

2017 Ohio Fire Code

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# PREFACE

## Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fire code addressing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, explosion, handling or use of hazardous materials and the use and occupancy of buildings and premises. The *Ohio Fire Code* is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive fire code contains the Ohio Administrative Code Rules that comprise the *Ohio Fire Code*. These administrative rules became effective on December 15, 2017. The *Ohio Fire Code* is a code of statewide applicability that consists of rules relating to all aspects of fire safety and other matters regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal. The *Ohio Fire Code* establishes the minimum standards for safeguarding life and property from fire and explosion in Ohio. In promulgating the *Ohio Fire Code*, the State Fire Marshal of Ohio, per Ohio Revised Code Section 3737.82, must include rules relating to: the movable contents of any building, or class of buildings; the transportation, storage, location and use of flammable and explosive materials; the procedures to be employed by persons in the event of fire; **the installation and location of fire protection equipment; rules applicable to particular classes of existing buildings or structures as the use and occupancy of such buildings or structures suggest are necessary**; and other similar matters. The *Ohio Fire Code* as promulgated is enforceable by the State Fire Marshal, Assistant State Fire Marshals and/or certified fire safety inspectors working for a duly constituted municipal or township fire department in Ohio.

The 2017 *Ohio Fire Code* is based on the *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup> (2015 Edition), as amended by the State Fire Marshal of Ohio. The *Ohio Fire Code* is designed to be compatible with the portions of the *Ohio Building Code* that are based upon the *International Building Code*<sup>®</sup> (2015 Edition). The *Ohio Fire Code* is also compatible with all of the International Codes<sup>®</sup> (“I-Codes<sup>®</sup>”) published by the International Code Council<sup>®</sup> (“ICC”), including the *International Building Code*, *International Energy Conservation Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Existing Building Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Fuel Gas Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Mechanical Code*<sup>®</sup>, *ICC Performance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Plumbing Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Property Maintenance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Residential Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Urban-Wildland Interface Code*<sup>®</sup> and *International Zoning Code*<sup>®</sup>, many of which have been specifically adopted for use in Ohio. As the *Ohio Fire Code* is based on the *International Fire Code* (2015 Edition) and it is enforceable by local fire officials, it also encourages statewide consistency in the application of its provisions.

## Maintenance

The State Fire Marshal of Ohio, through its involvement in the national model code development process, works with the other fire code officials and regulated industry members to submit proposed changes to the *International Fire Code* development process and to update the *Ohio Fire Code* in accordance with all of the changes to the *International Fire Code*. Interested parties can also submit proposed changes to the *Ohio Fire Code* to the State Fire Marshal of Ohio in accordance with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and Rule 1 of the *Ohio Fire Code*.

## Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers

In each of the International Code Council’s (ICC) code development cycles, proposed changes to the *International Fire Code* are considered at a Code Development Hearing by the International Fire Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. Proposed changes to a code section whose number begins with a letter in brackets are considered by a different code development committee. For instance, proposed changes to code sections that have the bracketed letter [M] in front (e.g., [M] 606.4), are considered by the International Mechanical Code Development Committee at the ICC’s Code Development Hearing. Where this designation is applicable to the entire content of a main section of the code, the designation appears at the main section number and title and is not repeated at every subsection in that section.

The content of sections in this code that begin with a bracketed letter designation are maintained by other ICC code development committees in accordance with the following: [B] = International Building Code Development Committee; [EB] = International Existing Building Code Development Committee; [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee; [P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee.

Italicized text throughout the *Ohio Fire Code* is “Ohioized” language, meaning that it contains provisions written by the State Fire Marshal of Ohio specifically for application in Ohio; these italicized provisions are substantively different than the sug-

gested model code (IFC®) text for those particular sections. The “Ohioized” language is the law of Ohio and it is to be given equal weight with nonitalicized text.

## **Marginal Markings**

Single vertical lines in the margins within the body of the printed *Ohio Fire Code* indicate an ICC technical change from the requirements of the 2011 edition of the code. Double vertical lines in the margins indicate an Ohio amendment. Deletion indicators are provided in the margin as well. A bold arrow (➡) indicates that a paragraph or item has been deleted by the ICC from the 2012 edition; a carrot (>) in the margin indicates language has been deleted by Ohio.