

**CHAPTER 70**

**UNIFORM FIRE CODE**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 52:27D-198, 219, 25d, 25k, 25gg and 24hh, and 52:27B-139.12.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2005 d.225, effective June 14, 2005.  
See: 36 N.J.R. 3652(a), 37 N.J.R. 2674(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 70, Uniform Fire Code, expires on June 14, 2010.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 70, Congregate Housing Services Program, was adopted as R.1982 d.272, effective August 16, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 609(b), 14 N.J.R. 912(b). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 70, Congregate Housing Services Program, was readopted as R.1987 d.315, effective July 9, 1987. See: 19 N.J.R. 678(a), 19 N.J.R. 1430(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 70, Congregate Housing Services Program, was readopted as R.1992 d.214, effective April 22, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 513(c), 24 N.J.R. 1880(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 70, Congregate Housing Services Program, expired on April 22, 1997.

Chapter 70, Uniform Fire Code, was originally codified in Title 5 as Chapter 18, Uniform Fire Code. Chapter 18 was adopted as R.1985 d.66, effective February 19, 1985. See: 16 N.J.R. 3339(b), 17 N.J.R. 394(a).

Subchapter 4, Fire Safety Code, was adopted as R.1986 d.214, effective June 16, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 1161(a), 18 N.J.R. 1260(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 18, Uniform Fire Code, was readopted as R.1990 d.72, effective January 4, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 3344(a), 22 N.J.R. 337(b).

Subchapter 3, State Fire Prevention Code, was repealed, and Subchapter 3, State Fire Prevention Code, was adopted as new rules by R.1992 d.105, effective March 2, 1992. See: 23 N.J.R. 3554(a), 24 N.J.R. 740(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 18, Uniform Fire Code, was readopted as R.1995 d.58, effective January 3, 1995. See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

Pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 002-1998, Chapter 18, Uniform Fire Code, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 5:70, effective July 1, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 1347(a), 30 N.J.R. 2644(a).

Subchapter 3, State Fire Prevention Code, was repealed and Subchapter 3, State Fire Prevention Code, was adopted as new rules by R.1998 d.424, effective August 17, 1998 (operative January 2, 1999). See: 30 N.J.R. 1466(a), 30 N.J.R. 3068(c).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 70, Uniform Fire Code, was readopted as R.2000 d.30, effective December 22, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 3257(a), 32 N.J.R. 273(c).

Chapter 70, Uniform Fire Code, was readopted as R.2005 d.225, effective June 14, 2005. See: Source and Effective Date.

**Cross References**

Child care center physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:122-5.1 et seq.

Children's group home physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:128-4.1 et seq.

Children's shelter physical facility and life-safety requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:124-5.1 et seq.

Residential child care physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:127-4.1.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**5:70-1.1 Title; division into subchapters**

(a) The regulations contained in this chapter shall be known as the "New Jersey Uniform Fire Code" and are referred to herein as the Code.

(b) The Code is divided into four subchapters:

1. N.J.A.C. 5:70-1, entitled "General Provisions";
2. N.J.A.C. 5:70-2, entitled "Administration and Enforcement";
3. N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, entitled "State Fire Prevention Code"; and
4. N.J.A.C. 5:70-4, entitled "State Fire Safety Code."

Amended by R.1985 d.611, effective December 2, 1985.  
See: 17 N.J.R. 1015(b), 17 N.J.R. 2870(a).

(b)3 substituted "1984" for "latest".

Amended by R.1986 d.214, effective June 16, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1161(a), 18 N.J.R. 1260(b).

(b)4 deleted "(Reserved)" and added text "is entitled "Fire ... as this subchapter."

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

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

Text referencing BOCA deleted.

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

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

**5:70-1.2 Authority**

This Code is promulgated by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to authority of the "Uniform Fire Safety Act" (P.L. 1983, c.383, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq.).

**5:70-1.3 Intent and purpose**

(a) It is the intent of this Code to prescribe regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding to a reasonable degree of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.

(b) Where no specific standards or requirements are specified in this Code, or contained within other applicable laws (or adopted codes) or ordinances, compliance with the standards of the National Fire Protection Association or other nationally recognized fire-safety standards as are approved by the fire official shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with the stated intent of this Code.

Amended by R.1985 d.611, effective December 2, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1015(b), 17 N.J.R. 2870(a).

Substituted "Prevention" for "Protection".

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

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

**5:70-1.4 Applicability**

(a) The provisions of this Code shall apply to new and existing buildings, uses and conditions, as hereinafter provided.

(b) The provisions contained in this Code shall not be construed as applying to the transportation of any article or substance shipped under the jurisdiction of and in compliance with the regulations prescribed by the military forces of the United States or the transportation of flammable or combustible liquids or hazardous materials or chemicals subject to the regulation and control of the New Jersey Department of Transportation or the United States Department of Transportation or other Federal Agency having jurisdiction.

1. The fire official shall have jurisdiction to order the correction of any dangerous condition created by any transportation conveyance.

2. The right of any local government to adopt ordinances governing the routing of vehicles transporting flammable or combustible liquids or hazardous materials or chemicals shall not be deemed to be limited by anything contained in this section.

(c) Nothing in this Code shall be construed, interpreted or applied to abrogate, nullify or abolish any law, ordinance or code adopted by any local government regulating the repair, removal, demolition, use, location, occupancy or maintenance of buildings and property as specifically provided herein. When any provision of this Code is found to be in conflict with any zoning, safety, health or other applicable law, ordinance or code of the jurisdiction existing on the effective date of this Code or hereafter adopted, the provision which establishes the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the safety and welfare of the public shall prevail.

(d) All regulations, other than this Code, promulgated by any State agency with regard to fire safety in existing buildings, structures and premises subject to this Code shall, to the extent of any inconsistency with this Code, be deemed to have been superseded by this Code.

Recodified from 5:18-2.15 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 5:18-2.18, Certificate of Fire Code Status, repealed.

### 5:70-2.19 Appeals

(a) The person aggrieved may appeal any enforcement action, including rulings, orders or notices, by submitting a written hearing request as set forth herein. Either the owner of the premises or of the use, or an authorized agent of the owner, may be a person aggrieved.

1. If from the act of a local enforcing agency, the request shall be made to the Construction Board of Appeals in the municipality where the building, structure or premises is located. If no such Board exists, then the request shall be made to the County Construction Board of Appeals in the county where the building, structure or premises is located. At the time made, a copy of the request shall be sent to the local enforcing agency. (See N.J.A.C. 5:23A)

2. If from the act of the Department the request shall be made to the Hearing Coordinator, Department of Community Affairs, PO Box 802, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0802. The hearing shall be conducted by the Office of Administrative Law, with the Commissioner or his or her designee issuing the final decision.

3. All hearing requests shall be signed by a proper party and shall include:

- i. The date of the act which is the subject of the appeal;
- ii. The name and status of the person submitting the appeal;
- iii. The specific violations or other act claimed to be in error; and
- iv. A concise statement of the basis for the appeal.

(b) Hearing requests shall not be valid unless submitted within 15 days after service of a ruling, order or notice, except in cases of imminent hazards.

(c) In imminent hazard cases, except in emergent circumstances, and in punitive closure cases, the owner shall have a period of 24 hours to request a hearing before the order to close, vacate or remove shall be effective. In emergent circumstances, orders may be effective immediately. Hearing requests within the 24 hour period may be made orally to the person designated on the form served but shall be written in accordance with (a)3 above and served on the enforcing agency at the hearing. At the expiration of 24 hours, if the action required in the order has been taken, the owner shall have a period of 15 days to request a hearing.

1. If a request is made within 24 hours, a hearing shall be conducted and a final decision issued within 48 hours of receipt of the hearing request.

2. If the request is to a Construction Board of Appeals and no final decision is issued within two working days, thereafter, the owner may make written application for a hearing to the Department at the address specified in (a)2 above. The application shall clearly state that it is an imminent hazard appeal and shall identify the local enforcing agency and Construction Board of Appeals. In such case, a hearing shall be held and a final decision issued within three working days from receipt of the request.

3. If the hearing request is made in accordance with the 15 day provision, a hearing shall be held and a final decision issued within seven working days.

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

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

Old text deleted and new text substituted.

Administrative correction to (a)2.

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

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

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

Recodified from 5:18-2.11 and 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.2000 d.30, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3257(a), 32 N.J.R. 273(c).

In (a)1, added N.J.A.C. reference.

### 5:70-2.20 Identifying emblems for structures with truss construction

(a) Identifying emblems shall be permanently affixed to the front of structures with truss construction.

1. The emblem shall be of a bright and reflective color, or made of reflective material. The shape of the emblem shall be an isosceles triangle and the size shall be 12 inches horizontally by six inches vertically. The following letters, of a size and color to make them conspicuous, shall be printed on the emblem:

- i. "F" to signify a floor with truss construction;
- ii. "R" to signify a roof with truss construction; or
- iii. "F/R" to signify both a floor and roof with truss construction.

2. The emblem shall be permanently affixed to the left of the main entrance door at a height between four and six feet above the ground and shall be installed and maintained by the owner of the building.

(b) Detached one and two family residential structures with truss construction that are not part of a planned real estate development shall be exempt from the requirements of (a) above, unless otherwise provided by municipal ordinance.

(c) Individual structures and dwelling units with truss construction that are part of a planned real estate development shall not be required to have an identifying emblem if there is an emblem affixed at each entrance to the development.

New Rule, R.1992 d.5, effective January 6, 1992.  
 See: 23 N.J.R. 2168(a), 24 N.J.R. 89(a).  
 Recodified from 5:18-2.19 by R.1995 d.58, effective March 6, 1995.  
 See: 26 N.J.R. 4258(a), 27 N.J.R. 878(b).

**5:70-2.21 (Reserved)****5:70-2.22 Registration of carnivals**

(a) No carnival shall be operated at any time or at any location unless a carnival registration certificate has been issued by the Division.

(b) The owner of every carnival shall apply for a carnival registration certificate at least 30 days before the first intended operation. The application shall include the following:

1. Dates and locations of intended operation;
2. All uses requiring a permit under N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7;
3. Complete plans for all mobile enclosed structures to be used for human occupancy;
4. Flame spread certifications, seating and usage diagrams for all tents;
5. Certificate of insurance;
6. Name, address and telephone number of the owner(s) of the carnival; and
7. Name of the person who will be with the carnival and will be responsible for securing all permits required by N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7 and for the correction of any violations of this Code.

(c) Upon review and approval of the application, the Division will issue a carnival registration certificate to the owner. Additionally, copies shall be provided to all local enforcing agencies identified on the submitted schedule.

1. The certificate must be maintained by the responsible party identified pursuant to (b)7 above at all show locations and be available for inspection by the fire official.
2. Possession of a carnival registration certificate shall not relieve the owner of responsibility for obtaining permits as required by N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7 or for otherwise complying with the requirements of this chapter.

(d) Any application for a carnival registration certificate shall be accompanied by the fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9.

(e) A carnival registration certificate issued by the Division shall be valid for a period of one year from the date that appears on the certificate.

1. Carnival registration certificates shall not be transferable.

2. A registration certificate shall be subject to revocation in the event that any change is made to the itinerary submitted on the original application and the Division is not provided with an amended itinerary at least 30 days prior to the event.

3. If the Division revokes a certificate previously issued, a new application package, as specified in (b) above, and a fee, as specified at N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(e), shall be submitted.

4. Any person who is required to obtain a registration certificate and who fails to do so shall be subject to a penalty, as specified at N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.12(b)8iii.

New Rule, R.1995 d.59, effective March 6, 1995.  
 See: 26 N.J.R. 4249(a), 27 N.J.R. 891(a).  
 Amended by R.1997 d.247, effective June 16, 1997.  
 See: 29 N.J.R. 967(a), 29 N.J.R. 2653(b).  
 Added (e).

### SUBCHAPTER 3. STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE

**5:70-3.1 Code adopted**

(a) Pursuant to the authority of P.L. 1983, c.383, the Commissioner hereby adopts the model code of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., known as the "BOCA National Fire Prevention Code/1996." This code is hereby adopted by reference as the State Fire Prevention Code for New Jersey, subject to the modifications set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.2.

(b) Copies of this code may be obtained from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 809, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0809.

Amended by R.1993 d.197, effective May 3, 1993.  
 See: 25 N.J.R. 393(a), 25 N.J.R. 1868(a).  
 Added "used exclusively for dwelling purposes" at (b)1.  
 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**

Term "individual dwelling unit" in Uniform Fire Code has same meaning as term "dwelling unit" in Uniform Fire Safety Act; term thus applies to both permanent and transient occupancies. *Venuti v. Cape May County Const. Bd. of Appeals*, 231 N.J.Super. 546, 555 A.2d 1175 (A.D.1989).

Hotel and motel rooms with cooking facilities are "individual dwelling units" and thus exempt from Uniform Fire Code requirements for fire suppression systems. *Venuti v. Cape May County Const. Bd. of Appeals*, 231 N.J.Super. 546, 555 A.2d 1175 (A.D.1989).

Municipal subcode official did not have authority to require portable fire extinguishers to be placed in motel and hotel efficiency units with cooking facilities. *Venuti v. Cape May County Const. Bd. of Appeals*, 231 N.J.Super. 546, 555 A.2d 1175 (A.D.1989).