 2.**

(Reason: To provide adequate fire protection to enclosed areas.)

****Section 404.1.1; change definition of "Atrium" as follows:**

ATRIUM. An opening connecting ~~two~~ three or more stories... *{Balance remains unchanged}*

(Reason: Accepted practice in the region based on legacy codes. Section 1022 permits unenclosed two story stairways under certain circumstances.)

*****Section 404.5; delete Exception.**

(Reason: Consistent with amended atrium definition.)

****Section 406.1.2; add item 3 to read as follows:**

3. A separation is not required between a Group R-2 and U carport provided that the carport is entirely open on all sides and that the distance between the two is at least 10 feet (3048 mm).

(Reason: Simplifies the fire separation distance and eliminates the need to obtain opening information on existing buildings when adding carports in existing apartment complexes. Consistent with legacy codes in effect in region for years and no record of problems with car fires spreading to apartments as a result.)



*****Section 406.6.1; add a second paragraph to read as follows:**

This occupancy shall also include garages involved in minor repair, modification and servicing of motor vehicles for items such as lube changes, inspections, windshield repair or replacement, shocks, minor part replacement and other such minor repairs.

(Reason: To further clarify types of service work allowed in a repair garage, as well as to correspond with definition in the IFC.)

****Section 506.2.2; add a sentence to read as follows:**

506.2.2 Open space limits. Such open space shall be either on the same lot or dedicated for public use and shall be accessed from a street or *approved fire lane*. In order to be considered as accessible, if not in direct contact with a street or *fire lane*, a minimum 10-foot wide pathway meeting fire department access from the street or *approved fire lane* shall be provided.

(Reason: To define what is considered accessible. Consistent with regional amendment to IFC 503.1.1.)

*****Section 508.2.5, add a sentence at the end of paragraph:**

508.2.5 Separation of incidental accessory occupancies. The incidental accessory occupancies listed in Table 508.2.5 shall be separated from the remainder of the building or equipped with an automatic fire-extinguishing system, or both, in accordance with Table 508.2.5. An incidental accessory occupancy shall be classified in accordance with the occupancy of that portion of the building in which it is located.

{Exception unchanged}

(Reason: To clarify incidental accessory occupancies classified as a portion of the building they are located.)

*****Section 708.2, Exception 7; amend item 7.3 and delete items 7.4 and 7.5 and renumber as follows:**

- 7.1. Does not connect more than two stories.
- 7.2. Is not part of the required means of egress system except as permitted in Section 1022.1.
- 7.3. Is not concealed within the building construction of a wall or a floor/ceiling assemble.
- ~~7.4. Is not open to a *corridor* in Group I and R occupancies.~~
- ~~7.5. Is not open to a *corridor* on nonsprinklered floors in any occupancy.~~
- ~~7.6.~~ 7.4 Is separated from floor openings and air transfer openings serving other floors by construction conforming to required shaft enclosures.
- ~~7.7.~~ 7.5 Is limited to the same smoke compartment.

(Reason: To be consistent with regionally accepted practices and legacy codes.)

*****Section 903.1.1; change to read as follows:**

[F] 903.1.1 Alternative protection. Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems complying with Section 904 shall be permitted in lieu of addition to automatic sprinkler protection where recognized by the applicable standard, or as approved by the fire code official.

(Reason: Such alternative systems do not provide the reliability of automatic sprinkler protection in general. An applicant could pursue an Alternate Method request to help mitigate the reliability issues with these alternative systems with the fire code official if so desired. This also meets with local practices in the region.)

*****Section 903.2; change to read as follows:**

[F] 903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Section 903.2.1 through 903.2.12. Automatic sprinklers shall not be installed in elevator machine rooms, elevator machine spaces, and elevator hoistways. Storage shall not be allowed within the elevator machine room. Signage shall be provided at the entry doors to the elevator machine room indicating "ELEVATOR MACHINERY – NO STORAGE ALLOWED".

Exception: {text of exception deleted}

(Reason: Firefighter safety - this amendment eliminates the shunt trip requirement of the International Building Code Section 3006.5 for the purpose of elevator passenger and firefighter safety. This amendment is contingent on the Building Code amendment eliminating the Exceptions to Section 3006.4, such that passive fire barriers for these areas are maintained. The exception deletion is due to the fact that such telecom areas pose an undue fire risk to the structural integrity of the building. This also meets with local practices in the region.)

****Section 903.2.9; add Section 903.2.9.3 to read as follows:**

[F] 903.2.9.3 Self-service storage facility. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all self-service storage facilities.

Exception: One-story self-service storage facilities that have no interior corridors, with a one-hour fire barrier separation wall installed between every storage compartment.

(Reason: fire departments are unable to inspect these commercial occupancies and are unaware of the contents being stored.)

****Section 903.2.11; amend 903.2.11.3 and add 903.2.11.7 and 903.2.11.8, as follows:**

[F] 903.2.11.3 Buildings 55 feet or more in height. An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be installed throughout buildings with a floor level, ~~other than penthouses in compliance with Section 1509 of the *International Building Code*, having an occupant load of 30 or more~~ that is located 55 feet (16 764 mm) or more above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

Exceptions:

1. ~~Airport control towers.~~
2. ~~Open parking structures in compliance with Section 406.3 of the Building Code.~~
3. ~~Occupancies in Group F-2.~~

{text of Sections 903.2.11.4 through 903.2.11.6 unchanged}

[F] 903.2.11.7 High-Piled Combustible Storage. For any building with a clear height exceeding 12 feet (4572 mm), see Chapter 23 to determine if those provisions apply.

[F] 903.2.11.8 Spray Booths and Rooms. New and existing spray booths and spraying rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system.

****Section 903.2.11; amend 903.2.11.3 and add 903.2.11.7, 903.2.11.8, and 903.2.11.9 as follows:**

[F] 903.2.11.3 Buildings 35 feet or more in height. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout buildings with a floor level, other than penthouses in compliance with Section 1509 of the *International Building Code*, having an occupant load of 30 or more that is located ~~55~~ 35 feet (46-764 ~~10~~ 668mm) or more above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. Airport control towers.~~
- ~~2. Open parking structures in compliance with Section 406.3 of the *International Building Code*.~~
- ~~3. Occupancies in Group F-2.~~

{text of Sections 903.2.11.4 through 903.2.11.6 unchanged}

[F] 903.2.11.7 High-Piled Combustible Storage. For any building with a clear height exceeding 12 feet (4572 mm), see Chapter 23 to determine if those provisions apply.

[F] 903.2.11.8 Spray Booths and Rooms. New and existing spray booths and spraying rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system.

[F] 903.2.11.9 Buildings Over 6,000 sq.ft. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all buildings with a building area over 6,000 sq.ft. For the purpose of this provision, fire walls shall not define separate buildings.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. Open parking garages in compliance with Section 406.3 of the *International Building Code*.~~

(Reason: Reflects regional practices.)

*****Section 903.3.1.1.1; change to read as follows:**

[F] 903.3.1.1.1 Exempt locations. When approved by the fire code official, automatic sprinklers shall not be required in the following rooms or areas where such... *{text unchanged}* ...because it is damp, of fire-resistance-rated construction or contains electrical equipment.

1. Any room where the application of water, or flame and water, constitutes a serious life or fire hazard.
2. Any room or space where sprinklers are considered undesirable because of the nature of the contents, when approved by the code official.
3. Generator and transformer rooms, under the direct control of a public utility, separated from the remainder of the building by walls and floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.
- ~~4. In rooms or areas that are of noncombustible construction with wholly noncombustible contents.~~
5. ~~Fire service access~~ Elevator machine rooms, machinery spaces, and hoistways.

(Reason: Gives more direction to code official. Exception 4 deleted to provide protection where fire risks are poorly addressed. Amendment 903.2 addresses Exception 5 above.)

*****Section 903.3.1.3; add the following:**

[F] 903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. Where allowed, *automatic sprinkler systems* installed in one- and two-family *dwellings* and *townhouses* shall be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D or in accordance with state law.

(Reason: To allow the use of the Plumbing section of the IRC and recognize current state stipulations in this regard.)

Section 903.3.5; add a second paragraph to read as follows:

[F] 903.3.5 Water supplies. Water supplies for *automatic sprinkler systems* shall comply with this section and the standards referenced in Section 903.3.1. The potable water supply shall be protected against backflow in accordance with the requirements of this section and the *International Plumbing Code*.

Water supply as required for such systems shall be provided in conformance with the supply requirements of the respective standards; however, every fire protection system shall be designed with a 10 psi safety factor.

(Reason: To define a uniform safety factor.)

****Section 903.4; add a second paragraph after the exceptions to read as follows:**

Sprinkler and standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow for more than 45 seconds. All control valves in the sprinkler and standpipe systems except for fire department hose connection valves shall be electrically supervised to initiate a supervisory signal at the central station upon tampering.

(Reason: Consistent with amendment to IFC Section 1504.)

Section 903.4.2; add a second paragraph to read as follows:

The alarm device required on the exterior of the building shall be a weatherproof horn/strobe notification appliance with a minimum 75 candela strobe rating, installed as close as practicable to the fire department connection.

(Reason: Fire department connections are not always located at the riser; this allows the fire department faster access.)

****Section 903.6; add Section 903.6.3 to read as follows:**

[F] 903.6.3 Spray booths and rooms. New and existing spray booths and spray rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system in accordance with Section 1504.

Reason: Consistent with amendment to IFC Section 1504.)

****Section 905.2; change to read as follows:**

[F] 905.2 Installation standard. Standpipe systems shall be installed in accordance with this section and NFPA 14. Manual dry standpipe systems shall be supervised with a minimum of 10 psig and a maximum of 40 psig air pressure with a high/low alarm.

(Reason: To define manual dry standpipe supervision requirements.)

****Section 905.3; add Section 905.3.8 with exception to read as follows:**

[F] 905.3.8 Building area. In buildings exceeding 10,000 square feet in area per story, Class I automatic wet or manual wet standpipes shall be provided where any portion of the building's interior area is more than 200 feet (60960 mm) of travel, vertically and horizontally, from the nearest point of fire department vehicle access.

Exception: Automatic dry and semi-automatic dry standpipes are allowed as provided for in NFPA 14.

(Reason: Allows for the rapid deployment of hose lines to the body of the fire.)

*****Section 905.4, item 5; change to read as follows:**

5. Where the roof has a slope less than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33.3-percent slope), each standpipe shall be provided with a two-way hose connection located either... *{remainder of text unchanged}*.

(Reason: Reduced the amount of pressure required to facilitate testing, and provides backup protection for firefighter safety.)

*****Section 905.4; add the following item 7:**

7. When required by this Chapter, standpipe connections shall be placed adjacent to all required exits to the structure and at two hundred feet (200') intervals along major corridors thereafter.

(Reason: Allows for the rapid deployment of hose lines to the body of the fire.)

****Section 905.9; add a second paragraph after the exceptions to read as follows:**

Sprinkler and standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow for more than 45 seconds. All control valves in the sprinkler and standpipe systems except for fire department hose connection valves shall be electrically supervised to initiate a supervisory signal at the central station upon tampering.

(Reason: To avoid significant water losses. Consistent with amendment to IFC Section 903.4.)

*****Section 906.1 {Where required}; change Exception to item 1 as follows:**

Exception: ~~In new and existing Group A, B and E occupancies equipped throughout with quick response sprinklers, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2 through 6.~~ In R-2 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2. through 6. where each dwelling unit is provided with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 1-A:10-B:C.

(Reason: Removing exception reflects regional practice and matches upcoming 2012 edition of IFC. R-2 provision addresses the growing issue of theft and vandalism of such devices in that environment and matches upcoming 2012 edition of IFC.)

*****Section 907.1; add Section 907.1.4 to read as follows:**

[F] 907.1.4 Design Standards. All alarm systems, new or replacement, shall be addressable. Alarm systems serving more than 20 smoke detectors shall be analog addressable.

Exception: Existing systems need not comply unless the total building remodel or expansion initiated after the effective date of this code, as adopted, exceeds 30% of the building. When cumulative building remodel or expansion exceeds 50% of the building, compliance is required within 18 months of permit application.

(Reason: Consistent with local practice and emerging technology. Reduces need for panel replacement in the future.)

*****Section 907.2.1; change to read as follows:**

[F] 907.2.1 Group A. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with new Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group A occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy. Activation of fire alarm notification appliances shall:

1. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot-candle (11 lux) at the walking surface level, and
2. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.

{exception unchanged}

(Reason: Increases the requirement to be consistent with Group B requirement. Also addresses issue found in Group A occupancies of reduced lighting levels and other A/V equipment that distracts from fire alarm notification devices. Also reflects regional practice.)

****Section 907.2.3; change to read as follows:**

[F] 907.2.3 Group E. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E educational occupancies. When *automatic sprinkler systems* or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system. An approved smoke detection system shall be installed in Group E day care occupancies. Unless separated by a minimum of 100' open space, all buildings, whether portable buildings or the main building, will be considered one building for alarm occupant load consideration and interconnection of alarm systems.

(Reason: To distinguish educational from day care occupancy minimum protection requirements. Further, to define threshold at which portable buildings are considered a separate building for the purposes of alarm systems.)

*****Section 907.2.3; change exception 1 and add exception 1.1 to read as follows:**

Exceptions:

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group E educational and day care occupancies with an occupant load of less than 50 when provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system.
 - 1.1. Residential In-Home day care with not more than 12 children may use interconnected single station detectors in all habitable rooms. (For care of more than five children 2 1/2 or less years of age, see Section 907.2.6.)

{remaining exceptions unchanged}

(Reason: Consistent with Texas State laws concerning day care facility requirements.)

****Section 907.2.13; {text unchanged}**

Option A

****Section 907.2.13; change to read as follows:**

[F] 907.2.13 High-rise buildings. Buildings with a floor used for human occupancy located more than ~~75 55~~ feet (~~22 860 16 764~~ mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be provided with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.1, a fire department communication system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.2 and an emergency voice/alarm communication system in accordance with Section 907.6.2.2.

(Reason: To correct definition of high-rise for Option B jurisdictions.)

****Section 907.2.13, Exception 3; change to read as follows:**

3. Buildings with an occupancy in Group A-5 in accordance with Section 303.1 of the *International Building Code*, when used for open air seating; however, this exception does not apply to accessory uses including but not limited to sky boxes, restaurants and similarly enclosed areas.

(Reason: To indicate that enclosed areas within open air seating type occupancies are not exempted from automatic fire alarm system requirements.)

****Section 907.5.2; add Section 907.5.2.6 to read as follows:**

[F] 907.5.2.6 Type. Manual alarm initiating devices shall be an approved double action type.

(Reason: Helps to reduce false alarms. Consistent with regional requirements. {IBC Section 907.4.2.6 - Regional Amendment})

****Section 907.7.1; add Section 907.7.1.1 to read as follows:**

[F] 907.7.1.1 Installation. All fire alarm systems shall be installed in such a manner that a failure of any single initiating device or single open in an initiating circuit conductor will not interfere with the normal operation of other such devices. All initiating circuit conductors shall be Class "A" wired with a minimum of six feet separation between supply and return circuit conductors. IDC – Class "A" Style D; SLC - Class "A" Style 6; NAC - Class "B" Style Y. The IDC from an addressable device used to monitor the status of a suppression system may be wired Class B, Style B provided the distance from the addressable device is within 10-feet of the suppression system device.

(Reason: To provide uniformity in system specifications and guidance to design engineers. Improves reliability of fire alarm devices and systems.)

*****Section 907.7.5; add Section 907.7.5.2 to read as follows:**

[F] 907.7.5.2 Communication Requirements. All alarm systems, new or replacement, shall transmit alarm, supervisory and trouble signals descriptively to the approved central station, remote supervisory station or proprietary supervising station as defined in NFPA 72, with the correct device designation and location of addressable device identification. Alarms shall not be permitted to be transmitted as a General Alarm or Zone condition.

(Reason: To assist responding personnel in locating the emergency event.)

****Section 910.1; change Exception 2 to read as follows:**

2. Where areas of buildings are equipped with early suppression fast-response (ESFR) sprinklers, ~~automatic-only manual~~ smoke and heat vents shall not be required within these areas. Automatic smoke and heat vents are prohibited.

(Reason: Allows the fire department to control the smoke and heat during and after a fire event.)

*****Section 910.2; add Section 910.2.3 with exceptions and 910.2.4 to read as follows:**

910.2.3 Group H. Buildings and portions thereof used as a Group H occupancy as follows:

1. In occupancies classified as Group H-2 or H-3, any of which are more than 15,000 square feet (1394 m²) in single floor area.

Exceptions:

1. Buildings of noncombustible construction containing only noncombustible materials.
2. In areas of buildings in Group H used for storing Class 2, 3 and 4 liquid and solid oxidizers, Class 1 and unclassified detonable organic peroxides, Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials, or Class 2 or 3 water-reactive materials as required for a high-hazard commodity classification.

910.2.4 Exit access travel distance increase. Buildings and portions thereof used as a Group F-1 or S-1 occupancy where the maximum exit access travel distance is increased in accordance with Section 1016.3.

(Reason: Maintain the current level of protection as outlined in the 2003 IFC.)

****Table 910.3; change the title of the first row of the table from “Group F-1 and S-1” to include “Group H” and to read as follows:**

Group H, F-1 and S-1

(Reason: Consistency with the amendment 910.2.4 to include Group H.)

****Section 910.3.2.2; add second paragraph to read as follows:**

The automatic operating mechanism of the smoke and heat vents shall operate at a temperature rating at least 100 degrees F (approximately 38 degrees Celsius) greater than the temperature rating of the sprinklers installed.

(Reason: Specifies a temperature range at which smoke and heat vents should activate in sprinklered buildings to ensure that the sprinkler system has an opportunity to activate and control the fire prior to vent operation.)

***Section 912.2; add Section 912.2.3 to read as follows:

[F] 912.2.3 Hydrant distance. An approved fire hydrant shall be located within 100 feet of the fire department connection as the fire hose lays.

(Reason: Consistent with regional practices.)

**Section 913.1; add second paragraph and exception to read as follows:

When located on the ground level at an exterior wall, the fire pump room shall be provided with an exterior fire department access door that is not less than 3 ft. in width and 6 ft. – 8 in. in height, regardless of any interior doors that are provided. A key box shall be provided at this door, as required by Section 506.1.

Exception: When it is necessary to locate the fire pump room on other levels or not at an exterior wall, the corridor leading to the fire pump room access from the exterior of the building shall be provided with equivalent fire resistance as that required for the pump room, or as approved by the fire code official. Access keys shall be provided in the key box as required by Section 506.1.

(Reason: This requirement allows fire fighters safer access to the fire pump room. The requirement allows access without being required to enter the building and locate the fire pump room interior access door during a fire event. The exception recognizes that this will not always be a feasible design scenario for some buildings, and as such, provides an acceptable alternative to protect the pathway to the fire pump room.)

**Section 1004.1.1; delete exception:

1004.1.1 Areas without fixed seating. The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.1. For areas without fixed seating, the occupant load shall not be less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the occupant per unit of area factor assigned to the occupancy as set forth in Table 1004.1.1. Where an intended use is not listed in Table 1004.1.1, the building official shall establish a use based on a listed use that most nearly resembles the intended use.

~~**Exception:** Where approved by the building official, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation, shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design occupant load.~~

(Reason: Authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) already has this authority. Technical substantiation is required to support deviation from table values.)

***Section 1007.1; add the following Exception 4:

Exceptions:

{previous exceptions unchanged}

4. Buildings regulated under State Law and built in accordance with State registered plans, including any variances or waivers granted by the State, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of Section 1007.

(Reason: To accommodate buildings regulated under Texas State Law and to be consistent with amendments to Chapter 11.)

*****Section 1008.1.9.3; Locks and Latches; add condition as follows:**

1008.1.9.3, Locks and latches. Locks and latches shall... *{text unchanged}*...any of the following exists:

{text of conditions 1 through 3 unchanged}

- 3.1 Where egress doors are used in pairs and positive latching is required, approved automatic flush bolts shall be permitted to be used, provided that both leaves achieve positive latching regardless of the closing sequence and the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts has no doorknobs or surface mounted hardware.

{text of conditions 4 and 5 unchanged}

(Reason: To ensure positive latching.)

*****Section 1008.1.9.4; amend exceptions 3 and 4 as follows:**

Exceptions: *{Text of Exceptions 1 and 2 unchanged}*

3. Where a pair of doors serves an *occupant load* of less than 50 persons in a Group B, F, M or S occupancy, *{remaining text unchanged}*
4. Where a pair of doors serves a Group B, F, M or S occupancy, *{remaining text unchanged}*

(Reason: reflects regional practice.)

*****Section 1008.1.9.8; change to read as follows:**

1008.1.9.8 Electromagnetically locked egress doors. Doors in the *means of egress* that are not otherwise required to have panic hardware in buildings with an occupancy in Group A, B, E, I-1, I-2, M, R-1 or R-2 and doors to tenant spaces in Group A, B, E, I-1, I-2, M, R-1 or R-2 shall be permitted to be electromagnetically locked if equipped with *listed* hardware that incorporates a built-in switch and meet the requirements below: *{remaining text unchanged}*

(Reason: Common regional practice to permit such locks due to the presence of trained staff.)

*****Section 1015; add new section 1015.7 to read as follows:**

1015.7 Electrical Rooms. For electrical rooms, special exiting requirements may apply. Reference the electrical code as adopted.

(Reason: Reference necessary for coordination.)

*****Section 1016; add new section 1016.3 to read as follows:**

1016.3. Roof Vent Increase. In buildings that are one story in height, equipped with automatic heat and smoke roof vents complying with Section 910 and equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the maximum exit access travel distance shall be 400 feet for occupancies in Group F-1 or S-1.

(Reason: Disagree with reason for deletion of Section 1016.2 in 2006 IBC as indicated in ICC E114/07/08 Commentary.)

*****Section 1018.1; add exception 5 to read as follows:**

{previous text unchanged}

5. In Group B office buildings, corridor walls and ceilings need not be of fire-resistive construction within office spaces of a single tenant when the space is equipped with an approved automatic fire alarm system within the corridor. The actuation of any detector shall activate alarms audible in all areas served by the corridor.

(Reason: To reduce redundant requirements in a single tenant situation. Intended to be consistent with regional amendment to IFC. Carried over from 2006 IBC, numbering change.)

*****Section 1018.6; amend to read as follows:**

1018.6, Corridor Continuity. ~~Fire-Resistance-Rated~~ All corridors shall be continuous from the point of entry to an exit, and shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms.

{Exception unchanged}

(Reason: Once in corridor, corridor should not be interrupted or discontinuous.)

*****Section 1022.1; add exceptions 8 and 9 to read as follows:**

{previous text unchanged}

8. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, a maximum of 50 percent of egress stairways serving one adjacent floor are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Any two such interconnected floors shall not be open to other floors.
9. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, interior egress stairways serving only the first and second stories of a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories.

(Reason: To be consistent with regionally accepted practices and legacy codes.)

*****Section 1022.9; {text unchanged}**

Option A

Option B

*****Section 1022.9; amend section to read as follows:**

1022.9. Smokeproof enclosures and pressurized stairways. In buildings required to comply with Section 403 or 405, each of the exit enclosures serving a story with a floor service not more than ~~75 feet (22 860 mm)~~ 55 feet (16 764 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access or more than 30 feet (9 144 mm) below... {remaining text unchanged}

(Reason: To be consistent with changes to high rise provisions in communities following Option B approach.)

Option A

*****Section 1024.1; {text unchanged}**

Option B

*****Section 1024.1; change to read as follows:**

1024.1; General. Approved luminous egress path markings delineating the exit path shall be provided in buildings of Groups A, B, E, I, M and R-1 having occupied floors located more than ~~75 feet (22 860 mm)~~ 55 feet (16 764 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access in accordance with... {Remaining text unchanged }.

(Reason: To be consistent with changes to high rise provisions in communities following Option B approach.)

*****Section 1026.6; amend exception 4 to read as follows:**

Exceptions: {Exceptions 1 through 3 unchanged}

3. Separation from the ~~interior~~ open-ended corridors of the building... {remaining text unchanged}

(Reason: To clarify that Section 1022.6, i.e., the 180 degree rule is applicable.)

*****Section 1101.2; add an exception to read as follows:**

Exception: Buildings regulated under State Law and built in accordance with State registered plans, including any variances or waivers granted by the State, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Chapter.

(Reason: To accommodate buildings regulated under Texas State law.)

****Table 1505.1; replace footnotes b and c with the following:**

~~b. All individual replacement shingles or shakes shall be in compliance with the rating required by this table.~~

eb. Non-classified roof coverings shall be permitted on buildings of U occupancies having not more than 120 sq.ft. of projected roof area. When exceeding 120 sq.ft of projected roof area, buildings of U occupancies may use non-rated non-combustible roof coverings.

(Reason: Conforms to regional practice affording increased fire protection.)

****Section 1505.7; delete the section.**

(Reason: Conforms to regional practice.)

****Section 1510.1; add a sentence to read as follows:**

1510.1 General. Materials and methods of applications used for recovering or replacing an existing roof covering shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 15. All individual replacement shingles or shakes shall be in compliance with the rating required by Table 1505.1.

{text of exception unchanged}

(Reason: Relocated the text to more appropriate place. Previously was footnote "b" to Table 1505.1)

****Section 2308.4; add Section 2308.4.3 to read as follows:**

2308.4.3 Application to engineered design. When accepted by the Building Official, any portion of this section is permitted to apply to buildings that are otherwise outside the limitations of this section provided that:

1. The resulting design will comply with the requirements specified in Chapter 16;
2. The load limitations of various elements of this section are not exceeded; and
3. The portions of this section which will apply are identified by an engineer in the construction documents.

(Reason: Allows engineer to reference Section 2308 for designs for wood structures like four story apartment buildings; eliminates excessive engineering. Added text relocated to a more appropriate section.)

****Section 2901.1; add a sentence to read as follows:**

[P] 2901.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter and the... *{text unchanged}* ...conform to the International Private Sewage Disposal Code. The provisions of this Chapter are meant to work in coordination with the provisions of Chapter 4 of the International Plumbing Code. Should any conflicts arise between the two chapters, the Building Official shall determine which provision applies.

(Reason: Gives building official discretion.)

****Section 2902.1; change to read as follows and add sub sections:**

[P]2902.1 Minimum number of fixtures. Plumbing fixtures shall be provided for the type of occupancy and in the minimum number as follows:

1. Assembly Occupancies: At least one drinking fountain shall be provided at each floor level in an approved location.

Exception: A drinking fountain need not be provided in a drinking or dining establishment.

2. Groups A, B, F, H, I, M and S Occupancies: Buildings or portions thereof where persons are employed shall be provided with at least one water closet for each sex except as provided for in Section 2902.2.
3. Group E Occupancies: Shall be provided with fixtures as shown in Table 2902.1.
4. Group R Occupancies: Shall be provided with fixtures as shown in Table 2902.1.

It is recommended, but not required, that the minimum number of fixtures provided also comply with the number shown in Table 2902.1. Types of occupancies not shown in Table 2902.1 shall be considered individually by the *building official*. The number of occupants shall be determined by this code. Occupancy classification shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 3.

(Reason: To allow flexibility for designer to consider specific occupancy needs.)

*****Section 2902.2; change Exception 3 as follows:**

3. Separate facilities shall not be required in mercantile occupancies in which the maximum occupant load is ~~50~~ 100 or less.

(Reason: Reflects regional practice.)

*****Section 3006.1; add Section 3006.1 to read as follows and renumber remaining sections:**

3006.1, General. Elevator machine rooms shall be provided.”

{Renumber remaining sections.}

(Reason: An elevator machine room is necessary to provide a protected space for elevator equipment that is used by the fire service, the disabled, and in the future, building occupant evacuations.)

*****Section 3006.4 {3006.5 if previous amendment adopted}; add a sentence to read as follows and delete exceptions 1 and 2:**

[E] 3006.4. Machine Rooms: *{text unchanged}*... Storage shall not be allowed within the elevator machine room. Provide approved signage at each entry door to the elevator machine room stating “Elevator Machinery – No Storage Allowed.”

(Reason: To enforce what is permitted in such spaces now that fire sprinklers are no longer provided. The reduction and or elimination of the fire barriers should not also be permitted with the recent removal of fire sprinklers from these areas. See Reference F96-07/08 from ICC hearings.)

*****Section 3109.1; change to read as follows:**

3109.1 General. Swimming pools shall comply with the requirements of this section and other applicable sections of this code as well as also complying with applicable state laws.

(Reason: to recognize "state requirements".)

END