

Penalty was due to the unabated violations at reinspection and was not based on the unabated screening violations at the time of reinspection. *Romano v. Department of Community Affairs*, 93 N.J.A.R. 2d (CAF) 49.

Inspection report and issuance of green card in 1983 did not prevent the enforcement of requirements for installation of self-closing/self-locking doors and installation of doorbells. *Department of Community Affairs v. Bistricher*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 43.

Landlords' failure to correct code violations; imposition of fine. 142 Mill Street, Paterson, New Jersey (Bonafield) v. Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 31.

Rapid abatement efforts following citation; reduction in fine. N.J.S.A. 55:13A-6(g). *Bajjnath v. Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 30.

Failure to abate violations of the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law justified monetary penalty. 17-19 Calhoun Street v. Department of Community Affairs, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 15.

Owner of apartment buildings was subject to penalties of \$21,550 for continuing violations of Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law. *Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection v. Salsburg*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 91.

Violations unabated as of reinspection date were not deemed abated by subsequent action. *Bureau of Housing Inspection v. 1000-58 Cincinnati Ave., Egg Harbor City*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 51.

Penalty for failure to timely correct building code violations would not be reduced by prior repairs. N.J.S.A. 55:13A-19. *22 South Illinois Ave. v. Department of Community Affairs*, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 7.

Smoke detector compliance; penalty for failure to install in common areas; penalty policy unenforceable as not promulgated as a rule. *Bureau of Housing Inspection v. Roger Gardens, Inc.*, 5 N.J.A.R. 120 (1983).

#### 5:10-1.4 Scope

(a) This chapter shall apply to the repair, maintenance, occupancy and use of new and existing hotels, retreat lodging facilities and multiple dwellings in the State of New Jersey.

(b) A building section containing not more than four dwelling units shall not be considered to be a portion of a multiple dwelling if it:

1. Is held under a condominium or cooperative form of ownership or by a mutual housing corporation;
2. Has no dwelling units not occupied by unit owners, if a condominium, or by shareholders, if a cooperative or mutual housing corporation.
  - i. If there are both owner-occupied units and units that are not owner-occupied within a building section, then the owner-occupied units within that building section, and only the owner-occupied units, shall be considered not to be portions of a multiple dwelling.
  - ii. The condominium association or cooperative or mutual housing corporation shall provide the Bureau with any information necessary to justify an exemption for a dwelling unit or building section pursuant to this paragraph.

3. Has at least two exterior walls unattached to any adjoining building section; and

4. Is attached to any adjoining building sections exclusively by fire separation walls having a 1½ hour minimum fire resistant rating, in the case of buildings constructed prior to January 1, 1977, or as required by the State Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, at the time of construction.

Amended by R.1983 d.156, effective May 16, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 375(a), 15 N.J.R. 803(a).

Added (b).

Amended by R.1983 d.388, effective September 19, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1054(b), 15 N.J.R. 1576(a).

Added "fire separation walls housing 1 ½ hour resistant rating" to (b)4.

Amended by R.1998 d.425, effective August 17, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1462(b), 30 N.J.R. 3068(a).

In (b), substituted "four" for "two" preceding "dwelling" in the introductory paragraph, substituted "Is in a building that has no occupied" for "Has" at the beginning of 2, and rewrote 4.

Amended by R.2000 d.325, effective August 7, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 1891(a), 32 N.J.R. 2863(a).

In (a), deleted references to demolition and to removal, and inserted a reference to retreat lodging facilities; and rewrote (b)2.

#### Case Notes

Ordinance valid requiring certificate of substantial compliance accompany rent increase application. *Orange Taxpayers Council, Inc. v. Orange*, 83 N.J. 246, 416 A.2d 353 (1980).

Violation of maintenance regulation evidence of negligence in action against landlord for injuries. *Trentacost v. Brussel*, 82 N.J. 214, 412 A.2d 436 (1980).

#### 5:10-1.5 Interpretation

(a) This chapter shall be liberally interpreted to secure the beneficial purposes thereof.

(b) Any conflict or inconsistency between the requirements of these regulations and applicable local and Federal laws and regulations shall be resolved in favor of the more restrictive requirements.

(c) Whenever any standard or code is referred to in this chapter the most recent edition of such standard or code shall be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference, notwithstanding the fact that such edition may have been published subsequent to enactment of the regulation in which the reference to such standard or code is contained.

Administrative Correction to (b).

See: 22 N.J.R. 921(a).

#### 5:10-1.6 Maintenance requirements

(a) All buildings and all parts thereof shall be maintained as required by this chapter and by the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70.

(b) All service equipment, means of egress, devices, and safeguards that are required in a building by the provisions of these regulations, or that were required by the law when the

building was erected, altered, or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order.

(c) The owner shall be responsible at all times for the safe maintenance of the building and its facilities as prescribed in this chapter.

(d) A nonprofit corporation owning or controlling buildings of three stories or less in a retirement community, which are excluded from the definition of "multiple dwelling" pursuant to P.L. 1983, c.154, shall maintain all such buildings in compliance with the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70.

(e) All buildings in compliance with the Uniform Fire Code shall be deemed to be in compliance with the Act insofar as issues of fire safety are concerned.

(f) Where not otherwise indicated, all rules in this chapter that are applicable to hotels shall be applicable to retreat lodging facilities except as follows:

1. N.J.A.C. 5:10-19.1(a)1 and 2; and
2. Any regulation that is not substantially related to the protection of the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the facility or of the public generally.

Recodified April 9, 1981 from N.J.A.C. 5:10-1.22.

Amended by R.1983 d.388, effective September 19, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1054(b), 15 N.J.R. 1576(a).

Added (d).

Amended by R.1988 d.572, effective December 19, 1988 (operative June 16, 1989).

See: 20 N.J.R. 2126(a), 20 N.J.R. 3122(a).

Added text to (a) and (d) "and by the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:18"; added (e).

Amended by R.1990 d.230, effective May 7, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 275(b), 22 N.J.R. 1354(a).

Application of rules extended to cover retreat lodging facilities.

Amended by R.1993 d.464, effective September 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 2627(a), 25 N.J.R. 4482(a).

Administrative change.

See: 31 N.J.R. 35(a).

#### Case Notes

Under the Hotel and Multiple Dwellings Law and implementing regulations, the building owner's obligation is not only to make smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms available to tenants, but to install them and then make sure on an ongoing basis that they remain installed and operative; tenants who refuse to comply should be advised that such refusal violates the law and constitutes grounds for eviction. *Nostrame v. Dep't of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection*, OAL Dkt. No. CAF 05703-02 and CAF 11012-03 (On Remand), 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 846, Final Decision (August 4, 2007).

#### 5:10-1.7 Force and effect of regulations

This chapter shall have the force and effect of law until revised, repealed, or amended by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and shall be enforced by the Commissioner pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 55:13A-1 et seq.

#### Case Notes

Regulations have full force and effect of law pursuant to statute. *Trentacost v. Brussel*, 82 N.J. 214, 412 A.2d 436 (1980).

#### 5:10-1.8 Matters covered

(a) The provisions of this chapter shall cover all matters affecting or relating to buildings, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:10-1.4, and shall extend to all hotels and multiple dwellings and their appurtenant constructions, together with all surface and subsurface construction.

(b) Any matter or requirement essential for the fire or structural safety of a new or existing building or essential for the safety or health of the occupants or users thereof or the public, and which is not covered by the provisions of this chapter shall be the subject of determination by the Bureau of Housing Inspection in specific cases.

Administrative Correction to (b).

See: 22 N.J.R. 921(a).

#### 5:10-1.9 Continuation of lawful existing use

The lawful occupancy and use of any building may be continued unless a change is specifically required by the provisions of this chapter.

#### 5:10-1.10 Bureau inspections

(a) The Bureau of Housing Inspection or an authorized representative in the discharge of their duties shall have authority to enter upon and examine and inspect at all reasonable times any building, enclosure, or premises, or any part thereof or service equipment attached thereto or contained therein for the purpose of determining compliance with the provisions of this chapter. Officers and employees of the Bureau of Housing Inspection in the discharge of their duties, shall identify themselves by exhibiting their authority in writing signed by the Commissioner.

(b) The Bureau of Housing Inspection shall cause inspections to be made periodically of completed buildings. Each multiple dwelling and each hotel shall be inspected once in every five years.

(c) All inspection reports submitted to the Bureau shall be in writing and signed by the inspector making the inspection and a record of all inspections shall be kept by the Bureau of Housing Inspection.

(d) Inspection of private living quarters shall require the consent of the occupant of the premises, except as hereunder described:

1. In case of emergencies where facts known to Bureau of Housing Inspection personnel or statements of persons having personal knowledge thereof indicate that conditions exist on any premises subject to the jurisdiction of the Bureau which are either an immediate threat to the safety or health of persons using or in near proximity to the premises or of such a nature that the delay necessary to secure a warrant would render the inspection of no value in confirming the existence of the suspected violation, an inspection may be demanded and, if possible without the

(d) In the event that no special meeting is called, each member of the Board shall individually submit to the Director such comments and recommendations as he may have within 30 days of his receipt of a copy of the proposed regulations. Upon receipt of any member's comments and recommendations, the Director shall promptly provide copies thereof to all other members.

#### Case Notes

Former regulation regarding use group classifications for hotels applied to school dormitories. *Blair Academy v. Sheehan*, 149 N.J.Super. 113, 373 A.2d 418 (App.Div.1977).

### SUBCHAPTER 4. DUTIES OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS

#### 5:10-4.1 Concurrent responsibilities

(a) Owners, including agents of owners, managing agents and superintendents shall have the general duties outlined herein for the maintenance of the premises, and no such person shall be relieved from any such responsibility hereunder by reason of the fact that an occupant or other person shall have similar responsibilities or shall have failed to report any violation, nor shall any such person be relieved of any responsibility by the terms or provisions of any lease, contract or agreement.

(b) Occupants, and to the extent provided herein, members of their families, or other persons living on the premises shall have the general duties outlined herein for occupants for the maintenance of the premises, and no such person shall be relieved from any such responsibility by reason of the fact that any owner or operator shall have similar responsibilities, nor shall any person be relieved of any responsibility by the terms or provisions of any contract, lease or agreement.

(c) In any premises subject to either the Horizontal Property Act (N.J.S.A. 46:8A-1 et seq.) or the Condominium Act (N.J.S.A. 46:8B-1 et seq.), the council of co-owners or condominium association, as the case may be, shall have the duties of an owner as set forth in these regulations. However, any such council or association shall only be required to abate those violations which pertain either to the common areas or common elements or which it has the right, pursuant to contract or otherwise, to require the owner of the individual dwelling unit to abate. Owners of individual dwelling units shall be responsible for the abatement of violations and for the maintenance of records pertaining only to each such unit; provided, however, that the responsibilities of the dwelling unit owner and of the council or association may be concurrent.

1. It shall be the duty of the council of co-owners or association, as the case may be, to forward a notice for

payment of the \$20.00 inspection fee set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:10-1.12(h)4 to the unit owner and to identify those tenant-occupied units known to the association prior to the five-year cyclical inspection.

Amended by R.2005 d.144, effective May 16, 2005.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2106(a), 37 N.J.R. 1754(c).

In (c), inserted "and for the maintenance of records" following "abatement of violations" in the introductory paragraph, added 1.

#### Case Notes

Under the Hotel and Multiple Dwellings Law and implementing regulations, it is the obligation of the building owner to make sure a tenant's installation of a double-keyed lock is corrected; the building owner must advise the tenant that the lock is a violation of the regulations and that failure to correct it will constitute grounds for eviction, and the same advice must be given to tenants who remove or tamper with smoke detectors or carbon monoxide alarms. *Nostrame v. Dep't of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection*, OAL Dkt. No. CAF 05703-02 and CAF 11012-03, 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 846, Final Decision (August 4, 2007).

Owner of leased premises responsible for fines due to building code violations affirmed. *Department of Community Affairs, Division of Code and Standards, Bureau of Housing Inspection v. One Hundred One Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park, Moriarty (D & Z Realty)*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 85.

Owner of multiple dwelling required to maintain in accordance with regulations; penalty policy unenforceable as not promulgated as a rule. *Bureau of Housing Inspection v. Roger Gardens, Inc.*, 5 N.J.A.R. 120 (1983).

Under former N.J.A.C. 5:10-19.2, common elements to be repaired by condominium association following code violations include wiring and plumbing in dwelling units and smoke detector installation; repair assessment to owners permitted. *Florence Condominium Assn. v. Bureau of Housing Inspection*, 5 N.J.A.R. 5 (1983).

#### 5:10-4.2 Discontinuation of services

(a) No person shall intentionally cause any service, facility, equipment or utility which is required to be supplied under this chapter to be removed, shut off or discontinued, or knowingly allow such condition to continue, when the condition affects any occupied unit of dwelling space.

1. This section shall not be applicable to such temporary interruption as may be necessary when actual repairs or alterations are in process or during temporary emergencies when discontinuance of services is caused by any public utility or public agency or is approved by the bureau.

(b) In the event of any discontinuation of services, repairs shall be performed expeditiously to minimize inconvenience to occupants and, to the greatest extent possible, temporary or alternate service shall be provided until permanent service can be restored.

New Rule, R.1981 d.95, effective April 9, 1981.

See: 12 N.J.R. 383(d), 13 N.J.R. 189(d).

Amended by R.1993 d.464, effective September 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 2627(a), 25 N.J.R. 4482(a).

## SUBCHAPTER 5. DUTIES OF OCCUPANTS

**5:10-5.1 Responsibility of occupants**

(a) An occupant shall in addition to complying with all provisions of this chapter applicable to him, be responsible for violations of this chapter to the extent that he has the power to prevent the occurrence of a violation or assist in abating the violation. An occupant has the power to prevent the occurrence of a violation if:

1. It is caused by his own willful act or the willful act of a member of his family or household, or of his guest; or

2. It is the result of his gross negligence, neglect or abuse, or the gross negligence, neglect or abuse of a member of his family or household, or his guest.

(b) The occupant, any member of his family or household, or his guest shall, with respect to the public parts of the premises, be liable if a violation is caused by his own willful act, gross negligence, neglect or abuse.

(c) Every occupant of each unit of dwelling space shall give the owner thereof or his agent or employees access to any part of the unit of dwelling space upon reasonable notification, which under ordinary circumstances shall be one day for multiple dwellings, except immediately for hotels, for the purpose of making such inspection and such repairs or alterations as are necessary to effect compliance with the law and this chapter. In case of safety or structural emergencies immediate access shall be given.

(d) All items stored by occupants in any area provided for common storage by occupants of more than one unit of dwelling space shall bear the name and dwelling unit number of the occupant storing the said item or items. It shall be the responsibility of the occupant to label each item and maintain it labeled. Materials stored in such areas shall be secured against becoming sources of infestation and shall not be placed so as to create a hazard.

Amended by R.1993 d.464, effective September 20, 1993.  
See: 25 N.J.R. 2627(a), 25 N.J.R. 4482(a).

**5:10-5.2 Reporting of violations**

Upon discovery by an occupant of any conditions on the premises, failure of service, or defect in any equipment, which constitutes a violation hereof, the occupant shall report same promptly to the owner or to the superintendent having charge of the premises.

**5:10-5.3 Prohibited acts**

(a) No occupant or other person shall:

1. Create or maintain any condition constituting a violation of the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70;

2. Take down, obscure, alter, destroy, or in any way deface any notice, certificate or sign required by this chapter to be displayed; or

3. Destroy or damage protective equipment.

Amended by R.1993 d.464, effective September 20, 1993.  
See: 25 N.J.R. 2627(a), 25 N.J.R. 4482(a).  
Administrative change.  
See: 31 N.J.R. 35(a).

**5:10-5.4 Unsafe and unsanitary conditions**

(a) Occupants shall place all garbage within the receptacles provided for garbage disposal. Where janitorial service is not required, they shall place all containers with sufficient frequency to avoid an insanitary accumulation in the exterior area or areas set aside for the same. Garbage, rubbish and other refuse shall not be thrown out of windows or down dumbwaiters, nor shall garbage and refuse be set out on stairways or fire escapes or in common hallways.

(b) Occupants of each unit of dwelling space shall be responsible to the extent of their own use and activities for keeping the interior thereof safe and sanitary. Occupants shall prevent any accumulation of garbage or waste matter which may become a source of infestation.

(c) Every occupant shall maintain all plumbing fixtures used by him in a clean and sanitary condition, shall not deposit any material in any fixture or sewer system which would cause stoppage of or damage to properly maintained fixture or sewer systems and shall be responsible for the exercise of reasonable care in the proper use and operation of such fixtures.

(d) Occupants shall not damage, remove or destroy screens needed for the building.

(e) Every occupant of any unit of dwelling space shall be responsible for removing conditions resulting from the occupants own activities or which may result in infestation conditions which are subject to and under his exclusive control.

(f) No occupant shall cause excessive grease, soot or other foreign matter to accumulate on side walls, ceilings or other exposed room surfaces by improper use of heating or cooking equipment. Cooking equipment shall be kept clean, free of garbage, food particles and grease.

Amended by R.1993 d.464, effective September 20, 1993.  
See: 25 N.J.R. 2627(a), 25 N.J.R. 4482(a).

**5:10-5.5 Willful damage**

Every occupant shall be liable for willfully or maliciously causing damage to any part of the premises which results in a violation of this chapter. Any adult occupants shall be responsible and liable for any violation of this section caused by minors under their care or custody occupying the same unit of dwelling space if the violations were created or permitted to

A tenant should never remove or tamper with a window guard. A tenant should regularly check window guards to make sure that they have not become loose or damaged in any way. If there is a problem that the owner or maintenance person fails or refuses to fix within a reasonable time after being told about it, the tenant can contact the municipal housing or building department or the Bureau of Housing Inspection of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (609-633-6210). The tenant should contact the Bureau of Housing Inspection if the owner fails or refuses to provide and install a window guard after receiving a written request from the tenant.

*How much can a tenant be required to pay for installation of a window guard?*

By law, the owner of an apartment can charge a tenant no more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each window guard that the tenant asks in writing to have installed in the tenant's apartment.

*How can a tenant get window guards removed?*

The owner of an apartment must remove a window guard when requested to do so by the tenant in writing. The tenant should be sure that window guards are no longer needed before asking that they be removed. Window guards should not be removed by tenants.

*Who is responsible for providing and maintaining window guards in a building that is a condominium, a cooperative or mutual housing?*

In a condominium, cooperative or mutual housing multiple dwelling, the owner of the apartment is responsible for providing and maintaining window guards in the apartment. The association is responsible for providing and maintaining window guards on windows in the hallways. A tenant who wants to have window guards installed both in the apartment and in the hallways must make written requests both to the apartment owner and to the association.

*Who can answer additional questions about the window guard law and rules?*

Any tenant or owner who has questions about the law and rules concerning window guards can call the Bureau of Housing Inspection of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (609-633-6210).

New Rule, R.2007 d.40, effective February 5, 2007.  
See: 38 N.J.R. 3947(a), 39 N.J.R. 363(b).

## SUBCHAPTER 28. CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

### 5:10-28.1 Carbon monoxide alarms

(a) Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed and maintained in full operating condition in the following locations:

1. Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed and maintained in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area in every guestroom or dwelling unit in buildings that contain a fuel-burning appliance or that have an attached garage.

2. As an alternative to the requirements in (a)1 above, carbon monoxide alarms may be installed in the locations specified in the Uniform Construction Code (N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.20). A copy of the certificate of approval issued by the local construction code enforcing agency shall be provided to the Bureau at the time of installation, at or after the time of inspection, or at any other time, as proof of installation, in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code.

(b) Carbon monoxide alarms shall be manufactured, listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of this subchapter and NFPA 720. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be battery operated, hard-wired or of the plug-in type.

(c) At the request of a tenant of a multiple dwelling unit in which a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired resides, the owner shall provide and install a visual alarm type carbon monoxide detector for that unit.

Amended by R.2005 d.173, effective June 6, 2005.  
See: 37 N.J.R. 379(a), 37 N.J.R. 2012(b).

In (a), rewrote 2.

Amended by R.2006 d.74, effective February 21, 2006.  
See: 37 N.J.R. 3877(a), 38 N.J.R. 1182(a).

Added (c).

#### Case Notes

Under the Hotel and Multiple Dwellings Law and implementing regulations, the building owner's obligation is not only to make smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms available to tenants, but to install them and then make sure on an ongoing basis that they remain installed and operative; tenants who refuse to comply should be advised that such refusal violates the law and constitutes grounds for eviction. *Nostrame v. Dep't of Community Affairs, Bureau of Housing Inspection, OAL Dkt. No. CAF 05703-02 and CAF 11012-03 (On Remand), 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 846, Final Decision (August 4, 2007).*