

CB 118772 - SUMMARY OUTLINE

The Seattle Fire Code is updated (replaced) every three years in line with updated International Fire Code, Washington State Fire Code, and the other construction codes adopted in Seattle such as Building Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, etc. The updates incorporate current technologies, designs, and the latest evaluations of what is an acceptable level of safety.

The following are provisions contained in the 2015 Seattle Fire Code that are a significant change from requirements contained in the 2012 Seattle Fire Code.

Section 308.1.5.3 Sky Lanterns

Additional regulations have been placed into the code restricting the use of sky lanterns. The code will prohibit igniting or releasing sky lanterns or like materials.

Section 308.3 Open Flames/Fire Performers

The language in Section 308 was cleaned up to clarify that only the use of flame effects (fire performers) before an audience is regulated by this section in keeping with the context of the subhead title (Group A Occupancies) and the title of the associated referenced standard, NFPA 160 - Standard for the Use of Flame Effects Before an Audience. Additional language was added to further clarify that the indoor use of flame effects would only be "approved" in occupancies provided with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

903.2.9.1 Repair Garage Sprinklers

The code is being changed to acknowledge the differing levels of fire hazards associated with repair garages. Previously, all new repair garages were subject to the same sprinkler requirements in the fire code, with no recognition of less hazardous type of repair garage. The change will no longer require sprinkler for minor repair garages, which are garages where there are no engine overhauls, nor draining of fuel tanks.

904.12 Commercial Cooking Appliance Signage

To aid in the fire inspection of commercial cooking operations, the fire code is implementing a new requirement to provide signs indicating the type and location under the rangehood of cooking appliances protected by a fire suppression system. The signs will allow the fire inspector to ensure that adequate fire suppression is provided when cooking appliances are moved within a kitchen.

912.5.1 Fire Department Connection Signs

To assist firefighters in responding to fire in high rise buildings a new requirement is being implemented to install a sign at the Fire Department Connection indicating the pressure that should be pumped into the building.

3409 Tire Storage

The property line setbacks in the code for outdoor tire storage are being reduced to reflect the challenges in meeting code requirements. Currently the fire code requires a 50 ft. setback between property lines and outdoor tire storage of more than 500 tires. Storage of 500 tires or less will require a 3 ft. setback if the tires are stacked less than 6 ft. high. This is being reduced to more feasible setbacks distances to reflect the density of the Seattle and the limited volume of tires typically found at tire shops in the city.