

Amended by R.1989 d.556, effective November 6, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 2431(a), 21 N.J.R. 3453(a).

Added definitions for "guest house" and "K-12 educational building"; added definitions 1.-18. under "Use" or "Use Group".

Amended by R.1991 d.359, effective July 15, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1235(a), 23 N.J.R. 2122(b).

Uniform Fire Safety Act definitions incorporated by reference; definition of fire inspector added; definition of fire official amended.

Amended by R.1992 d.104, effective March 2, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3552(a), 24 N.J.R. 739(a).

School dormitories added to definition of use.

Amended by R.1992 d.385, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2654(a), 24 N.J.R. 3519(a).

Definitions for hardware store, Use Group F-1 and Use Group F-2 added.

Amended by R.1992 d.405, effective October 19, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1938(a), 24 N.J.R. 3723(b).

Use Group A-2 amended to including eating/drinking establishments where load exceeds seats by 30%.

Amended by R.1993 d.197, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 393(a), 25 N.J.R. 1868(a).

Added definitions of gross and net floor area and lumber.

Amended by R.1993 d.628, effective December 6, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4363(a), 25 N.J.R. 5466(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Amended by R.1995 d.59, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4249(a), 27 N.J.R. 891(a).

Case Notes

Multiple dwelling with seven stories on one side and six stories on the other was "high-rise structure". Mahmood H. Choudhury-Park Royal Apartments v. Bureau of Fire Safety, State Dept. of Community Affairs, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 46.

5:18-1.6 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Formerly "Operative date".

5:18-1.7 Severability

(a) If any provision of the Code or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Code which can be given effect and to this end the provisions of the Code are severable.

SUBCHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

5:18-2.1 Enforcement authority

(a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the agency having jurisdiction in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18A-2.2 to enforce the provisions of this Code as set forth herein.

1. Where no local enforcing agency has been created the Division shall enforce the provisions of this Code for life hazard uses or whenever conditions which constitute an imminent hazard are found to exist.

(b) The local enforcing agency shall inspect all premises, except owner-occupied detached Use Group R-3 structures used exclusively for dwelling purposes. These inspections shall be made in accordance with the schedule contained in the Code, when required under any cyclical inspection program and as often as may be necessary for the purpose of

ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, contribute to the spread of fire, interfere with fire operations, endanger life or any conditions constituting violations of the provisions or intent of this Code or a locally adopted amendment. Except in the case of cyclical inspection programs or other good cause, inspections shall not include occupied dwelling units.

(c) Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this Code, or whenever the fire official or his or her authorized representative has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any or upon any premises any condition which makes such building or premises unsafe, the fire official or his or her authorized representative may enter such premises, at all reasonable times to inspect the same or to perform any duty imposed upon the fire official by this code, provided that if such premises be occupied, he or she shall first present proper credentials and demand entry; and if such premises be unoccupied, he or she shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other persons having charge or control of the premises and demand entry.

1. No owner or occupant or any other persons having charge, care or control of any premises shall fail or neglect, after proper request is made as herein provided, to promptly permit entry therein by the fire official or his or her authorized representative for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this Code. If the owner or occupant denies entry, the fire official or his or her authorized representative shall obtain a proper warrant or other remedy provided by law to secure entry.

Amended by R.1993 d.628, effective December 6, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4363(a), 25 N.J.R. 5466(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Case Notes

Abatement of violation; failure to install fire suppression system. Lee's Emergency Equipment v. Department of Community Affairs, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 39.

5:18-2.2 Responsibility for compliance

(a) The owner shall be responsible for the safe and proper maintenance of the premises at all times.

(b) Owners of premises which are, or which contain, one or more uses subject to this Code, shall have concurrent responsibility with the owners of any such uses for compliance with the Code. No person shall be required to abate any violations which he has no power to abate or to require to be abated. If a violation is served on an owner who cannot comply due to lack of authority, within five days of receipt of the notice of violation, the owner shall either provide notice of the violation to the party with authority or inform the fire official of such party's name and address.

(c) If an occupant of a premises creates conditions in violation of this Code, by virtue of storage, handling and use of substances, materials, devices and appliances, the occupant can be held responsible for the abatement of said hazardous conditions.

(d) A person shall be deemed to have violated or caused to have violated a provision of this Code if an officer, agent or employee under his control and with his knowledge has violated or caused to have violated any of the provisions of this Code.

(e) Subsequent owners or those succeeding to control over the premises shall be responsible for correcting unabated violations and for the payment of outstanding fees and/or penalties whether or not they have requested a certificate of fire code status.

1. Upon request of the owner, contract purchaser, transferee or the authorized agent of any of them, the enforcing agency having jurisdiction over the premises shall issue a certificate either indicating that violations exist or that fees and/or penalties remain outstanding according to its records, or which states that its records indicate that no violations remain unabated and no penalties or fees remain unpaid. Upon request, the agency shall provide copies of the violations list and penalty orders.

2. Fees for the issuance of certificates of fire code status shall be as follows:

i. In any jurisdiction in which the Division of Fire Safety serves as the local enforcing agency, there shall be no charge for the first two certificates requested in any month period by an owner who is current in payment of applicable life hazard or non-life hazard fees. Thereafter, or if an owner has not made such payment, a notation to that effect shall be made on the bill and the requestor shall be charged a fee for the issuance of the certificate in the amount of \$35.00.

ii. The fire official of a local enforcing agency other than the Division of Fire Safety may establish a reasonable fee for the issuance of a certificate of fire code status.

Amended by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.
See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

5:18-2.3 Certificate of smoke detector compliance

(a) Before any Use Group R-3 structure is sold, leased, or otherwise made subject to a change of occupancy for residential purposes, the owner shall obtain a certificate of smoke detector compliance (CSDC), evidencing compliance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19, from the appropriate enforcing agency.

1. Where a municipality has existing inspection or approval requirements under a property maintenance or other municipal code, the agency responsible for the enforcement of that code shall not issue any certificate of inspection or occupancy or other approval under such municipal code until it has determined, in accordance with (d) below, that the dwelling complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19.

2. Where no municipal inspection or approval requirement exists, the agency responsible for enforcement of the Uniform Fire Safety Act shall be responsible for the issuance of the CSDC.

i. The Department, where it serves as the enforcing agency, may, upon application by a local fire department, delegate to that fire department the responsibility and authority for issuance of the CSDC within the municipality, or portion of a municipality, served by that fire department.

(b) The owner, or the authorized agent of the owner, shall apply for a CSDC on a form provided by the enforcing agency. The application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:18-2.8.

(c) A CSDC shall not be transferable. If the change of occupancy specified in the application for a CSDC does not occur within six months, a new application shall be required.

1. The enforcing agency may issue a CSDC for a seasonal rental unit for a period of up to 12 months, regardless of the number or frequency of changes in tenancy.

(d) No CSDC shall be issued until inspection of the structure indicates compliance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19, except as provided in (d)1 below.

1. The enforcing agency, unless it is otherwise required to inspect the structure under a property maintenance or other municipal code, may accept, in lieu of inspection, a certification that one or more smoke detectors, as applicable, have been installed and tested in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19. Such certification shall be upon forms provided by the enforcing agency.

New Rule, R.1992 d.11, effective January 6, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3064(a), 24 N.J.R. 88(a).

Amended by R.1993 d.197, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 393(a), 25 N.J.R. 1868(a).

Added provision to delegate authority to issue smoke detector compliance certificates.

Recodified from 5:18-2.20 and amended by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Prior text at 5:18-2.3, Variances, recodified as 5:18-2.14.

5:18-2.4 Scope and classification of life hazard uses

(a) The premises and uses identified as life hazard uses shall be divided into four basic groups designated as types "A", "B", "C", and "D." The premises and uses included in each of these types are set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:18-2.4A, 2.4B, 2.4C and 2.4D, respectively. This designation is for reference purposes only and shall not be determinative of the degree of hazard associated with them. Within each group, the various uses shall be specifically identified or described and subdivided by the use of lower case letters.