

(b) All buildings for which requirements are established in this subchapter shall be in compliance with such applicable requirements of this subchapter, unless a date for compliance is set forth in this subchapter.

1. Use Group R-3 structures used exclusively for dwelling purposes shall not be subject to any requirements of this subchapter other than N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19.

Amended by R.1987 d.247, effective June 15, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1225(a), 19 N.J.R. 1078(a).

(c), (d), and (e) added. Correction to rule, see July 6, 1987 Register at 19 N.J.R. 1190(a).

Amended by R.1987 d.388, effective October 5, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 1263(a), 19 N.J.R. 1792(a).

Deleted text in (d)1 "which are classified ... Uniform Construction Code" and substituted "used exclusively for ... three dwelling units".

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

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

At (b) cross referenced definitions; at (c)7 established date of applicability and deleted 12 and renumbered 13-15 as 12-14 and referenced dates for compliance in (d).

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

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

Text at (b) and (c) deleted; text at (d) recodified to (b).

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).

5:18-4.2 Compliance with the State Fire Prevention Code and other fire safety regulations

(a) The requirements established by this subchapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of, requirements established by the State Fire Prevention Code (N.J.A.C. 5:18-3).

(b) All buildings which are specifically listed as under the scope of this subchapter as denoted in N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.1 and which are subject to requirements previously established including, without limitation, any requirement of the State Fire Prevention Code (N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.1 et seq.), shall be in compliance with those requirements as of the effective date of this subchapter and shall remain in compliance throughout the life of the structure.

(c) All buildings which are not specifically listed as under the scope of this subchapter as denoted in N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.1 shall continue to be subject to the provisions of applicable existing fire safety requirements as promulgated by the State or local agency having jurisdiction and shall remain in compliance with those requirements throughout the life of the structure.

(d) Existing fire suppression and detection systems that were installed in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code, the Uniform Fire Code or which met the intent of the applicable NFPA standards at the time of installation shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this Code, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Code.

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

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

5:18-4.3 Relationship to Uniform Construction Code

(a) A building in full compliance with the subcodes adopted pursuant to the Uniform Construction Code Act and regulations in force at the time of its construction and possessing a valid certificate of occupancy shall not be required to conform to the more restrictive requirements established by this subchapter.

1. Exception: The requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.19 shall apply to all Use Group R-3 structures other than newly-constructed buildings at the time of initial occupancy, regardless of their state of compliance with the Uniform Construction Code or any other code.

(b) A building in full compliance with the current fire safety requirements of the Uniform Construction Code, as determined by the construction official with the concurrence of the fire subcode official and in consultation with the fire official, shall not be required to conform to more restrictive requirements established by this subchapter.

1. A determination as to whether a Uniform Construction Code requirement involves fire safety shall, in a disputed case, be determined by the Division of Codes and Standards after consultation with the Division of Fire Safety, the construction official and the fire official and, if necessary, with the concurrence of the Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs, responsible for overseeing the Divisions of Fire Safety and Codes and Standards.

2. For purposes of this subsection, "current fire safety requirements" means requirements set forth in the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code in effect at the time of adoption of the requirement as part of this subchapter.

Amended by R.1987 d.247, effective June 15, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1225(a), 19 N.J.R. 1078(a).

Added "in consultation with" to (b).

Amended by R.1992 d.11, effective January 6, 1992.

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

Exception for R-3 structures added.

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

Occupancy load levels for restaurant were governed by code requirements in effect at time certificate of occupancy should have been issued. *Sweetwater Casino v. Department of Community Affairs*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 56.

5:18-4.4 General provisions

(a) The applicability of provisions of this subchapter to existing buildings or structures, identified or classified by the Federal, State or local government authority as historic buildings, shall be determined by the local construction code enforcing agency in consultation with the fire official, as outlined in Section 513.0 of the Building Officials and Code Administrators, Inc. (BOCA) Basic/National Building Code, 1984 edition.

(b) A variation previously granted to a provision of an existing code, which provision contains requirements substantially the same as the comparable provision of this subchapter, shall remain valid, subject to the following conditions:

1. To be accepted the variation must have been:
 - i. Granted in writing;
 - ii. Granted through a formal process or procedure; and
 - iii. Granted upon a finding that equivalent life safety was provided.

(c) Nothing in this Code shall be construed as preventing any State agency from exceeding provisions of this Code in making improvements to buildings under their jurisdiction, ownership or control when such changes are mandated by or through Federal law or Federal regulations as a condition of funding such agency. Such action shall not reduce the requirements of these regulations.

(d) The provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:18-4.1 through 4.3 shall not prevent the fire official from making a finding of imminent hazard pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:18-2.16 or the construction official from making a finding of unsafe building pursuant to the Uniform Construction Code and requiring correction of such hazard or unsafe condition in accordance with those regulations.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.
See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).
Formerly "Relation to State Fire Prevention Code".

5:18-4.5 Comprehensive facility fire protection plans

(a) A comprehensive facility fire protection plan may be submitted for facilities located within the jurisdiction of more than one local enforcing agency which are under single facilities management, ownership and operational control.

1. The plan shall be submitted to the Division for approval and shall include an original and one copy plus a copy for each local enforcing agency in which the subject facilities are located. The plan shall include the following:

- i. All buildings which are part of the facilities at every location included in the plan and for each building, the use group and an evaluation of the fire protection, including all requirements established in this subchapter;
- ii. A timetable for compliance with the requirements of this subchapter; and
- iii. A written application for a variance submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-2.14 for any proposed deviations from this subchapter.

2. The Division shall consult with each local enforcing agency in which facilities included on the plan are located before taking any final action.

3. Within 60 days after receiving the plan, the Division shall approve or disapprove it in writing. If the plan is disapproved, then the written statement shall include the reason(s) for the disapproval.

i. A plan which is not approved within 60 days shall be deemed to have been disapproved unless the 60 day period is extended by mutual agreement of the Division and the applicant;

ii. A disapproval may be appealed as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:18-2.19;

iii. No owner shall be required to retrofit a facility pending approval or disapproval of the plans by the Division.

4. The original approved plan shall be maintained on file by the Division. One copy of the approved plan shall be returned to the applicant and one copy shall be supplied to each local enforcing agency in which facilities included on the plan are located.

5. Any deviation from the plan as approved must be submitted to the Division for approval in accordance with the procedure established herein for the submission and approval of plans.

6. Inspections for compliance with the plans as approved shall be conducted by the local enforcing agency in which facilities are located.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.
See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).
Formerly "Modifications".

5:18-4.6 Pre-existing violations

No violation committed, and no liability, penalty, or forfeiture, either civil or criminal, incurred, prior to the repeal or revision of any regulation or any part thereof by the enactment of this subchapter, shall be discharged, released or affected by the repeal or revision of the regulation or part thereof under which such offense, liability, penalty or forfeiture was incurred, and indictments, prosecutions and actions for such offenses, liabilities, penalties or forfeitures committed or incurred, prior to the effective date of this subchapter, shall be commenced or continued and be proceeded with in all respects as if the regulation or part thereof had not been repealed or revised.

5:18-4.7 Fire suppression systems

(a) All buildings of Use Group A-2 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (k) below with a permitted occupant load of 50 or more shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. The following are exceptions to paragraph (a) above:

5:18-4.8 Standpipe system

(a) All buildings having floors used for human occupancy located more than six stories above grade shall be equipped with wet standpipes. Standpipes shall be located and installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code except as follows:

1. Standpipes shall be capable of accepting a delivery by fire department apparatus of a minimum of 250 gpm at 65 psi to the topmost remote standpipe outlet in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system or a minimum of 500 gpm at 65 psi to the topmost remote standpipe outlet in all other buildings.
2. Hose and hose cabinets shall not be required.

5:18-4.9 Automatic fire alarms

(a) An automatic fire alarm system shall be installed as required below in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. In all buildings of Use Group I;
 - i. Alarm systems in buildings of Use Group I must be supervised.
2. In all buildings of Use Group R-1 and in R-3 bed and breakfast homestays;
 - i. In dwelling units or guestrooms, battery-powered single station detectors may be installed, provided that the detectors are maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.4(g)2.
 - ii. In bed and breakfast homestays of Use Group R-3, the system shall not be required to be supervised or connected to an emergency power supply.
 - iii. All buildings of Use Group R-1, regardless of the number of units, shall have available at least one portable visual alarm type smoke detector for the deaf or hearing impaired for each 50 units or fraction thereof. The owner may require a refundable deposit for such portable smoke detector not to exceed the value of the smoke detector. Notification of the availability of such devices shall be provided to each occupant.
3. In all buildings of Use Group R-2 as follows:
 - i. All buildings of Use Group R-2, including multiple dwellings and rooming houses with six or more occupants, shall have approved smoke detection systems located in all interior common areas. Such systems shall be powered by an alternating current (AC) constantly active electric circuit that cannot be deactivated by the operation of any interconnected switching device and shall comply with NFPA 70-93 (National Electrical Code) requirements, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such systems shall be on circuitry that is connected into the building owner's electric meter.

(1) In multiple dwellings six stories or more in height and having 30 or more dwelling units, such systems:

(A) Shall be connected to a supervisory type listed control panel conforming to U.L. 864 requirements and NFPA 72-90 standards, except as otherwise provided in this section;

(B) Shall be powered by an approved emergency power source installed in conformance with NFPA 70-93 (National Electrical Code); and

(C) Shall have a control panel of the multi-zoned type that will visually indicate the floor or zone from which the alarm is activated, which panel shall be located in accordance with NFPA 72-90 standards or as directed by the local fire subcode official.

ii. A pre-signal alarm feature is not permitted.

iii. The separate zoning of floors in high rise buildings for selective floor evacuation is permitted at the discretion of the fire official.

iv. Alarms shall be located so as to be effectively heard above all other sounds, by all the occupants, in every occupied space within the building not separated by fire walls having a fire-resistance rating of at least two hours.

v. In dwelling units, approved battery-powered single station detectors may be installed, provided that the detectors are maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.4(g)2.

4. With the approval of the fire protection subcode official, fixed temperature or combination rate-of-rise and fixed temperature heat detectors may be substituted for smoke detectors in those locations where frequent nuisance alarms would be likely to occur. Such building spaces include, but are not limited to, garages, crawl spaces, uninhabitable attics, heater and boiler rooms, laundry rooms, kitchens, restaurant service areas, and other rooms where the ambient temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or are above 100 degrees Fahrenheit and/or have a relative humidity either below 20 percent or above 85 percent or where environmental conditions are likely to produce nuisance alarms.

5. Existing common area smoke detection systems that were installed in compliance with this subchapter or with the Regulations Governing Rooming and Boarding Houses or Regulations for the Maintenance of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings and maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:18-3, for which a construction permit was issued subject to plan review approval, shall be accepted as conforming to this section.

6. In any municipality that enacted an ordinance requiring the installation of smoke detectors in multiple dwellings prior to November 11, 1980, a building fully

conforming to the requirements of such ordinance prior to November 12, 1980, shall be deemed to be in either full or partial compliance with the requirements of this section if the fire official determines that the provisions of such ordinance provide reasonable life safety protection to the occupants and that replacement of equipment already installed in conformity with such ordinance would be an undue hardship for property owners.

i. A general determination pursuant to this subsection shall be made by the fire official upon review of the ordinance and separate exceptions shall not then be required for individual properties covered by such general determination.

ii. If a determination is made that full compliance with the ordinance is an acceptable substitute for partial compliance with the requirements of this section, the fire official shall specify all respects in which a building fully complying with the ordinance must be made to comply with this section.

7. In all buildings used as child day care centers, regardless of Use Group.

8. In all buildings of Use Group E up to and including the 12th grade, the system shall consist of:

i. An approved system of automatic smoke detectors; or

ii. An approved automatic fire suppression system equipped with automatic fire alarm devices; or

iii. An approved system which combines the following elements shall be acceptable when devices are located as indicated below:

(1) Combination fixed temperature/rate-of-rise detectors in classrooms and ancillary spaces; and

(2) Photoelectric or projected-beam smoke detectors in exit access corridors and at the top of the exit stair enclosures.

(3) Fixed temperature detectors in such a system shall be accepted in locations such as boiler rooms, garage areas and other spaces in which conditions render other detectors inappropriate.

iv. Existing fire detection systems, installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, and meeting the intent of current standards for automatic fire alarms, shall be acceptable, provided:

(1) The existing system is tested, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.4(c)6, by an approved service agency competent in the manufactured system, in the presence of the fire official or his designated representative. The fire official may accept a written report of test results in lieu of witnessing the test.

(2) Where a portion of an existing system is not serviceable and cannot be repaired, the existing system shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

(b) An automatic fire alarm system shall not be required in buildings, other than boarding homes of Use Group I-1, equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system, a manual fire alarm system and single station smoke detectors located in the immediate vicinity of sleeping areas in accordance with NFIPA 72E or 74 as applicable.

(c) Automatic fire alarm systems required to be supervised by this Code shall employ one of the following methods as determined by the fire official:

1. Approved central station system in accordance with NFIPA 71;

2. Approved proprietary system in accordance with NFIPA 72D;

3. Approved remote station system of the jurisdiction in accordance with NFIPA 72C;

4. Approved local alarm service which will cause the sounding of an alarm in accordance with NFIPA 72A.

Amended by R.1987 d.247, effective June 15, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1225(a), 19 N.J.R. 1078(a).

(a)2 through (a)4 added.

Amended by R.1987 d.373, effective September 21, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 1023(a), 19 N.J.R. 1720(a).

Deleted day nursery exception at (a)1i(1); added (a)2vi.

Administrative correction to (a)2iv(12).

See: 21 N.J.R. 3085(a).

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

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

Exception established at (b).

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

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

Citation corrected at (a)4iv(1).

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

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

Amended by R.1996 d.549, effective December 2, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2111(a), 28 N.J.R. 5070(a).

Case Notes

Apartment building three and one-half stories high was required to have manual fire alarm system. 80-2 De Hart Place v. Department of Community Affairs, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 61.

Unabated fire-safety and other violations warranted imposition of \$6,750 in penalties against landlord. 804 Ocean v. Community Affairs, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 17.

Failure to install a smoke detector violated Uniform Fire Code. Bureau of Housing Inspection, Dept. of Community Affairs v. Taylor, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 63.

5:18-4.10 Manual fire alarms

(a) A manual fire alarm system, designed and installed in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code, shall be required:

1. In all buildings more than three stories in height having an occupant load of 25 or more;