

1. Regulations determined by the Department of Community Affairs to be affected by this subsection include the following:

- i. N.J.A.C. 5:10-25;
- ii. N.J.A.C. 5:27-5;
- iii. N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.23(i)7 and 9;
- iv. N.J.A.C. 8:43-3;
- v. N.J.A.C. 8:43A-15.2(b) and (c);
- vi. N.J.A.C. 8:43B-3.2;
- vii. N.J.A.C. 8:39-41.3 and 41.4;
- viii. N.J.A.C. 8:42A-23.7;
- ix. N.J.A.C. 10:44A-6.1(e) through (w);
- x. N.J.A.C. 10:44B-6.2;
- xi. N.J.A.C. 10A:31-3.1(b)1-3 and 11-13;
- xii. N.J.A.C. 10A:32-4.4 and 4.5;
- xiii. N.J.A.C. 10A:34-2.13;
- xiv. N.J.A.C. 12:100-4.2(a)10 (incorporating Subparts E, L and S of 29 C.F.R. Part 1910);
- xv. N.J.A.C. 5:11; and
- xvi. N.J.A.C. 5:18.

2. The enumeration of certain regulations in (d)1 above shall not be construed as limiting the applicability of this subsection.

(e) The planning, design and construction of new buildings and structures, or the planning, design and alteration or renovation of existing buildings and structures, to provide the necessary egress facilities, fire protection and built-in fire protection equipment shall be controlled by the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, and any alterations, additions or changes in or to buildings and structures required by the provisions of this Code which are within the scope of the Uniform Construction Code shall be made in accordance therewith, unless specifically provided otherwise by this Code.

(f) When adequate fire protection is not being provided in a building, structure or premises as herein required or where such fire protection is deemed necessary by the fire official due to hazardous or dangerous conditions involving the occupancy of a building or structure, special fire protection equipment shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the fire official and Uniform Construction Code.

(g) Any requirement in this chapter that is applicable to a building shall also be applicable to the exterior portion of the premises in which the building is located, or to a premises that does not include a building, if the Division or the fire official finds compliance with such requirement in

such exterior area or premises to be necessary for the protection of the safety of persons upon the premises, firefighters or the general public.

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

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

(b)2 deleted "Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the" and added text "shall not be . . . in this section."

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

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

Added "New Jersey Department of Transportation" to (b).

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

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

Added new (d) regarding superseding of rules.

Amended by R.1991 d.570, effective November 18, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2813(a), 23 N.J.R. 3444(a).

Added new (h).

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

Local ordinance could impose more stringent fire safety requirements on summer rental units than were imposed by the Uniform Fire Code. *United Property Owners Association of Belmar v. Borough of Belmar*, 777 A.2d 950 (2001).

5:70-1.5 Definitions

The following terms shall have the meaning indicated except where the context clearly requires otherwise. All definitions found in the Uniform Fire Safety Act, P.L. 1983, c.383, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq., shall be applicable to this chapter. Where a term is not defined in this section or in the Uniform Fire Safety Act, then the definition of that term in the Uniform Construction Code at N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.4 shall govern.

"Act" means the Uniform Fire Safety Act, P.L. 1983, c.383, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq., and includes all acts amendatory and supplementary thereto and all regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

"Atrium" means a floor opening or series of floor openings connecting two or more stories that is covered at the top of the series of openings and is used for purposes other than an enclosed stairway; elevator hoistway; escalator opening; or utility shaft used for plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, or communication facilities.

"Bed and breakfast" means a facility providing sleeping or dwelling accommodations to transient guests which:

1. Is comprised of a structure originally constructed as a private residence or a bed and breakfast;
2. Includes individual sleeping accommodations for 50 or fewer guests;
3. Has at least one dwelling unit occupied by the owner of the facility as his place of residence during any time that the facility is being used for the lodging of guests;

4. Has not less than 300 square feet of common area for the exclusive use of the guests, including, but not limited to, parlors, dining rooms, libraries and solariums;

5. Prohibits cooking and smoking in guest rooms;

6. Provides a meal to the guests in the forenoon of each day but does not operate as a restaurant open to the general public;

7. Is not a "rooming house" or "boarding house" as defined in N.J.S.A. 55:13B-3; and

8. Does not allow:

i. More than 15 percent of the guests to remain more than 30 successive days or more than 30 days of any period of 60 successive days or more than 30 days of any period of 60 successive days; or

ii. Any guest to remain more than 60 successive days or more than 60 days of any period of 90 successive days.

"Bed and breakfast guesthouse" means a bed and breakfast designed to accommodate at least six guests, but not more than 25 guests.

"Bed and breakfast homestay" means a bed and breakfast designed to accommodate five or fewer guests.

"Bed and breakfast inn" means a bed and breakfast designed to accommodate at least 26 guests, but not more than 50 guests.

"Boarding school" means a public or private residential educational facility, where students are taught a curriculum equivalent to an elementary or secondary school education, which provides lodging services, and that is registered with and certified by the State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:69-2 and N.J.A.C. 6:34.

"Carnival" means a traveling circus or other traveling amusement show having one or more of the following:

1. Mobile enclosed structures used for human occupancy; or
2. Tents or temporary membrane structures requiring a permit in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.14(b)22ii.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs or his delegate.

"Common Areas", when used with reference to a covered mall building, shall include all areas not included within any retail establishment and shall also include the required means of egress from all retail establishments. When used with reference to buildings of use groups R-1 and R-2 shall mean all areas accessible to, and which may be utilized by, either the building occupants or the general public and shall include, but not be limited to, vestibules, hallways, stairways, landings and occupiable rooms and spaces not part of any dwelling unit; and shall also include any area accessible to the owner or manager or any person employed in the maintenance of the building which area is not part of any dwelling unit.

"Day" means a calendar day, unless otherwise specified.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Fire Safety.

"Division" means the Division of Fire Safety of the Department of Community Affairs.

"Dormitory" means a building, or portion thereof, containing rooms which are provided as residences or for overnight sleeping for individuals or groups, and includes those residences utilized by fraternities or sororities which are recognized by or owned by a school or institution of higher education, but does not include those residences or multiple dwellings utilized by students which are not recognized by or owned by a school or institution of higher education. "Dormitory" is not to include a building used primarily to house faculty or a multiple dwelling in which occupancy of each dwelling unit is limited to persons who are members of a single family group.

"Fire barrier" means a continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall or floor assembly, that is designed and constructed with a specified fire resistance rating and located to limit the spread of fire and restrict the movement of smoke. Such barriers may have protected openings when a specific fire resistive rating is indicated by this Code. When a rating is required, existing walls, columns and floor/ceiling assemblies meeting the requirements of Federal Housing and Urban Development Rehabilitation Guidelines #8 or of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Appendix B of the BOCA Basic/National Existing Structures Code, 1984 Ed., shall be acceptable.

"Fire Inspector" means a person working under the direction of the fire official who is certified by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and appointed or designated to enforce the Code by the appointing authority of a local enforcing agency.

"Fire Official" means a person certified by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and appointed or designated to direct the enforcement of the Code by the appointing authority of a local enforcing agency. This term shall also include "Fire Marshal" where the fire official has been appointed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:71-3.2.

"Floor area, gross" means the floor area within the perimeter of the outside walls of the building or use under consideration, without deduction for hallways, stairs, closets, thickness of walls, columns or other features.

"Floor area, net", for purposes of determining occupant load, means the actual occupied floor area and shall not include unoccupied accessory areas or thickness of walls.

“Fraternity” or “sorority” means an organization or chapter primarily composed of students enrolled in a college or university or any student organization recognized as such by a school or institution of higher education that occupies a building used by its members as a dormitory, whether or not owned by the school or institution of higher education.

“High-rise structure” means any building or structure having floors used for human occupancy located either more than six stories or more than 75 feet above the lowest level accessible to a fire department vehicle.

“Incidental use” means a use supplemental to the main use of a building where the area devoted to such use does not occupy more than 10 percent of the area of any floor.

“Institution of higher education” means a public or private college or university incorporated and located in New Jersey, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:62-1, N.J.S.A. 18A:68-1, or any equivalent college or university incorporated and located in New Jersey, which, by virtue of law or character or license, is a nonprofit educational institution authorized to grant academic degrees.

“Life hazard use” means a building or structure, or part thereof, classified in any of the use groups in the building subcode of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code and defined as such in subchapter 2 of this chapter. “Life hazard use” shall also mean and include high rise structures as defined in this section.

“Local enforcing agency” means a municipal agency, fire department, fire district or county fire marshal authorized by municipal ordinance to enforce the act within a specific local jurisdiction or, where such authorization has not been granted by local ordinance, it means the Department of Community Affairs. “Local enforcing agency” shall also mean and include a county fire marshal authorized by ordinance or resolution of the board of chosen freeholders to enforce the act in county facilities. With regard to enforcement of the act in premises owned or maintained by the State of New Jersey or any of its boards, commissions, agencies or authorities, “local enforcing agency” shall mean the Division.

“Lumber” means boards, dimension lumber, timber, plywood, pressure treated wood, fencing and fence posts, and other similar wood products.

“Maximum permitted occupancy” means the maximum number of persons which can be permitted in a building or portion thereof as established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.11(e).

“Nursing home” means a building used for nursing or custodial care on a 24-hour basis for more than five persons where evacuation is impractical (a group that, even with staff assistance, cannot reliably move to a point of safety in a timely manner) as defined in Section 22-1.3 of NFPA 101-97. This shall include intermediate care facilities, skilled nursing facilities and long term care facilities.

“Owner” means a person who owns, purports to own, manages, rents, leases or exercises control over a building, structure, premises, or use, or a portion thereof.

“Owner-occupied” when used in conjunction with “Use Group R-3” means a building serving as the residence of at least one holder of record of title to the property.

“Premises” means a specific locality, area of land or portion thereof, and shall include any buildings, structures or portions of buildings or structures thereon.

“Protective equipment” means any equipment, device, system or apparatus permitted or required by the commissioner to be constructed or installed in or upon a building, structure or premises for the purpose of protecting the occupants or intended occupants thereof, fire fighters or the public generally from fire or products of combustion.

“Retreat lodging facility” means a building or structure, including, but not limited to, any related structure, accessory building, and land appurtenant thereto, and any part thereof, owned by a nonprofit corporation or association which has tax-exempt charitable status under the Federal Internal Revenue Code and which has sleeping facilities used exclusively on a transient basis by persons participating in programs of a religious, cultural or educational nature, conducted under the sole auspices of one or more corporations or associations having tax-exempt charitable status under the Federal Internal Revenue Code, which are made available without any mandatory charge to such participants.

“Smoke barrier” means a continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall, floor, or ceiling assembly, that is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke. A smoke barrier may or may not have a fire resistance rating. Such barriers may have protected openings. When a fire resistive rating is required, existing walls, columns and floor/ceiling assemblies meeting the requirements of Federal Housing and Urban Development Rehabilitation Guidelines #8, or of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Appendix B of the BOCA Basic/National Existing Structures Code, 1984 Ed., shall be acceptable.

“State Fire Prevention Code” means the model code of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., known as the “BOCA National Fire Prevention Code/1996,” adopted by reference in N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) as the State Fire Prevention Code for New Jersey, subject to the modifications set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.2.

“Story above grade” means any story having its finished floor surface entirely above grade except that a story which is partly or completely below grade (basement) shall be considered as a story above grade when the distance from grade to the finished surface of the floor above the basement is more than six feet for more than 50 percent of the total perimeter or more than 12 feet at any point.

“Uniform Construction Code” or “Construction Code” means the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (N.J.A.C. 5:23-1 et seq.).

“Use” or “Use Group” means the use to which a building, portion of a building, or premises, is put, as follows. It shall also mean and include any place, whether constructed, manufactured or naturally occurring, whether fixed or mobile, that is used for human purpose or occupancy that would subject it to the provisions of this Code if it were a building or premises.

1. “Use Group A-1-A”: This Use Group shall include all theaters and other buildings used primarily for theatrical or operatic performances and exhibitions, arranged with a raised stage, proscenium curtain, fixed or portable scenery loft, lights, motion picture booth, mechanical appliances or other theatrical accessories and equipment, and provided with fixed seats.

2. “Use Group A-1-B”: This Use Group shall include all theaters without a stage and equipped with fixed seats used for motion picture performances.

3. “Use Group A-2”: This Use Group shall include all buildings and places of public assembly, without theatrical stage accessories, designed for use as dance halls, night clubs, and eating and/or drinking establishments, and similar occupancies, in which the established maximum permitted occupant load exceeds the number of seats provided by more than 30 percent, and shall include all rooms, lobbies and other spaces connected thereto with a common means of egress and entrance.

4. “Use Group A-3”: This Use Group shall include all buildings with or without an auditorium in which persons assemble for amusement, entertainment or recreation, and incidental motion picture, dramatic or theatrical presentations, lectures or other similar purposes without theatrical stage other than a raised platform; and principally used without permanent seating facilities, including art galleries, exhibition halls, museums, lecture halls, libraries, restaurants other than night clubs, and recreation centers; and buildings designed for other similar assembly purposes including passenger terminals.

5. “Use Group A-4”: This Use Group shall include all buildings used as churches and for similar religious purposes.

6. “Use Group A-5”: This Use Group shall include grandstands, bleachers, coliseums, stadiums, tents and similar structures for outdoor assembly uses.

7. “Use Group B”: All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, shall be classified in Use Group B which are used for the transaction of business, for the rendering of professional services, or for other services that involve stocks of goods, wares or merchandise in limited quantities for use incidental to office uses or sample purposes.

8. “Use Group E”: This Use Group shall include all buildings and structures used for educational purposes serving six or more students in any or all of the grades from kindergarten through grade 12.

9. “Use Group F”: All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, in which occupants are engaged in performing work or labor in the fabricating, assembling or processing of products or materials shall be classified in Use Group F; including, among others, factories, assembling plants, industrial laboratories and all other industrial and manufacturing uses, except those of Use Group H involving highly combustible, flammable or explosive products and materials.

i. “Use Group F-1”: Factory and industrial uses which are not otherwise classified as low-hazard Use Group F-2, shall be classified as a moderate-hazard factory and industrial use, Use Group F-1.

ii. “Use Group F-2”: Factory and industrial uses which involve the fabrication or manufacturing of non-combustible materials that, during finishing, packing or processing, do not contribute to a significant fire hazard, shall be classified as Use Group F-2. The following manufacturing processes are indicative of, and shall be classified as, Use Group F-2: beverages, nonalcoholic; brick and masonry; ceramic products; foundries; glass products; gypsum; ice; metal fabrication and assembly; and water pumping plants.

10. “Use Group H”: All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, shall be classified in Use Group H which are used for the manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of corrosive, highly toxic, highly combustible, flammable or explosive materials that constitute a high fire or explosion hazard, including loose combustible fibers, dust and unstable materials.

11. “Use Group I-1”: This Use Group shall include buildings housing six or more individuals who, because of age, mental instability or other reasons, must live in a supervised environment but who are physically capable of responding to an emergency situation without personal assistance. Included in this group are uses such as facilities for children, aged persons, mentally impaired and convalescents including: convalescent facilities, group homes, homes for the aged, mentally retarded care facilities, orphanages and residential care facilities. Occupancies such as the above with five or less occupants shall be classified as a residential Use Group.

12. “Use Group I-2”: This Use Group shall include all buildings used for housing people suffering from physical limitations because of health or age, including, among others, day nurseries, hospitals, sanitariums, infirmaries, orphanages and homes for aged and infirm.

13. “Use Group I-3”: This Use Group shall include all buildings designed for the detention of people under re-

straint, including, among others, jails, prisons, reformatories, insane asylums and similar uses.

14. "Use Group M": All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, shall be classified in Use Group M which are used for display and sales purposes involving stocks of goods, wares or merchandise incidental to such purposes and accessible to the public; including, among others, retail stores, motor fuel service stations, shops and salesrooms and markets.

15. "Use Group R-1": This Use Group shall include all hotels, motels, retreat lodging facilities, and similar buildings arranged for shelter and sleeping accommodations and in which the occupants are primarily transient in nature, making use of the facilities for a period of less than 30 days. This definition shall also mean and include bed and breakfast guesthouses and bed and breakfast inns.

16. "Use Group R-2": This Use Group shall include all multiple family dwellings having more than two dwelling units and shall also include all dormitories, rooming houses, group rentals where the occupants are living independently of each other and similar buildings arranged for shelter and sleeping accommodations in which the occupants are primarily not transient in nature. This Use Group shall also include attached one- and two-family dwelling units which do not meet the definition for Use Group R-3.

17. "Use Group R-3": This Use Group shall include all buildings arranged for the use of detached one-and two-family dwelling units, including, but not limited to, buildings with not more than five lodgers or boarders per family, and excluding buildings designed in accordance with the one-and two-family subcode of the State Uniform Construction Code. This Use Group shall also mean and include:

- i. Bed and breakfast homestays; and
- ii. Attached one-and two-family dwellings constructed in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code requirements for multiple single family dwellings.

18. "Use Group R-4": This Use Group shall include all buildings arranged for use as detached one-and two-family dwelling units, including, without limitation, buildings occupied by not more than five lodgers or boarders per family and buildings used as bed and breakfast homestays, that are designed in accordance with the one-and two-family dwelling subcode of the State Uniform Construction Code.

19. "Use Group S-1": All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, which are used primarily for the storage of moderate hazard contents which are likely to burn with moderate rapidity, but which do not produce either poisonous gases, fumes or explosives; including, among others, warehouses, storehouses and freight depots.

20. "Use Group S-2": All buildings and structures, or parts thereof, which are used primarily for the storage of noncombustible materials, and of low hazard wares that do

not ordinarily burn rapidly such as products on wood pallets or in paper cartons without significant amounts of combustible wrappings; including, among others, warehouses, storehouses and freight depots. Such products may have a negligible amount of plastic trim such as knobs, handles or film wrapping.

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

Added definition "Common areas".

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

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

Added new definitions.

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).

Emergency amendment, R.2000 d.402, effective September 8, 2000 (to expire November 7, 2000).

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a).

Added definitions for "Boarding school", "Dormitory", "Fraternity" and "Institution of higher education"; added last sentence to "Local enforcing agency".

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.2000 d.486, effective November 6, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a), 32 N.J.R. 4310(a).

Readopted provisions of R.2000 d.402 with changes, effective December 4, 2000.

Amended by R.2002 d.372, effective November 18, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2636(a), 34 N.J.R. 3958(a).

In "Carnival", deleted "uses" following "of the following" in the introductory paragraph, amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 2 and deleted 3.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 219(d).

Amended by R.2003 d.137, effective April 7, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 4277(a), 35 N.J.R. 1558(c).

In "Use" or "Use Group", rewrote 17, added a new 18, and recodified former 18 and 19 as 19 and 20.

Amended by R.2003 d.364, effective September 15, 2003 (operative October 1, 2003).

See: 35 N.J.R. 2433(a), 35 N.J.R. 4282(a).

In "Use" or "Use Group" rewrote 8.

Amended by R.2005 d.149, effective May 16, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 169(a), 37 N.J.R. 1781(a).

Added "Retreat lodging facility"; in Use or Use Group" inserted "retreat lodging facilities," following "include all hotels, motels," in 15.

Amended by R.2007 d.2, effective January 2, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3377(a), 39 N.J.R. 28(b).

Added definition "Nursing home"; and in 11. of definition " 'Use' or 'Use group' ", deleted "nursing homes (ambulatory)," following "mentally retarded care facilities,".

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.

5:70-1.6 (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".

5:70-1.7 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

5:70-2.1 Enforcement authority

(a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the agency having jurisdiction in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:71-2.2 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 periodically inspect all premises, except owner-occupied Use Group R-3 and R-4 structures used exclusively for dwelling purposes. These inspections shall be made in accordance with the schedule contained in this 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, or 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.

(d) Local enforcing agency personnel shall use this Code to enforce N.J.A.C. 5:76-1.4.

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.2003 d.137, effective April 7, 2003.
See: 34 N.J.R. 4277(a), 35 N.J.R. 1558(c).

In (b), inserted "periodically" preceding "inspect", deleted "detached" following "owner-occupied", and inserted "and R-4" following "R-3".
Amended by R.2003 d.230, effective June 16, 2003.
See: 34 N.J.R. 3888(a), 35 N.J.R. 2639(b).
Added (d).

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.

5:70-2.2 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.

(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. 5:70-4.19.

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).

5:70-4.2 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. 5:70-3).

(b) All buildings which are specifically listed as under the scope of this subchapter as denoted in N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.1 and which are subject to requirements previously established including, without limitation, any requirement of the State Fire Prevention Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-3), 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. 5:70-4.1 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).

5:70-4.3 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 except as may be required by (a)2 through 4 below.

1. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.2, certificates of occupancy for projects in compliance with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Subcode of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (N.J.A.C. 5:23-6) are specific to the work undertaken and shall not obviate the need for a building to be brought into compliance with this subchapter.

i. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.2(g)3i, a variation issued in writing pursuant to the Uniform Construction Code in connection with a rehabilitation project shall remain in force and effect, provided that all of the conditions of the variation continue to be met, and shall be accepted for purposes of establishing compliance with this subchapter for the portion of the building to which the variation applies.

ii. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.2(i), for variation requests involving provisions of this subchapter which have been incorporated into the Rehabilitation Subcode, the construction official is required to consult with the fire official. If the fire official is also licensed as a fire protection subcode official under the Uniform Construction Code, then the approval of the fire official shall be required on such variation requests.

2. The requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.19 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.

3. The requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(j) shall apply to all dormitory buildings, as defined in this Code, unless the provisions of (b) below are applicable.

4. The requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(c) shall apply to all nursing homes, as defined in this Code, unless the provisions of (b) below are applicable.

(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).

Emergency amendment, R.2000 d.402, effective September 8, 2000 (to expire November 7, 2000).

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a).

Rewrote (a).

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.2000 d.486, effective November 6, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a), 32 N.J.R. 4310(a).

Readopted provisions of R.2000 d.402 with changes, effective December 4, 2000.

Amended by R.2007 d.2, effective January 2, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3377(a), 39 N.J.R. 28(b).

In introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "(a)2 through 4" for "(a)3"; and added (a)4.

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.

5:70-4.4 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.

5:70-4.7 Fire suppression systems

(a) All buildings of Use Group A-2 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) 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:

i. Buildings with a permitted occupancy of fewer than 300 having all components of the required means of egress on the same level as the use and having all such exits discharging not more than five feet above, nor more than two feet below, the adjacent grade;

ii. Buildings with a permitted occupancy of fewer than 200 having no portion of the required means of egress located more than one level above, or more than two feet below, the adjacent grade.

(b) All buildings of Use Group I-1 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) below greater than two stories in height above grade or having an occupant load greater than 20 excluding staff shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(c) All buildings of Use Group I-2 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) below 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 (c) above:

i. Buildings of Type 1 or Type 2A construction of any height or of Type 2B construction not over one story in height as defined in the Uniform Construction Code.

ii. Day nurseries serving children below 2½ years of age, provided that all the children under 2½ years of age are cared for on the first floor in a room(s) having direct access to approved exits discharging directly to the exterior.

2. By January 2, 2010, all nursing homes shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code. The exception contained in (c)1i above shall not apply to nursing homes.

(d) All buildings of Use Group I-3 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) below with an occupant load of six or more shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code or shall be in compliance with all applicable provisions of Chapter 15 "Existing Detention and Correctional Occupancies" of the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, 1985 edition.

1. Exception to (d) above: All buildings of Use Group I-3 not required to be equipped throughout with suppression by these provisions shall be equipped with suppression

in all padded cells, boiler rooms, storage and workshop rooms 24 square feet and larger, mechanical equipment and similar rooms.

(e) All buildings of Use Group H or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) below shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. All spraying operations as regulated by the State Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 13, as amended by N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.2(a)13i through xvi, shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

2. Dip operations as defined by the State Fire Prevention Code, Section F-1302.1 and as outlined in (e)2i through iii below shall be equipped with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

i. Dip tanks of over 150 gallons capacity or 10 square feet liquid surface area;

ii. Dip tanks containing a liquid with a flash point below 110 degrees F., when used in such manner that the liquid temperature may equal or be greater than its flash point from artificial or natural causes when having both a capacity of more than 10 gallons and a liquid surface area of more than four square feet; and

iii. Hardening and tempering tanks of over 500 gallons capacity or 25 square feet liquid surface area.

(f) All ballrooms, exhibit areas and accessory spaces of Use Group A-3 which exceed 12,000 square feet and are located in buildings of Use Groups R-1 and R-2, shall be equipped with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. The following are exceptions to (f) above:

i. Such assembly uses may be subdivided into fire areas not exceeding 12,000 square feet using permanent two-hour fire separation walls with 1½ hour opening protectives. Such walls shall be continuous from the floor to the deck above except that the wall may terminate at the ceiling if the ceiling is part of a fire-resistance rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly.

ii. A-3 uses which are completely separated both horizontally and vertically from R-1 and R-2 uses by fire separation walls and floor/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than two hours with approved opening protectives having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1½ hours. Walls shall be continuous from the floor to the deck above except that the walls shall be permitted to terminate at the ceiling if the ceiling is part of a fire-resistance rated assembly.

(g) All cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors shall be equipped with a ventilating hood, duct, and

automatic fire suppression system designed and installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. This subsection shall not apply to buildings in Use Groups R-2 or R-3.

2. Exception to (g) above: Ventilating hoods, ducts, and suppression shall not be required for completely enclosed ovens, steam tables, or auxiliary equipment that does not produce grease laden vapors.

(h) In all buildings, any windowless basement or story located below the seventh story shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

1. Stories or basements shall not be considered windowless when there is provided on at least one side of such story or basement fire fighter access through openings, such as windows, doors or access panels, that are located entirely above the adjoining grade level.

2. Such openings shall be at least:

i. 32 inches by 48 inches in size, spaced not more than 100 feet apart in each story or basement; or

ii. 22 inches by 42 inches in size, spaced not more than 30 feet apart in each story or basement.

3. All openings for fire fighter access shall conform to all the following:

i. Openings shall be unobstructed to allow fire fighting and rescue operations from the exterior; and

ii. Openings in stories at or above grade shall have a sill height of not more than 36 inches as measured from the finished floor level. Openings in basements shall have no sill height restrictions; and

iii. Openings shall be readily identifiable and openable from the outside or shall be glazed with plain flat glass.

4. When openings in a story are provided on only one side and the opposite wall of such story is more than 75 feet from such openings, the story shall be considered windowless unless openings as specified above are provided on at least two sides of the exterior walls of the story.

5. If any portion of a basement is located more than 75 feet from openings as specified above, the basement shall be considered windowless.

6. Windowless basements not exceeding 3,000 square feet in area shall be exempt from this automatic suppression requirement, provided a supervised automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

7. In windowless basements greater than 3,000 square feet, but not exceeding 10,000 square feet in area, the required suppression system need not be connected to a water supply other than an existing domestic supply if the following conditions are met:

i. The suppression system shall be provided with a fire department connection, which shall be marked with a sign reading "Basement Area Sprinkler Water Supply"; and

ii. A supervised automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(i) In all buildings of Use Group R-1 or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (j) below, not required by N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.17 to have a complete automatic fire suppression system, all storage and workshop rooms and rubbish, laundry and similar rooms shall be equipped with a suppression system or smoke detector system connected to an approved continuously staffed location in the building. Such systems shall be installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(j) All dormitories, as defined in this chapter at N.J.A.C. 5:70-1.5, or portions thereof when separated in accordance with (l) below, shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(k) Fire suppression systems required by this Code shall be supervised by 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; or

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

5. The following are exceptions to (k) above:

i. Underground gate valves with roadway boxes;

ii. Halogenated extinguishing systems;

iii. Carbon dioxide extinguishing systems;

iv. Dry chemical extinguishing systems; and

v. Limited area sprinkler systems.

(l) In buildings containing mixed uses, one or more of which requires automatic suppression in accordance with this section, suppression will not be required throughout the building, provided that the uses requiring suppression are separated from those not requiring suppression by fire resistive construction having a minimum one hour rating. In Use Group H, the rating is to be increased to two hours.

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

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

New (b) through (k) added with (h) reserved.

Correction to rule, see 19 N.J.R. 1190(a).

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

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

(b): deleted condition concerning resident access to rooms above second story.

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

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

New (h) and (k) added.

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

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

Ventilating hood and duct added at (g), supervised system installation requirements added at (h).

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

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

Exceptions to A-2 with load over 50 added at li and ii.

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

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

Added (a)2; deleted (c)9 and added new text.

Emergency amendment, R.2000 d.402, effective September 8, 2000 (to expire November 7, 2000).

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a).

Added (j); recodified former (j) and (k) as (k) and (l); and amended internal references throughout.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.2000 d.486, effective November 6, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3647(a), 32 N.J.R. 4310(a).

Readopted provisions of R.2000 d.402 without change.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 219(d).

Amended by R.2007 d.2, effective January 2, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3377(a), 39 N.J.R. 28(b).

Added (c)2.

Case Notes

New construction code requirement for automatic fire suppression system applies to automotive spray paint booth. *Sweeney's Auto Body Inc. v. Division of Fire Safety*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 37.

5:70-4.8 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.

5:70-4.9 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.

ii. In buildings of Use Group I-1, smoke detectors that are to be located closer than five feet to a kitchen or bathroom area shall be of photoelectric type only.

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. 5:70-3.2(a)5xii, F-515.2.1.

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. 5:70-3.2(a)5xii, F-515.2.1.

vi. Smoke detectors that are to be located closer than five feet to a kitchen or bathroom area shall be photoelectric type only.

vii. At the request of a tenant of a unit in which a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired resides, the owner shall provide and install a visual alarm type smoke detector for that unit or, in the case of a rooming or boarding house resident, for that resident's sleeping area.

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. 5:70-3, 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. 5:70-3.4(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 NFPA 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).

Amended by R.2002 d.372, effective November 18, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2636(a), 34 N.J.R. 3958(a).

In (a), added iii, amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 2i and 3v and added 3vi.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 219(d).

Amended by R.2006 d.74, effective February 21, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3877(a), 38 N.J.R. 1182(a).

Added (a)3vii.

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.

5:70-4.10 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;
2. In all buildings of Use Group E up to and including the 12th grade; and
3. In all buildings required to have an automatic fire alarm system in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.9, except hotels and multiple dwellings having an occupant load of less than 25 and having less than 10 dwelling units.

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

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

Case Notes

Failure to install fire alarms and enclose open stairwells was violative of fire codes warranting issuance of abatement order. 111 Halstead Street v. Department of Community Affairs, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 77.

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.

5:70-4.11 Means of egress

(a) Every story utilized for human occupancy having an occupant load of 500 or less shall be provided with a minimum of two exits, except as provided in (b) below. Every story having an occupant load of 501 to 1,000 shall have a minimum of three exits. Every story having an occupant load of more than 1,000 shall have a minimum of four exits.

1. Each mezzanine with an occupant load of more than 50 and in which the travel distance to an exit exceeds 75 feet shall have access to at least two independent means of egress by November 6, 1990.

2. When more than one exit is required, an existing fire escape shall be accepted as providing one of the required means of egress unless judged to be dangerous for use under emergency exiting conditions.

3. Any new fire escapes shall be constructed and installed in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code Formal Technical Opinion No. FTO-3, dated March 1985.

i. Access to a fire escape shall be through a door, except that window access shall be permitted from single dwelling units or guestrooms in Use Groups R-1, R-2 and I-1 or when serving spaces having a maximum occupant load of 10 in other use groups.

4. In all buildings of Use Group E, up to and including the 12th grade, buildings of Use Group I, rooming houses and child care centers, ladders of any type are prohibited on all new and existing fire escapes used as a required means of egress.

5. All occupants shall have unobstructed access to all new and existing fire escapes without having to pass through a room subject to locking.

6. In all bed and breakfast homestays, every sleeping room shall be provided with an approved window having sill height of not more than 44 inches.

7. In dwelling units in basements or stories below grade in buildings of Use Group R-2 that are not equipped throughout with an automatic fire sprinkler system, there shall be at least two exits from each dwelling unit.

i. An approved window providing a clear opening of at least five square feet in area, a minimum net clear opening of 24 inches in height and 20 inches in width, and a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the finished floor, shall be acceptable as one of the required exits.

(b) In buildings having only one exit, the single exit condition shall be permitted to continue as follows:

1. In buildings of Use Group R-3;
2. In all buildings, in the story at the level of exit discharge when the occupant load of the story does not exceed 50 and the exit access travel distance does not exceed 75 feet;
 - i. Exception to (b)2 above: In buildings of Use Group I and in rooming houses and child care centers, regardless of Use Group, two means of egress shall be required.
3. In buildings of Use Groups R-1 and R-2, from floors that are not more than 16 feet above exterior grade.
 - i. In community residences for the developmentally disabled, the maximum occupant load, excluding staff, is 12.
4. In buildings of Use Groups R-1 and R-2, not more than two stories in height, from floors that are not more than 16 feet above exterior grade, when there are not more than four dwelling units per floor and the exit access travel distance does not exceed 50 feet. The minimum fire resistance rating of the exit enclosure and of the opening protection shall be one hour.
 - i. In community residences for the developmentally disabled, the maximum occupant load, excluding staff, is 12.
5. In buildings of Use Group B or S-2, not more than two stories in height, which are not greater than 3000 square feet per floor, when the exit access travel distance does not exceed 75 feet. The minimum fire resistance rating of the exit enclosure and of the opening protection shall be one hour.
6. Open parking structures where vehicles are mechanically parked.

(c) In multi-level dwelling units in buildings of Use Groups R-1 or R-2, an exit shall not be required from each level of the dwelling unit provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The building in which such dwelling units are contained is of type 1 or type 2 construction and the travel distance within the dwelling unit does not exceed 75 feet; or
2. The building in which such dwelling units are contained is not more than three stories in height and all third floor space is part of one or more dwelling units located in part on the second floor and no habitable room within any such dwelling unit shall have a travel distance that exceeds 50 feet from the outside of the habitable room entrance door to the inside of the entrance door to the dwelling unit.

(d) All rooms and spaces having an occupant load greater than 50 or in which the travel distance exceeds 75 feet shall have a minimum of two egress doorways.

1. The following are exceptions to (d) above:
 - i. Storage rooms having a maximum occupant load of 10;
 - ii. Classrooms having a maximum occupant load of 75 in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system;
 - iii. In buildings of Use Group I-2, any patient sleeping room or suite of rooms greater than 1,000 square feet shall have a minimum of two egress doorways.

(e) When buildings of Use Groups A-2 and A-3 have more than two individual rooms which can be used for separate functions and each room has an occupant load of more than 300, the required egress doors from such rooms shall lead directly outside or to an exit passageway.

1. Such passageways shall be completely enclosed by assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than two hours.
2. Such passageways shall not be used for any other purpose and shall lead directly outside.

(f) The capacity of means of egress in each story shall be sufficient for the occupant load thereof.

1. The capacity per unit of egress width shall be computed in accordance with the Table 5:70-4.11(f)1 for the specified use groups.

Table 5:70-4.11(f)1
CAPACITY PER UNIT EGRESS WIDTH

| Use group | Without fire suppression system Number of occupants | | With fire suppression system Number of occupants | |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Stairways | Doors, Ramps and Corridors | Stairways | Doors, Ramps and Corridors |
| A | 75 | 100 | 113 | 150 |
| B | 60 | 100 | 90 | 150 |
| E | 75 | 100 | 113 | 150 |
| F | 60 | 100 | 90 | 150 |
| H | — | — | 60 | 100 |
| I-1 | 60 | 100 | 90 | 100 |
| I-2 | 22 | 30 | 35 | 45 |
| I-3 | 60 | 100 | 90 | 150 |
| M | 60 | 100 | 90 | 150 |
| R | 75 | 100 | 113 | 150 |
| S | 60 | 100 | 90 | 150 |

2. The unit of egress width for all approved types of means of egress parts and facilities shall be 22 inches with a credit of one half unit for each 12 inches width in addition to one or more 22 inch units. Fractions of a unit of width less than 12 inches shall not be credited.

3. The maximum permitted occupant load of a given space shall be determined by dividing the floor area for a given use by the occupant load factor in Table 5:70-4.11(f)3.

i. The occupant load may be equal to the total number of occupants for whom exit capacity is provided as determined by (f)1 above. The resulting total occupant load shall not exceed one occupant per five square feet of net floor area over the entire use.

Table 5:70-4.11(f)3
Floor Area Per Occupant

| Use | Occupant Load Factor in square feet per occupant |
|---|--|
| Assembly | |
| Fixed seating | Note 1 |
| Tables and chairs | 15 net |
| Chairs only | 7 net |
| Dance floors | 7 net |
| Standing space | 5 net |
| Waiting space (Note 2) | 3 net |
| Bowling centers | |
| Lanes | 5 persons |
| Other areas | per assembly above |
| Business | 100 gross |
| Educational | |
| Fixed seating | Note 1 |
| Classrooms | 20 net |
| Shops and vocational areas | 50 net |
| Industrial | 100 gross |
| Institutional | |
| Inpatient treatment | 240 gross |
| Outpatient | 100 gross |
| Sleeping rooms | 120 gross |
| Library | |
| Reading room | 50 net |
| Stack area | 100 gross |
| Mercantile | |
| Grade floor or basement | 30 gross |
| All other floors | 60 gross |
| Storage, stock, shipping | 300 gross |
| Parking garages | 200 gross |
| Residential | 200 gross |
| Storage areas, mechanical equipment room | 300 gross |

Note 1. The occupant load for that portion of an assembly area having fixed seats shall be determined by the number of fixed seats installed. Capacity of seats without dividing arms is one person per 18 inches. For booths, one seat equals 24 inches. One person is allowed for each fixed seat with dividing arms or fixed stand alone stool.

Note 2. Waiting space means that space in an assembly occupancy where persons are admitted to the building at times when seats are not available to them and are allowed to wait in a lobby or similar space until seats are available. Such use of the lobby or similar space shall not encroach upon the required clear width of exits.

(g) All buildings of Use Group A with an occupant load of 100 or more shall be provided with a main entrance capable of serving as the main exit with an egress capacity for at least one-half the total occupant load. The remaining

exits shall be capable of providing two-thirds of the total required exit capacity.

(h) The length of a dead end corridor shall not exceed 35 feet.

1. The following are exceptions to (h) above:

i. The maximum length of a dead end corridor shall be 50 feet in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire alarm system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

ii. The maximum length of a dead end corridor shall be 70 feet in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(i) All means of egress shall be provided with artificial illumination as follows:

1. All means of egress in other than buildings of Use Group R-3 shall be equipped with artificial lighting facilities to provide the intensity of illumination herein prescribed continuously during the time that conditions of occupancy of the building require that the exits be available. Lighting shall also be provided to illuminate the exit discharge in all buildings other than Use Groups F, H and S. In buildings of Use Group R-2, means of egress lighting, except that lighting within a dwelling unit, shall be wired on a circuit independent of circuits within any dwelling unit. The disconnecting means and overcurrent protection device shall not be located within a dwelling unit or such that access must be obtained by going through a dwelling unit.

2. The intensity of light at floor level shall be not less than one foot candle.

3. In buildings of Use Groups A and E used for the exhibition of motion pictures or other projections by means of directed light, the illumination of aisles may be reduced during such period of projection to not less than 0.2 foot candle.

i. The lighting of exits, aisles and auditoriums shall be controlled from a location inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Supplementary control shall also be provided in the motion picture projection room.

(j) Means of egress lighting shall be connected to an emergency electrical system conforming to NFiPA 70 (National Electrical Code) to assure continued illumination for a duration of not less than one hour in case of primary power loss in all buildings, rooms, or spaces required to have more than one exit or exit access.

(k) In all buildings, rooms or spaces required to have more than one exit or exit access, all required means of egress shall be indicated with approved internally illuminated or self-luminous signs reading "Exit", visible from the exit access and, when necessary, supplemented by directional signs in the exit access indicating the direction and way of egress. All "Exit" signs shall be located at exit doors or exit access areas, so as to be readily visible.

1. Exceptions to (k) above:

i. Exit signs shall not be required in buildings of Use Groups I-1, R-2 and R-3 having a total occupant load, excluding staff, of 20 or less.

ii. Exit signs shall not be required when the second means of egress is a fire escape that is accessed directly from the individual sleeping rooms.

iii. Approved main exterior doors that are clearly identified as exits are not required to have "Exit" signs.

2. "Exit" signs shall have red or green letters at least six inches high and the minimum width of each stroke shall be three-quarter inch on a white background or in other approved distinguishable colors. If an arrow is provided as part of an "Exit" sign, the construction shall be such that the arrow direction cannot be readily changed. The word "Exit" shall be clearly discernible when the internally illuminated sign is not energized.

3. Each sign shall be illuminated by a source providing not less than five foot candles at the illuminated surface.

i. Exception to (k)3 above: Approved self-luminous signs which provide evenly illuminated letters shall have a minimum luminance of 0.06 foot lamberts.

4. All "Exit" signs shall be illuminated at all times when the building is occupied. To assure continued illumination for a duration of not less than one hour in case of primary power loss, the "Exit" signs shall be connected to an emergency electrical system.

i. Exception to (k)4 above: Approved self-luminous signs which provide continuous illumination independent of external power sources need not be connected to an emergency electrical system.

(l) Means of egress doors shall conform to the following:

1. All egress doors serving an occupant load greater than 50 shall swing in the direction of exit travel;

2. In building of Use Groups R-1 and R-2 all doors opening onto a passageway at grade or exit stair shall be self-closing or automatic closing by listed closing devices.

3. All dwelling unit, guest room or rooming unit corridor doors in buildings of Use Groups R-1, R-2, and I-1 shall be at least 1½ inch solid core wood or approved equal with approved door closers and shall not have any glass panels, other than approved wire glass in metal frames. Corridor doors shall not be constructed of hollow core wood, shall not contain louvers and shall not be of panel construction. Doors shall fit both plumb and level in frames, and be reasonably tight fitting. All replacement doors shall be 1½ inch solid core wood or approved equal, unless existing frame will accommodate only a 1¾ inch door.

i. Existing doors meeting the requirements of Federal Housing and Urban Development Rehabilitation Guidelines No. 8 or of Section 5 of Appendix B of the BOCA Basic/National Existing Structures Code, 1984 Ed. for a rating of 15 minutes or better shall be accepted as meeting the provisions of this requirement.

(1) Modifications made to existing doors to achieve the required rating shall be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Fire Code.

ii. Existing doors in buildings provided with approved, complete automatic suppression shall be required only to provide a smoke barrier; shall not contain louvers; shall fit plumb and level; and be reasonably tight fitting.

iii. In group homes with a maximum of 15 occupants, and which are protected with an approved automatic detection system, closing devices may be omitted.

4. Buildings of Use Group I-3 having remote power unlocking capability on more than 10 doors shall be provided with an emergency power source for such locks. Power shall be arranged to automatically operate upon failure of normal power within 10 seconds and for a duration of not less than one hour.

5. All required exit doors equipped with latching devices in buildings or portions thereof of Use Group A with an occupant load greater than 100 shall be equipped with approved panic hardware by November 6, 1990.

(m) Every required exit stairway having three or more risers and not provided with handrails or in which the existing handrails are judged to be in danger of collapsing when used under emergency exiting conditions, shall be provided with handrails for the full length of the run of steps on at least one side. All exit stairways more than 66 inches wide and subject to the maximum designed occupancy load shall have handrails on both sides. Where there are no handrails or where the existing handrails must be replaced in order to correct a hazardous condition, the handrails shall be designed and installed in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(n) Every open portion of a stair, landing, or balcony which is more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below and not provided with guards or those in which the existing guards are judged to be in danger of collapsing when used under emergency exiting conditions, shall be provided with guards. Where there are no guards or where the existing guards must be replaced in order to correct a hazardous condition, the guards shall be designed and installed in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

(o) In all buildings of Use Group R-1 and R-2 all transoms shall be either glazed with ¼" wire glass set in metal frames and permanently secured in the closed position or sealed with materials consistent with the corridor construction. Any other sash, grill or opening in a corridor, and any window in a corridor not opening to the outside air, shall be sealed with materials consistent with the corridor construction.

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

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

Substantially amended.

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

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

Changes made at (a)1 and (f)2, 3, and new 5.

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

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

Text on transoms added at (o).

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

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

Added (a)3, Table (f)3 and (g); occupant load specified at (f)3.

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.2000 d.30, effective January 18, 2000.

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

In (b)4, inserted "not" following "that are" in the first sentence.

Amended by R.2002 d.372, effective November 18, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2636(a), 34 N.J.R. 3958(a).

In (f), rewrote 3i.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 222(a).

Case Notes

Owner of three-unit building would be required to bring her property into compliance with fire safety regulations. *Iadipaoli v. Bureau of Housing Inspection*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 115.

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.