

SECTION 1707 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

Amended by Ordinance No. 14626 and passed on August 26, 2008

SECTION 101 GENERAL

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of the City of Allentown, hereinafter referred to as this code.

SECTION 105 PERMITS

105.1.1.1 Permit Fees. Inspection and permit fees are to be established in accordance with the Charter.

105.6.30 Open Burning. An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations shall be adhered to.

~~Exception: Recreational fires~~

105.6.48 Family Day Care, Group Child Day Care, Adult Day Care, Child Day Care Facilities. An operational permit is required to operate a child or adult day care facility.

105.6.49 Educational Facilities. An operational permit is required to operate a post-secondary, college, university, business school, specialty or trade school.

105.6.50 Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Rehabilitation Centers, and other Group I Uses not covered elsewhere. An operational permit is required to operate an institutional facility.

105.6.51 Dormitories (off campus), Boarding Houses, Fraternity and Sorority Houses. An operational permit is required to operate such a residential use.

105.6.52 Hotels and Motels. An operational permit is required to operate a hotel or motel.

105.6.53 Pesticide Storage or Display. An operational permit is required to operate a pesticide storage, exc. mercantile displays and their accessory storage or approved residential or agricultural uses

105.6.54 Radioactive Materials. An operational permit is required to store, process, or use radioactive materials. exc. medical facilities under the direction of a licensed operator

105.6.55 Recreational Fire and Outdoor Fires. An operational permit is required to kindle or maintain a recreational fire or outdoor fire.

Exception: No permit is required for approved fires used for cooking or for outdoor fires meeting exception 6 or 7 of Section 307.1, except as required by Section 105.6.32.

SECTION 106 INSPECTIONS

106.5 Unsafe Conditions. Whenever the code official shall find in any structure or upon any premises dangerous or hazardous conditions or materials as follows, the code official shall order such

dangerous conditions or materials to be removed or remedied in accordance with the provisions of this code:

1. Dangerous conditions liable to cause or contribute to the spread of fire in or on said premises or structure or endanger the occupants thereof.
2. Conditions which interfere with the efficiency or operation of any fire protection equipment and system.
3. Obstructions to or on fire escapes, stairs, passageways, doors or windows, which are liable to interfere with the egress of occupants or the operation of the Fire Department in case of a fire.
4. Accumulations of dust or waste material in air-conditioning or ventilating systems or grease in kitchen or other exhaust ducts.
5. Accumulations of grease on kitchen cooking equipment, or oil, grease or dirt upon, under or around any mechanical equipment.
6. Accumulations of rubbish, waste, paper, boxes, shavings or other combustible materials, or excessive storage of any combustible material.
7. Hazardous conditions arising from defective or improperly utilized or installed electrical wiring, equipment or appliances.
8. Hazardous conditions arising from defective or improperly installed equipment for handling or using combustible, explosive or otherwise hazardous materials.
9. Dangerous or unlawful amounts of combustible, explosive or otherwise hazardous materials.
10. All equipment, materials, processes or operations which are in violation of the provisions and intent of this code.

SECTION 109 VIOLATIONS

109.2.3 Prosecution of Violations. If the notice of violation is not complied with promptly, the fire code official is authorized to request the legal counsel of the jurisdiction to institute the appropriate legal proceedings at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation or to require removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

109.3 Violation penalties. ~~Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE], punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS], or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.~~ Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a summary offense, punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000) Dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both such fine or imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

SECTION 111
STOP WORK ORDER

Section 111.4 Failure to comply. Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not less than Twenty-five (\$25) Dollars or more than Three Hundred (\$300) Dollars.

**CHAPTER 3
GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE**

SECTION 307
OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES, AND OUTDOOR FIRES

307.1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning or any outdoor fire, including burning in outdoor fireplaces, chimineas, firepots, stoves, cooking appliances, and barrels, unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

Exceptions:

1. Approved gas or liquid-fueled cooking devices used in compliance with this code.
2. Approved charcoal grills used in compliance with this code.
3. Approved enclosed food cookers or food smokers used in compliance with this code.
4. American Gas Association or other laboratory approved decorative gas-fueled appliances used in compliance with this code.
5. Outside burning in an approved device when such burning will not be a nuisance as defined in Section 307.1.1. All burning shall be attended at all times and requires a fire permit.
6. Flares, smudge pots, and similar devices used for safety or occupational uses.
7. Candles, small torches, oil lamps, and other small decorative devices when used in compliance with this code.
8. Approved bonfires and recreational fires with a permit.

SECTION 310
SMOKING

310.9 Smoking in Public Vehicles. No person shall smoke any pipe, cigar, cigarette, or other device for the smoking of tobacco, or carry any lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or other device for the smoking of tobacco, upon any bus, or school bus, in use for the conveyance of the general public within the limits of the City.

**CHAPTER 5
FIRE SERVICE FEATURES**

SECTION 503
FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

503.4.1 Enforcement. At the discretion of the Fire Official, the fire official may deliver to any person who violates the provisions of Section 503.4 of the International Fire Code a notice of violation, in lieu of instituting a summary proceeding. For violation of this section, the owner or operator may, within ten (10)

days of the time when such notice was attached to his motor vehicle/ conveyance, pay as a penalty the sum of Twenty-five (\$25) Dollars after ten (10) days but within twenty (20) days of the violation, the sum of Thirty-five (\$35) Dollars. Any vehicle parked in violation of the provisions of this ordinance may be removed by any member of the Police, Fire or Code Enforcement, their designee, or a designated Allentown Parking Authority personnel. Any vehicle removed may be towed to and placed at any area designed by the Mayor or his duly designated representative or the Parking Authority, for impounding of vehicles. All fines and costs for removal, towing, storage or parking of any vehicle removed under the provisions of this section shall be paid by the owner of the vehicle, and the vehicle shall remain impounded until all costs are paid.

503.6.1 Sprinkler requirement in gated facilities. The Fire Chief may require an approved automatic sprinkler system be installed and maintained to fully protect all structures, buildings or hazards located within the gated areas.

CHAPTER 6 **BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS**

SECTION 603 **FUEL-FIRED APPLIANCES**

~~603.4 Portable unvented heaters. Portable unvented fuel fired heating equipment shall be prohibited in occupancies in Groups A, E, I, R 1, R 3 and R 4.~~

603.4 Portable unvented heaters. Liquid or gas type portable heating appliances shall be prohibited except in single family residential homes. Where these appliances are permitted, single family residential homes, all flammable or combustible liquid fuel shall be stored in compliance with the standards set by the Bureau of Fire Prevention of the City of Allentown.

CHAPTER 8 **INTERIOR FINISH, DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS**

Section 806 of this Code is to remain as an enforceable portion of this Code as authorized by Act 45 and its amendments. (The State Construction Code eliminated the restrictions on natural cut Christmas tress unless re-authorized by local ordinance)

CHAPTER 9 **FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

SECTION 903 **AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

903.6.2. High Rise Buildings. An automatic fire suppression system shall be installed throughout every existing high-rise building as defined by and with the exception located in the 2006 International Building Code, Section 403. (14626 §1 8/26/08)

903.6.3. Windowless Stories. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in existing occupancies per Section 903.2.10 of the this code.

SECTION 905

STANDPIPE SYSTEMS

905.11 Existing Buildings. Existing structures with occupied floors located more than four (4) stories above or below the lowest level of Fire Department access shall be equipped with standpipes installed in accordance with Section 905. The standpipes shall have an approved Fire Department connection with hose connections at each floor level above or below the lowest level of Fire Department access. The fire code official is authorized to approve the installation of manual standpipe systems to achieve compliance with this section where the responding Fire Department is capable of providing the required hose flow at the

highest standpipe outlet.

SECTION 906
PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

906.1 Where Required. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In all Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4, and S occupancies.

Exception: In all Group A, B and E occupancies equipped throughout with quick response sprinklers, fire extinguishers shall be required ~~only in special hazard areas~~ as designated by the fire code official.

SECTION 907
FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEMS

~~907.3.1.6 Group R 1 boarding and rooming houses. A fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group R 1 boarding and rooming houses.~~

~~Exception: Buildings that have single station smoke alarms meeting or exceeding the requirements of Section 907.2.10.1 and where the fire alarm system includes at least one manual fire alarm box per floor arranged to initiate the alarm.~~

~~907.3.1.7 Group R 2. A fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group R 2 occupancies more than three (3) stories in height or with more than sixteen (16) dwelling units or sleeping units.~~

~~Exceptions:~~

- ~~1. Where each living unit is separated from other contiguous living units by fire barriers having a fire resistance rating of not less than 0.75 hours, and where each living unit has either its own independent exit or its own independent stairway or ramp discharging at grade.~~
- ~~2. A separate fire alarm system is not required in buildings that are equipped throughout with an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and having a local alarm to notify all occupants~~
- ~~3. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings that do not have interior corridors serving dwelling units and are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, provided that dwelling units either have a means of egress door opening directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to the exits or are served by open ended corridors designed in accordance with Section 1023.6, Exception 4.~~

~~907.3.1.8 Group R 4. A fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group R 4 residential care/assisted living facilities.~~

~~Exceptions:~~

~~1. Where there are interconnected smoke alarms meeting the requirements of Section 907.2.10 and there is at least one (1) manual fire alarm box per floor arranged to sound continuously the smoke alarms.~~

- ~~2. Other manually activated, continuously sounding alarms approved by the fire code official~~

~~907.3.2 Single and multiple station smoke alarms. Single and multiple station smoke alarms shall be installed in existing Group R occupancies in accordance with Sections 907.3.2.1 through 907.3.2.3.~~

~~Exceptions:~~

- ~~1. Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or~~

construction of any kind.

2. ~~Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.~~

~~907.3.2.3 Power source. In Group R occupancies, single station smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.~~

~~Exception: Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated: in existing buildings where no construction is taking place; in buildings that are not served from a commercial power source; and in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.~~

907.3.2.4 Fire Alarm and Detection Systems

A. Single family buildings. In all single family residential buildings smoke detectors shall be required in each sleeping room, in the immediate area outside of each sleeping room and on every story of the dwelling unit, including basements. Smoke detectors may be battery operated

B. 2 to 12 unit residential buildings. In two (2) to twelve (12) unit residential buildings interconnected smoke detectors shall be required in common public use areas such as halls, corridors, stairways, stair towers, lobbies, basements or similar common areas.

Approved smoke detectors shall be required in each sleeping room, in the immediate area outside of each sleeping room, and on each floor level, including the basement. Smoke detectors inside dwelling units may be battery-operated. Smoke detection in common areas are required to be connected to the common area system and must be hard-wired with battery back-up.

C. 13 or more unit residential buildings. Any building containing thirteen (13) or more residential units must comply with the most recently adopted International Fire Code. have an approved automatic fire alarm installed in all common areas. The fire alarm shall meet the standards set forth in NFPA National Fire Code 72, as referenced by this code.

Approved smoke detectors shall be required in each sleeping room, in the immediate area outside of each sleeping room, and on each floor level, including the basement. Smoke detectors inside dwelling units may be battery-operated. Smoke detection in common areas are required to be connected to the common area system and must be hard-wired with battery back-up.

D. Mixed use buildings. In mixed use buildings containing any non-residential use and any residential unit(s) interconnected smoke detectors shall be required serving the non-residential use(s), and common use areas such as halls, corridors, stairways, stair towers, lobbies, basements or similar common areas.

Approved smoke detectors shall be required in each sleeping room, in the immediate area outside of each sleeping room, and on each floor level, including the basement. Smoke detectors inside dwelling units may be battery-operated. Smoke detection in common areas are required to be connected to the common area system and must be hard-wired with battery back-up.

EXCEPTION 1: Buildings that comply with the currently adopted International Fire Prevention Code and were constructed or converted by alteration to a different use and occupancy by meeting the standards of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code or prior Building Codes adopted by the City of Allentown.

EXCEPTION 1: Mixed-use buildings that comply with the currently adopted International Fire Prevention Code and were constructed or converted by alteration to a different use and occupancy by meeting the standards of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code or prior Building Codes adopted by the City of Allentown: (14626 §1 8/26/08)

EXCEPTION 2: Buildings that are sprinklered in a manner approved by the International Fire Prevention Code, as amended, will be permitted the following exceptions:

A. Common public use area smoke detection is not required ~~other than in the basement.~~

B. Smoke detectors will not be retroactively required inside sleeping rooms, providing that an approved smoke detector is installed in the immediate vicinity outside each sleeping room. This exception does not apply to rooming units or similar sleeping units. All dwelling units must have at least one approved smoke detector installed inside that unit.

All dwelling, rooming, or sleeping units must have at least one approved smoke detector installed inside that unit. (14626 §1 8/26/08)

NOTE: Immediate area outside each sleeping room shall mean approximately fifteen (15) linear feet.

NOTE: The smoke detector(s) installed to protect the area outside of each sleeping room satisfies the requirement of one smoke detector per floor within that unit.

CHAPTER 22 **MOTOR FUEL-DISPENSING STATIONS AND REPAIR GARAGES**

SECTION 2211 REPAIR GARAGES

2211.9 Disposal of Waste. Proof of proper disposal of flammable, combustible, or other hazardous waste including vehicle fluids, gases, and rubber tires shall be required, in the form of signed contracts, receipts or other such form as the fire official may accept, with approved certified disposal companies or waste haulers.

CHAPTER 33 **EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS**

SECTION 3301 GENERAL

3301.1.3.1 Local Fireworks Regulation.

A person shall not manufacture, store, offer or expose for sale, sell at retail, discharge or possess any fireworks in violation of this code.

SECTION TWO: That the following be added as Section 3309:

SECTION 3309 LOCAL FIREWORKS REGULATIONS

3309.1 Displays

All private displays of consumer-type fireworks, devices known as "ground and Handheld sparkling devices" or "novelties", shall comply with this section.

Exceptions:

1. Where approved by the Fire Code Official

2. Small novelties and caps that are by nature of minimal consequence such as party poppers, cap guns, and similar products.
1. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used on any public street, thoroughfare, alley, parking lot, public sidewalk or walkway, City parks, public way or similar area.
2. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used on private property without the owner's permission.
3. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used beneath overhead objects, structures, or combustible material.
4. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used within fifteen (15') feet of any structure or vehicle.
5. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used in areas deemed a fire hazard, such as dry grasses, fields, storage areas, and similar hazard sites.
6. No pyrotechnic device shall be ignited or used in a manner in which the sparks or discharge are a hazard to any combustible material.
7. No pyrotechnic device shall be used inside an enclosed area including but not limited to structures, buildings, porches and vehicles.
8. All pyrotechnic devices must be used in accordance with the directions on the device.

3309.2 Sales and Storage

Sales and storage associated with sales shall conform to this section.

- Exceptions:
1. Where approved by the Fire Code Official
 2. Less than twenty-five (25) pounds total weight of small novelties and caps, such as party poppers, paper caps for cap guns, bangsite cannon chemical, and similar low hazard products.

3309.2.1.1 Tent, Canopy and Outside Sales

Legal fireworks may be displayed and sold in tents, canopies, or other temporary Structures that are erected in compliance with the City Fire and Building Code. All fireworks must comply with APA Standard 87-1 for "toy caps", "novelties", or "ground and hand-held sparkling devices."

The distance from the edge of the tent or canopy to any building shall be a minimum of fifty (50) feet.

The distance from the edge of any tent to a public way, lot line or other hazard shall be a minimum of twenty (20) feet.

Fireworks must be monitored at all times during sale hours.

Fireworks must be safely secured at all other times.

No sales are permitted to persons under the age of eighteen (18) unless accompanied by an adult.

3309.2.2 All Stores (Not to include Tents and Canopies)

All displays, stock and storage must be kept inaccessible to the public.

No storage permitted in a basement.

All fireworks must comply with APA Standard 87-1 for "toy caps", "novelties", or "ground and hand-held sparkling devices."

Fireworks shall not be located in any manner that is a fire hazard or restrict egress from the occupancy.

No sales are permitted to persons under the age of eighteen (18) unless accompanied by an adult.

3309.2.2.1 Stores Larger than 5,000 Square Feet

Sales and storage is restricted to five hundred (500) pounds of total package and product weight unless controlled areas are constructed in compliance with the International Building Code. This amount may be doubled if the building is equipped with an approved fire sprinkler system meeting Ordinary Hazard Group 2 density.

3309.2.2.2 Stores Smaller than 5,000 Square Feet

Sales and Storage is restricted to one hundred (100) pounds of total package and product weight or fifty (50) cubic feet.

SECTION THREE: That the geographic limits referred to in certain sections of the 2006 International Fire Code are hereby established as follows:

CHAPTER 32 **CRYOGENIC FLUIDS**

SECTION 3204 **STORAGE**

3204.3.1.1. Location. Storage of flammable cryogenic fluids in stationary containers outside of buildings is prohibited within the City of Allentown.

Exception: This provision shall not apply when it is determined by the fire code official that the container does not constitute a hazard and the container is installed in compliance with this chapter and national standards.

CHAPTER 34 **FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS**

SECTION 3404 **STORAGE**

3404.2.9.5.1 Locations Where Above-Ground Tanks are Prohibited. Storage of Class I and II liquids in above-ground tanks outside of buildings is prohibited within the City of Allentown.

Exception: This provision shall not apply when it is determined by the fire code official that the container does not constitute a hazard and the container is installed in compliance with this chapter.

SECTION 3406 **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

3406.2.4.4 Locations Where Above-Ground Tanks are Prohibited. The storage of Class I and II liquids

in above-ground tanks is prohibited within the City of Allentown.

Exception: This Provision shall not apply when it is determined by the fire code official that the container does not constitute a hazard and the container is installed in compliance with this chapter.

SECTION FOUR: The City of Allentown hereby designates the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety and the Fire Department to administer this Ordinance.

SECTION FIVE: If any section, subsection, sentence or clause of this Ordinance is held, for any reason, to be invalid, such decision or decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.