
Report on Petitions

Summary of Petitions Received
to Revise the 2017 Ohio Fire Code

July 3, 2024

**Ohio Department of Commerce
Division of State Fire Marshal**

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Petition Period – Synopsis

On April 1, 2024, the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) unofficially opened the “Petition Period” to update the 2017 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) by inviting stakeholders and interested parties to a kickoff meeting to be held on the SFM campus on Monday, April 15, 2024. At the kickoff meeting, the SFM and staff discussed the rule package, the update process, timeframes, and significant changes that were being proposed in a “draft 2024 OFC” which was published on the SFM’s website for stakeholder review. A question-and-answer session and an SFM campus tour concluded the meeting. The Petition Period was officially opened at the meeting and remained open until the close of business Monday, May 13, 2024.

During the Petition Period the SFM received 94 Petitions; however, fifteen of those petitions were withdrawn from consideration by the Petitioner. Thereafter, the SFM reviewed the remaining 79 substantive petitions. These petitions proposed changes to 19 different OFC chapters and nearly half of them (36) were approved, approved as amended, or approved in concept and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Pursuant to the approval of those Petitions, further amendments were made to the following proposed OFC chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 20, 23, 40, 50, 56 and 57.

Of the 43 Petitions that were denied, 12 were denied because they either addressed matters outside the provisions of the OFC or addressed matters that should first be submitted to the Ohio Board of Building Standards for consideration in the Ohio Building Code (OBC) and/or vetted through the OBC update process.

Index of Petitions (by number)

Petition Number	Code Sec.	Topic	Pg. No.
1	All	Adopt and incorporate 2021 IFC Chapters 1-11 and 20 – 80 and 2024 IFC Chapter 12	1
2	All	Delete Ohio specific citation formatting and references throughout the code	1
3	All	Make non-substantive and typographical changes throughout the code	2
4	5619.4.2, 5619.4.3, 5919.4.4	Renewal applications, Processing, denial, or revocation of an exhibitor of fireworks license, Notification to the state fire marshal required (Requirements for an exhibitor's license)	2
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9*	1107	Energy storage systems	6
11*	315.3.1	Ceiling clearance (General storage)	7
13*	Appx D102.1	Access and loading (Fire apparatus access roads)	8
14	510.1	Emergency responder communication coverage in new buildings	9
15	901.4.5	Appearance of equipment (Non-required fire protection systems)	10
16	806.6.1	Restricted occupancies (Natural decorative vegetation)	10
17	403.10.2.2.1.1	Placarding for accessible apartment units	11
18	403.10.1.3	Placarding for accessible hotel/motel rooms	12
20*	903.4 [913.4]	Sprinkler system supervision and alarms	12
21	Ch 1 & 9	Mandatory permits for private fire service mains	14
22	916.4	Individual and provisional individual certification	15
33*†	118.4.3; 118.5.4	Transient hotels (vacation after 30 days) / Extended stay hotels (vacation after 30 days)	17
34	105.4	Construction documents	18
35	312.1	General (Vehicle impact protection)	19
36	912.4	Access (Fire department connections)	19
43†	2006.2	Airport fuel systems	20
44	2304.2.06	Smoking prohibited (Attended self-service motor fuel-dispensing facilities)	21
45	3206.7.5; Table 3206.2	Number of doors required (Fire department access doors; General fire protection and life safety requirements)	21
46	1107	Energy storage systems	22
47	Ch 12	Energy Storage Systems - 2024 IFC Chapter 12	23
48	104.11	Fire investigations	24
49	408.2.4	Tornado drills	25
50	2304.4.3	Location of containers being filled (Dispensing into portable containers)	25
51	1018.3	Aisles in Groups B and M (exceptions).	26
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55	N/A	Elevator car size	28
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58	202	Fire lane (definition)	33
59	202	Construction documents (definition)	34
60	912.2	Location (Fire department connections)	34
61	1008.2	Illumination required	35
62	Table 5003.1.1(1)	Maximum allowable quantity per control area of hazardous materials posing a physical hazard	35
63	Table 5003.1.1(3)	Maximum allowable quantity per control area of hazardous materials posing a physical hazard in an outdoor control area	36
64	N/A	Digging by utility company	37
66*	322.1	Laboratories using chemicals	38
67	322.2	Laboratories using chemicals	38
68	3801.1	Scope (Higher education laboratories)	39
69	3801.2	Application (Higher education laboratories)	41
70	323.5, 202	Electric vehicle charging and systems	41
71	202	Distinct hazard	42
72	104.6.3.1	Fire reports	43
73	104.1.1	(Duties and powers of the fire official; General)	44
74	202	Uses other than Group H (Occupancy classification; Group H, High-hazard)	45
75	202	Uses other than Group H (Occupancy classification; Group H, High-hazard)	45
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96	5627.8.1	Timing and frequency (Employee education and training)	58
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* No petition was submitted for skipped number.

† Petitions 24-32 and 37 - 42 were withdrawn.

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	72	104.6.3.1	Fire reports	43
	98	104.6.3.1	Fire reports	59
	6	104.9	Alternative materials and methods	5
	48	104.11	Fire investigations	24
	34	105.4	Construction documents	18
	33	118.4.3; 118.5.4	Transient hotels (vacation after 30 days) / Extended stay hotels (vacation after 30 days)	17
02	59	202	Construction documents (definition)	34
	71	202	Distinct hazard	42
	70	323.5, 202	Electric vehicle charging and systems	41
	58	202	Fire lane (definition)	33
	74	202	Uses other than Group H (Occupancy classification; Group H, High-hazard)	45
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	49	408.2.4	Tornado drills	25
05	52	503.2.3	Surface (Fire apparatus access roads; Specifications)	26
	14	510.1	Emergency responder communication coverage in new buildings	9
	57	510.1	Emergency responder communication coverage in new buildings	32
06	82	603.5.2	Application and use (Relocatable power taps and current taps)	48
08	16	806.6.1	Restricted occupancies (Natural decorative vegetation)	10
09	21	Ch 1 & 9	Mandatory permits for private fire service mains	14
	15	901.4.5	Appearance of equipment (Non-required fire protection systems)	10
	76	903.2.4.2	Group F-1 distilled spirits (Automatic sprinkler systems; Where required)	46
	78	903.2.9.3	Group S-1 distilled spirits or wine (Automatic sprinkler systems; Where required)	47
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	20	903.4 [913.4]	Sprinkler system supervision and alarms	12
	7	904.3.5	Monitoring (Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems)	5
	91	904.13	Commercial cooking systems (Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems)	54
	77	906.1	Where required (Portable fire extinguishers)	46
	54	907.2	Where required – new buildings and structures (Fire alarm and detection systems)	27
	99	907.5.2.2.3	Alternative uses (Emergency voice/alarm communication systems)	60
	60	912.2	Location (Fire department connections)	34
	36	912.4	Access (Fire department connections)	19
	22	916.4	Individual and provisional individual certification	15
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	50	2304.4.3	Location of containers being filled (Dispensing into portable containers)	25
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	81	4003.1.1	Containment volume	48
	83	4003.2	Ventilation	49
	84	4004.3	Basement storage	50
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	86	4004.4	Bulk beverage storage areas	51
	87	4005.1	Automatic sprinkler system	51
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	97	5627.9.1	Location and quantity (Fountain device displays)	58
57	89	5701.2	Nonapplicability (Flammable and combustible liquids; General)	53
	90	5704.1	General (Storage)	53
	92	5704.1.2	Security (Storage; General)	55

Misc	55	N/A	Elevator car size	28
	64	N/A	Digging by utility company	37
Appx D	13	D102.1	Access and loading (Fire apparatus access roads)	8
	53	D102.1	Access and loading (Fire apparatus access roads)	27

Detailed Report on Petitions

Abbreviations used hereinafter in this document:

BUSTR = Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations
 FCO = Fire Code Official
 FDC = Fire Department Connection
 ICC = International Code Council
 IFC = International Fire Code
 LSC = Ohio Legislative Service Commission
 OAC = Ohio Administrative Code
 OBC = Ohio Building Code
 OBBS = Ohio Board of Building Standards

OFC = Ohio Fire Code
 PUCO = Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
 R.C. = Ohio Revised Code
 SFM = State Fire Marshal
 CEB = State Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement Bureau
 T&R = State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Testing and Registration
 WG = State Fire Marshal, Ohio Fire Code Work Group

Notes:

- A skipped Petition number below indicates that no Petition was submitted for that Petition number or the Petition was withdrawn.
- Bracketed [] section numbers in the “OFC Section(s)” of the table below indicate code references noted by the Petitioner as also being impacted by the proposed change.

Petition ID: 1		Committee Action: Approved
Submitter: SFM		
OFC Section(s): All		
Proposed Change: Adopt and incorporate by reference all chapters of the 2021 IFC (except Chapter 12) and Chapter 12 of the 2024 IFC and further amend such language as warranted.		
Substantiation: The incorporation of relevant language from the 2021 IFC and Chapter 12 of the 2024 IFC is necessary to bring the OFC in line with national standards and the 2024 OFC. Certain changes will, however, be edited in order to retain prior Ohioizations of language and prior coordinated work with the OBBS.		
Cost Impact: The proposed change will ultimately save money for consumers and businesses alike as the proposed changes bring the OFC in line with industry trends as well as provisions in the OBC.		
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The incorporation of the 2021 IFC and Chapter 12 of the 2024 IFC is necessary to bring the OFC in line with the recent national standards and the 2024 OBC.		
Petition ID: 2		Committee Action: Approved
Submitter: SFM		
OFC Section(s): All		

Proposed Change: Delete Ohio specific citation formatting and Ohio specific citation designations throughout the OFC. For example: delete Ohio paragraph references [(A), (1), (a), (ii), etc.]; delete “as listed in rules 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code”.
Substantiation: These Ohio specific designations were made to conform to rule LSC requirements. However, with the adoption by reference of IFC language it would be ineffective to include such designations for Ohio-ized language when such designations would not be included in those portions of the language only adopted by reference. LSC has approved the omission of the Ohio-specific formatting and designations.
Cost Impact: None, except for lower printing costs.
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. It is in the best interest of all OFC users to maintain a uniform numbering system and to remove unnecessary verbiage, thereby streamlining the rules, whenever possible. The petition is well taken and such changes will be made in the rules proposed for adoption.

Petition ID: 3

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: SFM
OFC Section(s): All
Proposed Change: Make non-substantive changes and clarifications to the OFC (i.e., change “per cent” to “percent”) and correct typographical errors throughout the OFC.
Substantiation: Non-substantive/typographical errors need to be corrected.
Cost Impact: None.
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The petition does not incorporate substantive changes to the language of the OFC, but will correct prior typographical and non-substantive errors that will add clarity to the provisions of the code.

Petition ID: 4

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: SFM
OFC Section(s): 5619.4.2, 5619.4.3, 5619.4.4
<p>Proposed Change:</p> <p>5619.4.2 Renewal applications. <i>All applications for renewal of an exhibitor license shall be actually received in the office of the state fire marshal no later than the expiration date. Renewal applications actually received after the above required submittal dates shall be considered new applications and shall meet the examination requirement of Section 5619.7. The state fire marshal shall revoke or deny the renewal of a license or permit issued under Chapter 3743. of the Revised Code after July 1, 1997, if any of the conditions in Sections 5619.4.2.1 through 5619.4.2.6 apply.</i></p> <p>5619.4.3 Processing, denial, or revocation of an exhibitor of fireworks license. <i>The state fire marshal may suspend consideration of an application for an exhibitor of fireworks license (when permitted as a ministerial act) or, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, deny the issuance of an initial exhibitor of fireworks license, revoke an existing exhibitor of fireworks license, or deny the renewal of an existing exhibitor of fireworks license if any of the conditions in Sections 5619.4.3.1 through 5619.4.3.12 occur.</i></p>

5619.4.23.1 *The applicant or holder of the license or permit, or any individual holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the holder of the license or permit, is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony qualifying offense in accordance with Section 9.79 of the Revised Code under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States;*

5619.4.23.2 *The applicant or licensed exhibitor failed to provide the information required by the application form prescribed by the state fire marshal or information as otherwise requested by the state fire marshal in order to properly further process an application;*

5619.4.23.3 *The application materials were not accompanied by the requisite fee;*

5619.4.23.4 *The exhibitor is not twenty-one years of age;*

5619.4.23.5 *The application for renewal of an exhibitor license is not actually received in the office of the state fire marshal by the expiration date of the existing license or at least thirty days in advance of the requested examination, as applicable; or*

5619.4.23.6 *The application for the renewal is not accompanied by the documentation evidencing compliance with the continuing education requirements in accordance with Section 5613.3.3-;*

5619.4.3.7 *The applicant withdraws its application prior to an investigation or inspection by the state fire marshal to determine if the license shall be issued;*

5619.4.3.8 *The license holder surrenders its license;*

5619.4.3.9 *The applicant or licensee has made a misrepresentation or filed false statements in its application or licensee information, or failed to timely, completely, and accurately provide the state fire marshal with updates of such information during its application or period of licensure;*

5619.4.3.10 *The applicant or licensee is prohibited from engaging in any of the activities authorized by such license by operation of law, an action, directive, rule, or order of any federal or state agency, any court order, or similar requirement;*

5619.4.3.11 *There is substantial evidence that the exhibitor of fireworks license applicant, a filed exhibitor of fireworks license application, or the actions of the applicant or licensee are not in full compliance with Chapters 3737. or 3743. of the Revised Code, any rules promulgated or referenced standards incorporated or adopted in accordance with those chapters (including the applicable portions of NFPA 1123, NFPA 1124 or NFPA 1126), any permit issued in accordance with Section 3743.54 of the Revised Code or Sections 5608 or 5610 of this code, or any other applicable federal, state, or local laws; or*

5619.4.3.12 *There is substantial evidence that the applicant or licensee, including a reciprocal exhibitor of fireworks license applied for or received under Section 4796.03 of the Revised Code, has engaged in negligence or intentional misconduct, or had a license or certification denied, license or certification suspended, license or certification revoked, or license or certification surrendered, when*

such actions are related to the applicant's or license holder's work in the same profession, occupation, or occupational activity in any other state or country.

5619.4.4 Notification to the state fire marshal required. An applicant or licensed exhibitor of fireworks, including a reciprocal exhibitor of fireworks license applied for or received under Section 4796.03 of the Revised Code, shall immediately notify the state fire marshal of any negligence, intentional misconduct, license or certification denial, license or certification suspension, license or certification revocation, or license or certification surrender related to the applicant's or license holder's work in the same profession, occupation, or occupational activity in any other state or country, or for any such activities occurring in Ohio within the scope of its Ohio license.

Substantiation: The existing minimum provisions for exhibitor licensee compliance in the fireworks rules are incomplete and do not align with similar enforcement provisions for other licensees. The proposed amendments provide clearer and updated standards for the regulator and licensees to follow, including for licensure issues recently encountered by the SFM. The amendments also properly address new exhibitor reciprocity provisions in Ohio law.

Cost Impact: None expected.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved.** *The language is approved as providing appropriate and improved minimum standards for exhibitor licensee compliance without imposing unreasonable burdens on exhibitor licensees.*

Petition ID: 5

Committee Action: Approved as modified

Submitter: Bob Bates, Ohio Fire Academy

OFC Section(s): 102.3.3 Change of use or occupancy

Proposed Change: 102.3.3 Change of use or occupancy. Changes shall not be made in the use or occupancy of any structure that would place the structure in a different division of the same group or occupancy or in a different group of occupancies, unless such structure is made to comply with the requirements of this code and the *building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code*. ~~Subject to the approval of the fire code official, the use or occupancy of an existing structure shall be allowed to be changed and the structure is allowed to be occupied for purposes in other groups without conforming to all the requirements of this code and the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code for those groups, provided the new or proposed use is less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing use.~~

Substantiation: The language proposed for deletion is a combination of ICC model code language and language inserted by the State of Ohio which conflicts with language inserted by the State of Ohio in section 102.3.1 of the Ohio Fire Code which requires structures subject to the Ohio Fire Code to comply the Ohio Building Code referenced in Rule 80 and 102.3.2 of the Ohio Fire Code which expressly requires a certificate of occupancy for structures subject to the Ohio Building Code. Section 102.3 of the Ohio Building Code states "As provided in division (B) of section 3781.11 of the Revised Code, the rules of the board of building standards shall supersede and govern any order, standard, or rule of the divisions of the fire marshal...". Additionally, section 111.1 of the Ohio Building prohibits a building or structure from being occupied until the building official has issued a certificate of occupancy.

In the event a fire official allows a "change in the use or occupancy of an existing building" the fire official will create a situation in which the structure in question is violating multiple sections of both the fire and building codes.

Cost Impact: No cost.	
Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The language is being modified (as published during the kickoff phase of the rule update process), rather than deleted, to clarify application of the OFC and make it clear that the baseline requirement is compliance with the code and that in certain limited circumstances there is an exception that could apply as long as the life and fire risks are adequately addressed. Furthermore, other provisions are likewise being amended to clarify OFC applicability and FCO authority which will address the issues raised in the Petition.	
Petition ID: 6	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Bob Bates, Ohio Fire Academy	
OFC Section(s): 104.9 Alternative Materials and Methods	
<p>Proposed Change: 104.9 Alternative materials and methods. The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. The fire code official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not approved, the fire code official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons why the alternative was not approved. For the installation of any material or the use of any method of construction that is subject to the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code, any approval of an alternative method or material must be done in accordance with that code.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: The language proposed for deletion eliminates model code language conflicting with language contained in section 102.3.1 of the Ohio Fire Code, inserted by the State of Ohio, which requires structures subject to the Ohio Fire Code to comply the Ohio Building Code referenced in Rule 80 and 102.4 which requires alteration falling within the scope of the Ohio Building Code be done in compliance with the Building Code. Section 114.3.2 of the Ohio Building Code provides the authority approve and guidance to be followed by the building official to allow the utilization of an “alternative material or method for construction”.</p> <p>Therefore, in the event a fire official authorizes “an alternative material or method of construction” they will be creating a situation in which these sections of the fire code will be violated given the fact this provision applies exclusively to “method of construction”.</p>	
Cost Impact: No cost	
Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. Rather than deleting language, as proposed in the Petition, the language in this section is being amended, as per IFC changes (and as published during the kickoff phase of the rule update process). Rather than authorize the FCO to approve alternative materials or methods of construction, the new language states that alternative materials, or methods of construction shall be approved where the FCO determines that the alternative meets the intent of the code and meets the same level of safety. These changes along with other provisions that are being amended to clarify OFC applicability and FCO authority will address the issues raised in the Petition.	
Petition ID: 7	Committee Action: Approved
Submitter: Mark Crumley, Medina Fire Department	

OFC Section(s): OAC 1301:7-7-09; (D) Section 904 Alternative Automatic Fire-Extinguishing Systems; (e) 904.3.5 Monitoring
<p>Proposed Change: (e) 904.3.5 Monitoring. Where a building fire alarm system is installed, automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be monitored by the building fire alarm system in accordance with NFPA 72 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code.</p> <p><u>(i) 904.3.5.1 Signs. Where a fire alarm system is not installed, an approved permanent sign shall be installed adjacent to the audible alarm or visual indicator for the automatic fire-extinguishing systems that reads: "WHEN ALARM SOUNDS---CALL FIRE DEPARTMENT".</u></p>
<p>Substantiation: When most people hear an audible fire alarm they assume that the fire department is automatically being called. When the building does not have a fire alarm system and the automatic fire-extinguishing systems is activated and the audible alarm or visual indicator is activated there is the potential for either the call to the fire department either being delayed or not being made at all, especially if the fire is extinguished by the system.</p> <p>Adding the petitioned comment to the code will almost mirror section (iv) 907.4.2.4 signs of the Ohio Fire Code for when a building fire alarm system is not monitored.</p>
Cost Impact: The only cost would be the cost a sign which is minimal.
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The point in the Petition is well taken. Where there is an audible alarm or visual indicator, but no building fire alarm system, many building occupants might not know that the system does not automatically place a call to the fire department thereby delaying (at best) response in a time-critical situation. In addition, this language harmonizes language in this section with other OFC requirements.

Petition ID: 9

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Scott Lang, Honeywell
OFC Section(s): Section 1107
<p>Proposed Change: <u>SECTION 1107</u></p> <p><u>ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS</u></p> <p><u>1107.1 Lithium-ion technology energy storage systems. The owner of an energy storage system (ESS) utilizing lithium-ion battery technology having capacities exceeding the values in Table 1207.1.1 and that was installed prior to the jurisdiction's adoption of the 2018 or later edition of the International Fire Code shall provide the fire code official a failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) or other approved hazard mitigation analysis in accordance with Section 104.8.2 for review and approval.</u></p> <p><u>Exception: Detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses</u></p> <p><u>1107.1.1 Early detection. In addition to the requirements of Section 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2, the analysis shall include an assessment of the ability of the installed protection systems to provide for early detection and notification of a thermal runaway event in relation to the ability of emergency responders to safely mitigate the size and impact of a thermal runaway event.</u></p> <p><u>1107.1.2 Corrective action plan. Where hazards are identified by the analysis, a plan that includes a timetable for corrective action shall be submitted to the fire code official for review and approval. The plan shall include actions and system improvements necessary for eliminating or mitigating any identified hazards, including listed methods for early detection and notification of a thermal runaway event.</u></p>

Substantiation: Though both the 2018 International Fire Code, 2018 NFPA 1 Fire Code received significant enhancements to provide necessary protection levels which were improved further with the provisions of the 2020 NFPA 855 Energy Storage Systems, the 2021 International Fire Code and the 2021 NFPA 1 Fire Code, there are numerous installations that do not meet the new and necessary safety requirements. Even after the printing of the 2018 International Fire Code installers continued to install systems that did not meet the new standard of care, taking advantage of earlier editions of the codes that were still being enforced locally. A glaring example of a system that did not meet the requirements of the 2018 or 2021 editions of the International Fire Code was located in Surprise, Arizona where a thermal runaway event seriously injured 4 members of the fire service.

The purpose of this proposal is to start to address potential protection shortcomings in the design, installation and maintenance of existing energy storage systems employing lithium-ion technology by requiring that a hazard analysis conforming to the requirements of Sections 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2 of the current ESS requirements.

Proposed Section 1107.1 sets the scoping to those systems installed prior to the local adoption of the 2018 IFC or later that exceed the thresholds in Table 1207.1.1 which is the trigger for new installations. It utilizes similar language for the hazard analysis as currently exists for new systems at 1207.1.4 for consistency in application. An exception for one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses is included.

Proposed Section 1107.1.1, in addition to the requirements of Sections 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2, requires the inclusion of an assessment of the ability of the installed protection to provide an early warning of a thermal runaway event and to provide notification of that event in relation to the ability of responders to safely mitigate the event. Early detection of a thermal runaway utilizing listed methods of early detection, such as sensing cell off-gassing or other compliant methods, is essential to mitigation efforts and the safety of responders.

Proposed Section 1107.1.2 requires the submission of a corrective action plan for the review and approval of the fire code official that includes actions and system improvements necessary for eliminating or mitigating identified hazards.

This retroactive provision is consistent with activities for a similar requirement during the current cycle of NFPA 855 Energy Storage Systems.

Cost Impact: This change will not impact the cost of new construction. The financial impact of the change is difficult to quantify without knowing the number of existing energy storage systems that are not in compliance with the 2018 edition and later of the IFC. Another variable is that the cost of compliance with the new section is not fixed, but depends on the state of the older ESS and the mitigation measures that are dictated by the hazard mitigation analysis or FMEA.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The inclusion of the proposed language in the OFC could effectively implement retroactive application of report requirements for locations that installed such systems when they were not a requirement. As the OFC does not generally implement retroactive standards, and the adoption of the proposed language could result in exorbitant cost to system owners, the petition is not well taken and will not be included in the proposed OFC update. The SFM acknowledges that the proposed language is taken from the 2024 IFC (which will not generally be considered for adoption in Ohio until the next OFC update) and will continue to monitor this language and will duly consider any such language that is in the IFC in a future OFC code update cycle.

SEE ALSO PET 46

Submitter: Ryan Sprunger
OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-03 Section 315 General Storage (a) 315.3.1 Ceiling clearance
<p>Proposed Change: (a) 315.3.1 Ceiling clearance. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas of buildings or not less than 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1.The 2-foot (610 mm) ceiling clearance is not required for storage along walls in nonsprinklered areas of buildings.</u> <u>2.The 18-inch (457 mm) ceiling clearance is not required for storage along walls in areas of buildings equipped with an <i>automatic sprinkler system</i> in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.</u>
<p>Substantiation: The proposed change would give more clarification on the original code. The international code has added the exception to their code book. The reason for the original code is to allow spray patterns to go overtop of stacked material in a nonsprinklered room. The original code read that no matter where the stacked storage was, it had to be below 2ft from the ceiling. the international code council has made the exception to this rule, that it only needs to be below 2ft if it not against the wall. The code is confusing because beyond the scenario of allowing spray overtop stacked storage in the middle of the room, there is not much clarification on to why it would need to be lower around the outside walls of the room.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: By keeping storage at least 24 inches below the ceiling in non-sprinklered buildings, the Fire Department can direct water over the storage to reach the fire, and will also help to minimize the fire spread through the building. In buildings equipped with automatic fire sprinklers, the storage must be kept at least 18 inches below the ceiling or the spray pattern issued from the sprinklers will be blocked by the storage, thus keeping water from reaching the fire. However, in small storage rooms, storage may reach to the ceiling around the perimeter of the room if spray patterns are not obstructed.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The proposed language was included in the 2021 IFC and will be included in the OFC language proposed for adoption.</p>
<p>Petition ID: 13 Committee Action: Denied</p>
Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department
OFC Section(s): Appendix D / Fire Apparatus Access Roads / Section D102 Required Access
<p>Proposed Change: D102.1 Access and loading. Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an <i>approved</i> fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete or other <i>approved</i> driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing <u>in excess of 85,000 pounds (38555 kg).</u> up to 75,000 pounds (34050 kg).</p>
<p>Substantiation: One of my first duties as the newly promoted Fire Marshal for the Tallmadge Fire Department this past April was to review a commercial building plan. One side of the building was more than 150 feet from the road and the concrete driveway. I advised the designer that a fire apparatus access road would be needed and that I was requiring either asphalt or concrete due to the size of our new aerial apparatus. Our newly purchased aerial apparatus weighed in excess of 77,000 pounds fully loaded. After receiving two more separate plans with the fire apparatus access road designed with gravel we had a meeting with the owner and the designer explaining why we needed asphalt or concrete. The fourth plan</p>

<p>was changed to concrete for the fire apparatus access road. I believe that the required weight of 75,000 pounds must be increased due to the increased weight of present aerial apparatus.'</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: The only economic impact that I see would be the increased price of concrete or asphalt for the heavier aerial apparatus.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The Petition proposes a change to Appendix D of the IFC. None of the appendices contained in the IFC are adopted as a part of the OFC. Therefore, the language cannot be changed as a part of the OFC petition process. Changes to IFC Appx. D would need to be submitted to the IFC for consideration.</p> <p>In addition, the IFC appendices are included in the OFC for reference only and for use as a template by local jurisdictions that may want to adopt such regulations locally. If a local jurisdiction does locally adopt Appendix D (or any of the other appendices) the local jurisdiction would be able to amend the appendix as they determined necessary during that process.</p>	
Petition ID: 14	Committee Action: Denied
<p>Submitter: Lt. Brad Dunn, City of Worthington Division of Fire & EMS</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-05 (J)(1)(510.1)</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: 510.1 Emergency responder radio coverage in new buildings. All new buildings shall have approved radio coverage for <u>agency</u> emergency responders within the building based upon the existing coverage levels of the public safety communication systems of the jurisdiction at the exterior of the building. This paragraph shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication system.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: The proposed revision would clarify the intended meaning of the term "emergency responders" within the referenced text. While used throughout the identified OFC sections, the term "emergency responder" is not defined in the code. The identified shortcoming and resultant ambiguity allowed for a code interpretation where law enforcement radio coverage was excluded from the emergency responder radio assessment. Building code officials responsible for the interpretation issued a certificate of occupancy for a new building which lacked acceptable radio coverage for the law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction. This decision was reportedly based upon a lack of clarity associated with the term "emergency responder."</p> <p>Amending the current text to include the word "agency" would add clarity to future code interpretation. The word "agency" is currently referenced in 1301:7-7-05 (B)(1)(502.1) and appears with other definitions listed in 1301:7-7-02 (B)(202). Please note the definition of "agency" included below.</p> <p>"Agency." Any emergency responder department within the jurisdiction that utilizes radio frequencies for communication. This could include, but is not limited to, various public safety agencies such as fire departments, emergency medical services and law enforcement.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: There is no anticipated economic impact associated the requested amendment as the proposed language serves the purpose of achieving the code's original intent rather than expanding its scope.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM understands the impetus behind the proposed language the SFM has determined that amending the OFC as proposed is not within the purview of the OFC. The provisions at issue are taken from the IFC and terminology used by the ICC seems appropriate particularly when considering the focus of the OFC (fire safety) and the fact that in some jurisdictions (perhaps many) fire departments and law enforcement agencies may not utilize the same</p>	

equipment and/or communication systems. Thus, the OFC provisions could be applied to both systems in a vacuum with very different outcomes with regard to system requirements and configuration.

This issue would be more appropriately addressed either at the national level so the interplay of multiple systems can be addressed and/or at the local level where any different systems can be accounted for and any issues with coverage can be addressed as necessary if issues arise due to varying technologies used within the jurisdiction.

SEE ALSO PETITION 57.

Petition ID: 15

Committee Action: Approved in concept in part

Submitter: Ryan Sprunger

OFC Section(s): 901.4.5 Appearance of equipment.

Proposed Change: 01.4 Installation, 901.4.1 Required fire protection systems, 901.4.2 Nonrequired fire protection systems. 901.4.5 Appearance of Equipment

Substantiation: I am submitted a questioning of wording in regards to our current code. I am hoping to see some code clarification regarding non-required fire alarm systems, that are tied into a security alarm system. Currently this seems to be a gray area. We don't seem to need to permit these installations, which means we are not testing them. With that many do not test the systems either. But, looking at our current code anything that has the appearance of equipment has to function as such. So, what needs clarified is if every security alarm system should be tested annually or not, because if it is not tested and it looks like a smoke detector, how do we know if it cunctation's at it should. Many locations have fire alarm systems tied into their security alarms. And new technology each day is coming out more with wifi, bluetooth, etc. systems being installed with smoke detectors not only in residential use, but commercial use where they are not required to have a system, but are electing to use these systems.

Cost Impact: The cost would be on the business owner to have testing done if security combination systems need to be tested annual since they have an appearance of a fire alarm initiating device. Based on current code since they look like a device they should be tested to ensure they are working as they are intended. Currently this seems to be a grey area.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved in concept in part.** As petitioner did not submit actual text to be included in the OFC, the SFM must interpret the intent of the petition. To the extent Petitioner is seeking permitting and testing of security systems that monitor 'non-required fire alarms systems' such a request is beyond the purview of the OFC. A security alarm system – even one that monitors smoke detectors – does not meet the definition of a 'fire alarm system' and is not regulated by the OFC. On the other hand, if an actual fire alarm system is installed, required or not, it must be installed, tested and maintained in accordance with already existing OFC provisions as applicable (see OFC Section 901.4.2). Therefore, to the extent Petitioner is seeking OFC language that any actual fire alarm system (not a security alarm system that merely monitors fire related equipment) is installed, such shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the OFC, such language is already in the OFC and will be proposed for adoption.

Petition ID: 16

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Randy Kimbro, North Royalton Fire Department

OFC Section(s): 806

<p>Proposed Change: 806.6 Natural Decorative Vegetation. Flammable natural vegetation materials such as dried flowers, batting, cloth, cotton, hay, stalks, straw, vines, leaves, trees, moss, and similar items shall not be used for decorative purposes in show windows, building lobbies, exits, exit access, or other parts of buildings, or any area of public use in such a quantity as to constitute a fire hazard.</p> <p>806.6.1 Restricted Occupancies. These items shall be prohibited in Group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2, and R-4 occupancies.</p> <p><u>Exception:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>These items located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.1.1 or 903.1.2 shall not be prohibited in Groups A, E, M, R-1, and R-2.</u> 	
<p>Substantiation: Section 806 of the Ohio Fire Prevention Code regulates the display of both natural and artificial decorative vegetation inside new and existing buildings. The majority of the Section 806 deals specifically with natural cut trees, such as Christmas trees. A section should be added to describe the requirements for natural decorative vegetation inside, such as dried flowers, batting, cloth, cotton, hay, stalks, straw, vines, leaves, trees, moss, and similar items posing a flammability hazard. This is patterned off an existing amendment to the Fairfax County Fire Code and also adopted elsewhere.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: No expected economic impact.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The proposed language essentially seeks to prohibit such things as cloth and cotton, among others, in most occupancies, allowing only some occupancies to permit such items in areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system. The proposed language is overly broad and will not be included in OFC language proposed for adoption.</p>	
<p>Petition ID: 17 Committee Action: Denied</p>	
<p>Submitter: Jeffrey Hilvers, City of Trotwood Fire & Rescue</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 403.10.2.2.1.1</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: In apartment buildings, where there are designated apartment(s) [those built with the specific intention for occupants with special needs] for occupants with special needs (hearing, visual, mobility, etc), those apartment numbers shall be placard (door marking/identification) with a blue background and white lettering. The lettering shall follow other sections of the Ohio fire code for size, font.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: This will indicate and assist first responders in identifying those occupants who may need extra assistance for evacuation purposes, assistance, etc... Using blue back ground with white lettering, is easily identifiable with handicap parking, and therefore easy for first responders to identify those apartments.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: The costs will be very minimal, as they are already creating signs for doors to provide proper room identification. This would be mandatory on new construction, with encouragement of existing structures.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM understands the impetus behind this proposal and generally would support measures aimed at providing information to first responders that may help in more expediently aiding individuals with disabilities the proposed mandate would single out disabled persons thereby making them a potential target for bad actors. Such signage is not prohibited by</p>	

the code and will be left up to local jurisdictions (who could enact such provisions locally) and/or building owners and operators to address.

In addition, local fire officials can engage in building plan review which would provide fire officials with knowledge regarding where any accessible rooms within a particular structure are located.

Finally, any solution to address the concerns raised in this petition should only come as the result of a collaborative effort between safety officials and groups that serve disabled populations.

Petition ID: 18

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Jeffrey Hilvers, City of Trotwood Fire & Rescue

OFC Section(s): 403.10.1.3

Proposed Change: In hotels/motels where there are designated rooms(s), those built with the specific intention for occupants with special needs (hearing, visual, mobility, etc), those hotel/motel numbers shall be placard (door marking/identification) with a blue background and white lettering. The lettering shall follow other sections of the Ohio fire code for size, font.

Substantiation: This will indicate and assist first responders in identifying those occupants who may need extra assistance for evacuation purposes, assistance, etc... Using blue back ground with white lettering, is easily identifiable with handicap parking, and therefore easy for first responders to identify those apartments.

Cost Impact: The costs will be very minimal, as they are already creating signs for doors to provide proper room identification. This would be mandatory on new construction, with encouragement of existing structures.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM understands the impetus behind this proposal and generally would support measures aimed at providing information to first responders that may help in more expediently aiding individuals with disabilities the proposed mandate would single out disabled persons thereby making them a potential target for bad actors. Such signage is not prohibited by the code and will be left up to local jurisdictions (who could enact such provisions locally) and/or building owners and operators to address.

In addition, local fire officials can engage in building plan review which would provide fire officials with knowledge regarding where any accessible rooms within a particular structure are located.

Finally, any solution to address the concerns raised in this petition should only come as the result of a collaborative effort between safety officials and groups that serve disabled populations.

Petition ID: 20

Committee Action: Approved and further amendments made

Submitter: Stephen Chase, Ashtabula Fire Department

OFC Section(s): 903.4 [913.4]

Proposed Change: 903.4 Sprinkler system supervision and alarms. Valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems, pumps, tanks, water levels and temperatures, critical air pressures and waterflow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised by a listed fire alarm control unit.

Exceptions:

1. Limited area systems in accordance with paragraph (C)(3)(h)(903.3.8) of this rule.

<p>2. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13R as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code where a common supply main is used to supply both domestic water and the automatic sprinkler system, and a separate shutoff valve for the automatic sprinkler system is not provided.</p> <p>3. Jockey pump control valves that are sealed or locked in the open position.</p> <p>4. Control valves to commercial kitchen hoods, paint spray booths or dip tanks that are sealed or locked in the open position.</p> <p>5. Valves controlling the fuel supply to fire pump engines that are sealed or locked in the open position.</p> <p>6. Trim valves to pressure switches in dry, pre-action and deluge sprinkler systems that are sealed or locked in the open position.</p> <p><u>7. With the approval of the AHJ, remote valves located in a secure unoccupied pit or vault locked in the open position.</u></p>
<p>Substantiation: Currently both the OFC and the OBC have conflict between sections 903.4 and 913.4 regarding the supervision of valves in the fire protection water supply. Section 913.4 allows for valves to be locked open and section 903.4 requires "valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems, pumps, tanks, water levels and temperatures, critical air pressures and waterflow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised by a listed fire alarm control unit."</p> <p>This is a conflict between these sections that should be clarified in both the OBC and OFC.</p> <p>In areas prone to snowfall these below grade pits frequently retain snow melt. This water accumulation results in failures to the electrical supervision of the valves resulting in a situation where the valves are potentially unsupervised until repairs can be complete. The proposed change allows the AHJ, with some limitations, to permit remote valves that are inside a locked unoccupied vault to be secured in the open position with locking devices, essentially double locking the valves.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: This proposal would result in cost savings to any organization that may utilize the proposed exemption. \$10 worth of chain and padlocks is significantly less than the need for conduit and wiring to make a connection between a tamper switch and the FACP. In addition, a perpetual cost exists in maintaining and testing the tamper switches, as opposed to a visual inspection of the locking device during routine inspections.</p> <p>The cost is essentially nothing and the savings is minor but incalculable.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved and further amendments made. The rationale for allowing remote valves in secured, unoccupied pits or vaults to be locked in the open position is well taken and the language will be proposed for inclusion in the OFC as modified below.</p> <p>In addition, in reviewing this section in response to the petition, it was noted that changes were made to similar language in the OBC that should likewise be included in the OFC. Note, however, that the language as submitted in the petition cites language from the current 2017 OFC and not the language proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. The text as actually proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC will be further modified to conform to 2021 IFC and 2024 OBC provisions and to include language proposed in the petition as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Deleted." Automatic sprinkler systems protecting one-and two-family dwellings. 2. Limited area systems in accordance with Section 903.3.8. 3. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13R as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code where a common supply main is used to supply both domestic water and

the automatic sprinkler system, and a separate shutoff valve for the automatic sprinkler system is not provided.

4. Jockey pump control valves that are sealed or locked in the open position.
5. Control valves to commercial kitchen hoods, paint spray booths or dip tanks that are sealed or locked in the open position.
6. Valves controlling the fuel supply to fire pump engines that are sealed or locked in the open position.
7. Trim valves to pressure switches in dry, pre-action and deluge sprinkler systems that are sealed or locked in the open position.
8. Underground key or hub gate valves in roadway boxes
9. Backflow prevention assembly water supply control valves that are locked in the open position.
10. With the approval of the authority having jurisdiction, remote valves located in a secure unoccupied pit or vault locked in the open position.

Petition ID: 21

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Stephen Chase, Ashtabula Fire Department

OFC Section(s): Chapter 1 & 9 of OFC and/or OBC

Proposed Change: The function of the water-based fire protection systems is dependent on the water supply to the system being sufficient and reliable. This cannot be assured without a well-designed, constructed and maintained fire main. The current Ohio Building Code (OBC) and Ohio Fire Code (OFC) both lack clear assignment of responsibility for the permitting and installation of the private fire service main.

The Certified Building Official (CBO) has responsibility to issue permits for the installation of the fire protection systems supplied by the fire main. In addition, the CBO has the responsibility to permit the use of a newly constructed building via the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. To ensure public safety within these buildings, neither of these responsibilities should only be allowed to occur until the proper installation of a well-designed fire main has been completed.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 24, Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and their Appurtenances is the design and installation handbook for a private fire main. OFC Rule 80 lists NFPA 24 as a referenced publication; however, OBC Chapter 35 does not. This leaves the CBO little guidance or authority over the installation of fire mains.

While OBC 106.1.2(5) allows for local fire department comments on fire protection systems during the building department plan review process, the OBC lacks clear authority over the private fire service main. The fire main is an integral part of the fire protection system, its lack of regulation by the OBC & CBO provides a gap in the process of permitting the fire protection system as a whole.

OFC 105.1.1 states the owner shall make application to the fire code official and obtain a permit for installation or modification to any system regulated by the OFC. The OFC has a list of mandatory permits and discretionary permits; however, these lists fail to include direct reference to fire mains. An argument could be made that fire mains could be included within OFC 105.7.1, 105.7.7, 105.7.13 or 105.7.17 within the discretionary permitting process; however, they are not specifically addressed.

This discrepancy between the OFC and OBC results in fire mains being installed without a consolidated plan review, permitting, inspection and approval process. The fire main is still required to be visually inspected and tested within the guidelines of NFPA 24; however, the lack of a consolidated plan frequently results in poor or improper installation and failed inspections. A failed inspection this late in construction can result in significant delays and is a disservice to owners and builders. The purpose of plan review and

issuance of construction permits is to address issues or discrepancies prior to the beginning of construction and ensure that all parties involved are in agreement to the design and installation.

The ideal solution would be to incorporate language into the OBC to clearly place the fire main installation process within the scope of authority of the CBO, as is all other fire protection equipment within new construction. It seems an oversight that the OBC regulates the installation of fire protection equipment within a building but does not regulate the privately owned supply piping/system.

This has the added benefit of placing the requirement for a patent fire protection water supply within the purview of the person responsible for issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, the CBO.

Any proposed language incorporated into the OBC should stipulate hydrant specifications (quantity, location, connections, etc.) to be within the authority of the Fire Code Official or Authority Having Jurisdiction. These factors directly affect fireground safety and operations and are outside the scope of knowledge of most CBO's. This is similar to how fire department connections are addressed in the OBC 912.2, which stipulates the "connections shall be as requested by the fire official."

In lieu of placing the fire main and NFPA 24 within the scope of the OBC, I recommend language be added to OFC 105.1.1.1, "Mandatory permits", to require all private fire service mains to be permitted through the local fire department. Any proposed new language should include detailed and specific requirements that address those specified in NFPA 24, to include a plan review and issuance of a permit.

On three occasions in the previous year in Ashtabula, the lack of detailed installation plans has resulted in inspection failures during acceptance tests. These failures are the direct result of a lack of detailed installation plans/drawings and resulted in significant expenditures and construction delays. This proposal is an attempt to discover errors or omissions prior to construction and provide the best possible customer service while ensuring that adequate fire protection is provided in a cost-effective manner.

Substantiation: See above

Cost Impact: Minimal

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. To the extent the proposal asks for language to be added to the OBC, it is denied. The SFM does not have authority to amend the OBC and such language would have to be submitted to the Board of Building Standards subject to their rule update schedule and procedures.

To the extent the proposal seeks to add a mandatory permit to the OFC, the SFM is not inclined to add a mandatory permit that local fire code officials would have to issue. Historically, the OFC has not mandated local permits because many jurisdictions (particularly smaller jurisdictions) do not have permitting programs or the manpower to accommodate mandatory permits imposed in the OFC. Therefore, the OFC authorizes local jurisdictions to have permitting programs (that is, discretionary permits) as they can and determine necessary. The OFC only requires mandatory permits in very limited circumstances, reserving the issuance of required explosives permits and ammonium nitrate permits to the SFM, flammable and combustible liquid tank permits from the local (or the SFM if the local jurisdiction does not have a permitting program) and local permits for the exhibition of fireworks (which is mandated by the R.C.). A requirement for a mandatory permit for private fire service mains is not warranted. If any particular jurisdiction encounters issues with the installation of private fire service mains, such could be addressed through local laws or ordinances as the local jurisdiction deems necessary; this could include a local mandated permit for the installation of private fire service mains.

Submitter: Michael J Kocab, North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association
OFC Section(s): OFC (4) 916.4 Individual and provisional individual [sic]
<p>Proposed Change: (4) 916.4 Individual and provisional individual certification. upon satisfactory application and examination pursuant to paragraphs (P)(7)(916.6) and (P)(7)(916.7) of this rule, the state fire marshal may certify any individual or provisional individual to service, test, repair or install fire protection or fire fighting equipment in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Automatic Sprinkler and standpipe systems; (b) Fire service mains and water tanks; <p>Exception: Excavation and earth moving equipment operators are not required to be certified in this category provided the work they perform to meet the requirements of NFPA22 and 24 is conducted under the direct supervision and active direction of an individual certified in this category (who remains on site while the work is performed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Fire pumps; (d) Fire alarm and detection equipment; (e) Household fire warning equipment only; (f) Portable fire extinguishers; (g) Engineered extinguishing equipment other than water; (h) Pre-engineered extinguishing equipment other than water; (i) Fire pump diesel technician; (j) Aerosol extinguishing equipment; or <u>(k) Fire doors and other opening protectives; or</u> (k) <u>(l)</u> Such other categories as deemed necessary by the state fire marshal.
<p>Substantiation: The problem that exists is that no current certification is required in the State of Ohio to test fire doors. Fire door service and installation companies agree that a certification should be required to complete the acceptance test and annual testing for rolling steel doors and service counter fire doors. We have experienced several other companies testing fire doors that do not know how to fix or repair a door when it is dropped. The customer then needs to call another company usually a door company, to raise and fix the door. This has caused undue expenses and time for the customer/owner of the door. There currently exists a certification process for this on a national level. The fire marshal's office could use this nationally approved certification to provide license to conduct this work in Ohio. The state currently requires certification for a variety of other fire protection equipment. Fire doors are installed in most cases to increase the square footage of a building and to eliminate the fire sprinkler system requirement. It is imperative that these doors are installed and inspected by qualified people and the AHJ has no easy method to verify this without a certification. In the new edition of NFPA 80 (2022) this task is specifically discussed in the referenced document and appendix (see below).</p> <p>5.2.4.2* Fire doors complying with Chapters 11 and 13, periodic inspections and testing shall be performed by a trained rolling steel fire door systems technician</p> <p>A 5.2.4.2 Rolling steel fire doors are unique with respect to other fire door types because of the complexity of tension release and automatic closing systems of these doors as opposed to other types of doors that typically open and close as entire units. Special training for periodic inspection and testing is</p>

necessary because of the multitude of components involved that must work together for the door to be tested and reset correctly. It is essential that the rolling steel fire door industry maintain oversight of any person involved in periodic inspection and testing of such products. When requested, such a person should be able to produce documented evidence of training. Recognized industry organizations and manufacturers of listed rolling steel fire doors with appropriate training materials and programs are viable options for training individuals about the proper performance of rolling steel fire doors and their applicable codes and standards. Periodic inspection and testing should be documented on a form that complies with industry standards. The door should be provided with an inspection mark that complies with industry standards indicating when it was last inspected and tested and refers to the inspection and test form for additional information.

Cost Impact: The only cost would be to the companies or installers to take the certified exam and submit paperwork and a fee to the testing and registration division of the State Fire Marshal for certification in Ohio. This is no different than any other professional organization that works on fire protection equipment. By completing this process the AHJ's will have a method to guarantee that persons working on rolling fire doors know what they are doing and have the expertise to verify the fire doors will work in an emergency.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The SFM has not received sufficient evidence to indicate the existence of a statewide issue regarding the repair of fire doors such that a mandate for a statewide certification program for individuals conducting repairs is warranted. This concept must also be balanced against recent legislative mandates to decrease unnecessary certification and licensure impediments to doing business within the state. In addition, due to the different components and variations of door systems from manufacturer to manufacturer it would be hard to devise one certification program to address and test competence for all such variables. When issues occur, it would be more beneficial to have consultation as needed with the actual door manufacturer who can offer guidance regarding how the specific door can be properly made functional and brought back into compliance with the code. Finally, although the petition and referenced NFPA language speaks to national level training materials and programs being available, the petition does not include sufficient information regarding a universal accreditation program for all door types; rather the cited language speaks to training from industry groups and manufacturers of specific doors, i.e., rolling fire doors. Therefore, if the SFM created a certification program based on such 'training' with regard to any specific door, individuals seeking certification would have to either submit training materials for each door type and would have to have received 'certification' for each specific door type. In such a structure, consistent state level regulation would be exceptionally complicated and likely quite inconsistent. As stated in the petition, a person who needs repair on a particular door may need a technician competent to service their particular door; this should be vetted when scheduling the repair to ensure that the technician being engaged is actually competent to work on the specific door at issue.

Petition ID: 33

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Kevin S Grimm, Streetsboro Fire Department

OFC Section(s): 118.4.3; 118.5.4

Proposed Change: (c) 118.4.3 The responsible person or licensee of a transient hotel licensed pursuant to division (A)(2) of section 3731.01 of the Revised Code shall not permit guests to stay in guestrooms or sleeping rooms for periods in excess of thirty (30) days. Guests are required to vacate the hotel for no less than 30 days. Guests(s) shall not move between rooms to circumvent this requirement.

<p>(d) 118.5.4 The responsible person or licensee of the licensed extended stay hotel may permit stays of less than thirty (30) days within dwelling units or other rooms within the structure only if such dwelling units or rooms are specifically constructed and approved as also being transient sleeping rooms. <u>Guests are required to vacate the hotel for no less than 30 days in transient and extended stay rooms.</u> <u>Guests(s) shall not move between rooms to circumvent this requirement.</u></p>	
<p>Substantiation: Under the current interpretation by the State Fire Marshal's Office, guests, especially in transient only rooms, are living in hotels for months and years. This creates hoarding conditions as guests move their belongings from one room to another. It is suspected that, in some instances, a guest is only being moved on paper, but remaining in the same room. In Streetsboro, two hotels are being closely watched because of the hoarding conditions created by the SFM's flexibility in these rules. Guests that are supposed to be transient are establishing residency in transient hotels and treating it like their own homes by smoking in their rooms and in the hallways, creating hundreds of nuisance false alarm calls each year for us. The stench in some rooms is very strong and there is little the health department will do with an occupied room.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: It is expected that there will be no negative financial impact on hotels that follow strict rules on occupancy stay limits. They can still choose to offer very low rates and remain competitive with other similar hotels in the area while still turning over their rooms regularly. The positive financial impact to the hotels will be less fines for nuisance alarms and related law enforcement actions. The community will benefit by experiencing cleaner hotel properties both inside and out. The municipality, specifically the fire and police departments, will see a reduction in responses to these facilities, thereby reducing operational costs responding to such a high number of incidents at these locations.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. OFC provisions already state that transient hotel guests may not stay more than 30 days and that extended stay hotels may permit stays of 30 days or less. Additional provisions are unwarranted and overreaching and would be hard to enforce. Even so, local jurisdictions could adopt local regulations to address any such measures they determine are necessary within their jurisdiction.</p>	
Petition ID: 34	Committee Action: Approved in concept
<p>Submitter: Ann-Marie McDonald, Jackson Township Division of Fire</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 105.4 - Rule 1 1301-7-7-01 Construction Documents (4)105.4</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: (4) 105.4 Construction documents <u>& any documents or plans that relate to buildings for plan review</u> . Construction documents shall be in accordance with this paragraph. The requirement for plan review of fire protection systems in structures regulated by the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code submitted for plan review in accordance with this paragraph is subject to and does not supersede or otherwise conflict with the requirements of paragraphs (D)(2)(a)(104.2.1) of this rule</p>	
<p>Substantiation: Thank you for considering this change: Our department is having consistent issues with this Rule, as the Development Department in the City of Grove City has had architects place stamps on the plans " not construction documents" so they do not have & have refused to provide us the fire department (FD)/ plans examiner with the initial plans. This is an issue as they are refusing to provide underground (fire water lines) FDC, hydrants, risers, fire apparatus access etc. for the FD to review.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: There would be no economic impact (that I can see) as it would just be a clarification that all documents would be provided for the FD review.</p>	

Committee Response and Justification: Approved in concept. Provisions regarding construction documents were revised and relocated in the IFC and likewise in the current draft of the proposed 2024 OFC published at the kickoff of the rule update process. The specific text proposed for amendment in Petition 34 has been deleted. Similar language is now included in Section 106.1 and has been amended to state “and any supporting data.” The SFM has determined that this change along with changes being made in response to Petition 59 adequately address the issues presented in the instant petition.

SEE ALSO PETITION 59.

Petition ID: 35

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Ann-Marie McDonald, Jackson Township Division of Fire

OFC Section(s): 312 (L) Vehicle Impact Protection, Rule 3

Proposed Change: L) Section 312 Vehicle impact protection (1) 312.1 General. Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with paragraph (L)(2)(312.2) of this rule or by other approved physical barriers that comply with paragraph (L)(3)(312.3) of this rule. (2) 312.2 Posts. Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements: (a) Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled. (b) Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center. (c) Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter. (d) Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground. (e) Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object. (3) 312.3 Other barriers. Barriers, other than posts specified in paragraph (L)(2)(312.2) of this rule, that are designed to resist, deflect or visually deter vehicular impact commensurate with an anticipated impact scenario shall be permitted where approved.

(4) Vehicle impact protection can be enforced for life safety or protection of property

Substantiation: Although you would think "common sense" would be used, the code does not specifically state life safety and it has been challenging by our building department that impact protection is not required for life safety (not stated exactly like this). The scenario is a patio outside of a local bar where patron seating is right next to a parking area.

Cost Impact: The economic impact would be on the owner of the property or tenant that wanted to add an area. Where bollards would be beneficial to the life safety.

Thank you for the consideration!

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Petitions such as the instant proposed changes to vehicle impact protection standards that seek additional regulations in the OFC beyond IFC standards are carefully considered by the SFM to determine, amongst many factors, if they meet the intent and purpose of the OFC as expressed in R.C. 3737.82, the legislative standards for rules (including R.C. 119.03), and are appropriate for inclusion in a statewide minimum standard. The intent of this petition goes beyond the general scope of the OFC to address matters best resolved at the local level; thus it is not consistent with the OFC promulgation standards and the language will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 36

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Ann-Marie McDonald, Jackson Township Division of Fire

OFC Section(s): 912 (K) Fire Department Connections 912.4 Access

Proposed Change: 4) 912.4 Access. Immediate access to fire department connections shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object,

including but not limited to vehicles on roadways. FDC shall be on the same side of the road as the supplying hydrant. Access to fire department connections shall be approved by the fire code official.	
Substantiation: This is an issue when the FDC is on one side of the road and the supplying hydrant is on the other side of the road. Specification is needed as non-firefighters/fire service persons do not understand that the supply hose that runs from the hydrant to the fire truck then to the FDC can not be blocking the access or road, and it can not be run over. Several issues have arose in our meetings and comments made - "oh people can just drive over the hose" this would/could cause damage to the hose and in turn the loss of what to firefighters that are inside a building.	
Cost Impact: This economic impact would be the responsibility of the building owner.	
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The SFM will not include language in the OFC regarding vehicles on roadways as the OFC already provides that FDC access should be maintained and not be obstructed by, amongst other things, moveable objects. Therefore, including language as proposed is not warranted. Furthermore, any issues with the provisions of this section and/or their application can be addressed at the local level through education efforts and annual inspections. In addition, the SFM will not propose language regarding the FDC location for inclusion in the OFC. Placing FDC connections on the same side of the road as the supplying hydrant is not possible in all locations and all locations do not have hydrants on both sides of the roadway. In addition, issues could arise if a particular situation required an approach from the opposite direction. As there are too many variables statewide, requiring all locations to comply with such a provision would cause undue hardship to many local jurisdictions. In addition, if construction and platting made this solution viable in a particular location/jurisdiction, such could be addressed through local regulation. However, a statewide mandate is not viable.	
Petition ID: 43	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: STEVEN M. THICKSTUN, NFPA-407 TECHNICAL BOARD MEMBER	
OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-20 (f) (2)	
Proposed Change: (2) 2006.2 Airport fuel systems. Airport fuel systems shall be designed and constructed in accordance <u>TO COMPLY</u> with NFPA 407 <u>REQUIREMENTS</u> as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code.	
<p>Substantiation: Clarification: NFPA-407 is <u>not a design or construction</u> standard. It lays out minimum requirements for operation of aircraft and airport fueling systems.</p> <p>NFPA-407-22 states in Chapter 1, 1.1.2 This document is not intended to be used as the sole standard for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of fuel storage and transfer facilities as it does not address requirements for environmental protection, fuel quality or other issues not directly related to fire safety.</p> <p>Design standards are found in FAA standards and advisory circulars and in PEI RP-1300.</p>	
Cost Impact: No cost	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The rationale of the petition is well taken. However, the language is international language included in the IFC and should be vetted through the ICC as well. Nonetheless, the language will be amended and proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as follows:</p> <p>2006.2 Airport fuel systems. Airport fuel systems shall <u>comply with and</u> be designed and constructed in accordance with <u>the applicable portions of</u> NFPA 407.</p>	

Petition ID: 44	Committee Action: Approved and further amendments made
Submitter: STEVEN M THICKSTUN, ADVANCED FUEL SYSTEMS, INC	
OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-23 (D) (2) (f)	
Proposed Change: (f) 2304.2.6 Smoking prohibited. Gasoline and other flammable or combustible liquids shall be dispensed only by a person who is not smoking <u>OR VAPING</u> . Smoking <u>AND VAPING</u> shall be prohibited in the dispensing area.	
Substantiation: VAPING IN SMOKING RESTRICTED AREAS WAS RECENTLY PROHIBITED BY THE STATE OF OHIO PER CHAPTER 3794 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.	
Cost Impact: NO COST	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved and further amendments made. The petition is well taken and the proposed text will be included in the OFC language proposed for adoption.</p> <p>In addition, OFC Section 2305.6, Warning Signs, will be further amended as follows:</p> <p>2305.6 Warning signs. <i>As required by Section 3741.14 of the Revised Code, <u>warning signs bearing the following words in block letters</u> shall be conspicuously posted on each gasoline pump island where self-service is offered and shall state the following, with at a minimum the capitalized words below being in block letters:</i></p> <p>1. STOP ENGINE <u>NO SMOKING OR VAPING</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>Exception: Signs installed at dispensers prior to July 1, 2028 <u>January 31, 2025</u>, containing language that is substantially similar to items 1 through 8 of this section shall be deemed as compliant with this code <u>section</u>.</p>	
Petition ID: 45	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Rick White, Industrial Architect	
OFC Section(s): Table 3206.7.5 Fire Department Access Doors	
<p>Proposed Change: 3207.5 Number of doors required.</p> <p>The required fire department access doors shall be distributed such that the lineal distance between adjacent fire department access doors does not exceed 125' (38 100 mm) 200' (60 960 mm) measured center to center.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: #1 If 200' can be acceptable in existing buildings by the fire departments it could be accommodated in new buildings.</p> <p>#2 Indiana Department of Homeland Security has this exception in its code to allow for doors to be 200' on center. This creates and [sic] economic disadvantage to developers in Ohio, especially for the larger warehouses due to the large number of doors added to the buildings.</p> <p>#3 Many of the security requirements in inside of the building require substantial improvements. With more openings in the building cost are inflated even more due to all the additional wire cages, security cameras and door hardware required to secure a door. With the presence of Ohio gaining traction on more secure facilities like data centers, and high in production process the 125' requirement requires even more economic impact compared to other locations in nearby states.</p>	

<p>Cost Impact: 1. A door with exterior stairs to a dock bay on a warehouse cost about \$22,000 per door. A door that exits to grade level cost approx \$2000 per door. The larger the building the larger the cost impact.</p> <p>2. For an example project I had that ended up picking a location in another state they had to install wire cages, security campers, and advanced door hardware. This added approx. \$6000.00 per man door in their warehouse space.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Any such amendment should be first proposed at the national level and submitted to the ICC for inclusion in the IFC so the effect of the proposal can be fully analyzed by subject matter experts.</p> <p>This language was amended by the ICC in the 2018 IFC to change the requirement from 100 lineal feet to 125 feet measured center to center. In addition, the exception contained in the 2017 OFC (not addressed in the proposed petition) was also amended in the 2018 IFC to state that the linear distance between adjacent access doors in existing buildings where no occupancy change occurred could not exceed 200 feet, rather than the prior language which limited the distance between such doors to 100 feet. These changes were not further amended in the 2021 IFC (or the 2024 IFC).</p> <p>Although the SFM applauds attempts to diminish costs for industry members and to ensure that Ohio will be an attractive option for future industry investments, the reliance on this factor, without an analysis of the implications of such a change to fire safety for building occupants and first responders is misplaced. Furthermore, the Indiana provisions relied upon is an exception to code language from the 2012 IFC, which – as stated above – has been reviewed and substantially amended by the IFC since that iteration of the IFC.</p>

Petition ID: 46

Committee Action: Denied

<p>Submitter: Megan Hayes, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): Rule 1301:7-7-11 Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings. Ohio Administrative Code/1301:7/Chapter 1301:7-7 Ohio Fire Code</p>
<p>Proposed Change: [Text taken from the 2024 International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 11 – Section 1107]</p> <p><u>SECTION 1107</u></p> <p><u>ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS</u></p> <p><u>1107.1 Lithium-ion technology energy storage systems. The owner of an energy storage system (ESS) utilizing lithium-ion battery technology having capacities exceeding the values in Table 1207.1.1 and that was installed prior to the jurisdiction’s adoption of the 2018 or later edition of the International Fire Code shall provide the fire code official a failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) or other approved hazard mitigation analysis in accordance with Section 104.8.2 for review and approval.</u></p> <p><u>Exception: Detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses.</u></p> <p><u>1107.1.1 Early detection. In addition to the requirements of Section 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2, the analysis shall include an assessment of the ability of the installed protection systems to provide for early detection and notification of a thermal runaway event in relation to the ability of emergency responders to safely mitigate the size and impact of a thermal runaway event.</u></p> <p><u>1107.1.2 Corrective action plan. Where hazards are identified by the analysis, a plan that includes a timetable for corrective action shall be submitted to the fire code official for review and approval. The plan</u></p>

shall include actions and system improvements necessary for eliminating or mitigating any identified hazards, including listed methods for early detection and notification of a thermal runaway event.

Substantiation: Though both the 2018 International Fire Code, 2018 NFPA 1 Fire Code received significant enhancements to provide necessary protection levels which were improved further with the provisions of the 2020 NFPA 855 Energy Storage Systems, the 2021 International Fire Code and the 2021 NFPA 1 Fire Code, there are numerous installations that do not meet the new and necessary safety requirements. Even after the printing of the 2018 International Fire Code installers continued to install systems that did not meet the new standard of care, taking advantage of earlier editions of the codes that were still being enforced locally. A glaring example of a system that did not meet the requirements of the 2018 or 2021 editions of the International Fire Code was located in Surprise, Arizona where a thermal runaway event seriously injured 4 members of the fire service.

The purpose of this proposal is to start to address potential protection shortcomings in the design, installation and maintenance of existing energy storage systems employing lithium-ion technology by requiring that a hazard analysis conforming to the requirements of Sections 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2 of the current ESS requirements. Proposed Section 1107.1 sets the scoping to those systems installed prior to the local adoption of the 2018 IFC or later that exceed the thresholds in Table 1207.1.1 which is the trigger for new installations. It utilizes similar language for the hazard analysis as currently exists for new systems at 1207.1.4 for consistency in application. An exception for one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses is included. Proposed Section 1107.1.1, in addition to the requirements of Sections 1207.1.4.1 and 1207.1.4.2, requires the inclusion of an assessment of the ability of the installed protection to provide an early warning of a thermal runaway event and to provide notification of that event in relation to the ability of responders to safely mitigate the event. Early detection of a thermal runaway utilizing listed methods of early detection, such as sensing cell off-gassing or other compliant methods, is essential to mitigation efforts and the safety of responders. Proposed Section 1107.1.2 requires the submission of a corrective action plan for the review and approval of the fire code official that includes actions and system improvements necessary for eliminating or mitigating identified hazards.

Cost Impact: This proposed change is to Chapter 11 of the IFC which are requirements that affect existing buildings. As such, this change will have no effect on the cost of new construction of energy storage systems. This change will potentially impact existing energy storage systems that were constructed prior to the 2018 edition of the IFC. Information on the number of existing energy storage systems that meet these criteria in Ohio are not known. Even for energy storage systems that were constructed prior to the 2018 edition of the IFC, it is not known what the cost would be for potential mitigations because it is not known what protections they were originally designed with.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The inclusion of the proposed language in the OFC could effectively implement retroactive application of report requirements for locations that installed such systems when they were not a requirement. As the OFC does not generally implement retroactive standards, and the adoption of the proposed language could result in exorbitant cost to system owners, the petition is not well taken and will not be included in the proposed OFC update. The SFM acknowledges that the proposed language is taken from the 2024 IFC (which will not generally be considered for adoption in Ohio until the next OFC update) and will continue to monitor this language and will duly consider any such language that is in the IFC in a future OFC code update cycle.

SEE ALSO PETITION 9.

Petition ID: 47

Committee Action: Approved as modified

Submitter: Megan Hayes, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

OFC Section(s): Rule 1301:7-7-12 Energy Systems. Ohio Administrative Code/1301:7/Chapter 1301:7-7 Ohio Fire Code	
Proposed Change: [Insert 2024 International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 12 – Energy Systems <u>rather than</u> Chapter 12 of the 2021 IFC]	
<p>Substantiation: The fields of renewable energy and energy storage systems are evolving rapidly. There are constant changes in technology for storing energy and the industry is continually doing research on the best ways to protect the public and first responders from hazards. The nature of model code development is that on the day of publication, the model code is already three years old. For fields that are undergoing rapid change, it makes sense to use the latest available model code.</p> <p>This proposal is to move to the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code for new Chapter 12 on Energy Systems, rather than moving to the 2021 edition. There are important corrections and additions that were made for the 2024 edition that will enhance the safety of energy storage systems.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: The cost impact of moving to Chapter 12 from the 2024 edition of the IFC is difficult to assess. The majority of changes are not to add new requirements for the protection of energy storage systems, but rather to clarify requirements and improve enforcement. In addition, the changes in the 2024 edition are designed to achieve better alignment with requirements in NFPA 855, the installation standard for energy storage systems. NFPA 855, in turn, points to the latest edition of the UL 9540 product standard for energy storage systems.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The SFM agrees that this is a rapidly evolving technology and needs to be addressed. The SFM has proposed the 2024 version of IFC Chapter 12 for conclusion in the OFC and such language will be submitted for adoption. However, the language is being further amended in response to Petitions 56 and 70.</p>	
<div>Petition ID: 48</div> <div>Committee Action: Approved</div>	
Submitter: Jeffrey Hilvers, City of Trotwood Fire & Rescue	
OFC Section(s): 104.11	
<p>Proposed Change: 104.11 Fire investigations. The state fire marshal, or an assistant state fire marshal as designated by the state fire marshal, and the chief of the fire department of each municipal corporation in which a fire department is established, the chief of the fire department in each township in which a fire department is established, the chief of the fire department of a joint fire district, or the fire prevention officer in each township or village where no fire department is established in accordance with Section 3737.24 of the Revised Code and other Revised Code sections applicable to the investigating agency shall have the authority to investigate the cause, origin <u>origin, cause</u> and circumstances of any major fire or explosion. For the purposes of Section 149.43 of the Revised Code, such investigations shall be considered law enforcement matters of a criminal, quasi-criminal, civil, or administrative nature. For the purposes of Section 3929.87 of the Revised Code, an investigation that has not made a final finding, but has made findings as to the origin and cause of a fire in accordance with accepted fire investigation practices qualifies as a determination under that statute, including a finding that the cause of a fire is “undetermined” as that term is commonly defined in national fire investigation standards.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: This section of the code should be consistent. In investigation terms we deal with the origin first and the cause. In the latter half of the code it states the following "but has made findings as to the origin and cause of a fire in accordance with accepted fire investigation".</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: There is no cost impact in this change.</p>	

Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The rationale for the proposed change is well taken and the provision will be amended and proposed for adoption in the OFC as requested. However, the language as currently written is Ohio specific language taken directly from R.C. section 3737.24. Therefore, Petitioner should also seek a legislative amendment to the R.C. section from the Ohio Legislature to have a complete and lasting resolution of this issue.	
Petition ID: 49	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Jeffrey Hilvers, City of Trotwood	
OFC Section(s): 408.2.4 Exception	
Proposed Change: 408.2.4 Exception: No tornado drill shall be required in a <u>the</u> month of March for any school that participated in a statewide tornado drill conducted by the Ohio emergency management agency in that <u>the month of</u> march.	
Substantiation: The problem with the current proposed code exception, does not grammatically make sense. Changing the wording to the code exception makes clear sense and eliminates confusion in the meaning of the exception.	
Cost Impact: NO cost impact.	
Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The language was originally drafted to ensure that schools may only be exempted from tornado drill requirements in any given month of March if the school participates in the statewide EMA drill in that same March – each year. Schools cannot ‘carry over’ participation from one calendar year to the next. However, to the extent the language was not clear and/or was confusing it will be further amended as follows: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Exception: No tornado drill shall be required in March <u>of a calendar year</u> for any school that participated in a statewide tornado drill conducted by the Ohio emergency management agency in that <u>March of that same calendar year</u>.</p>	
Petition ID: 50	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: STEVEN THICKSTUN, MODERN AMERICAN SAFETY TRAINING (MAST)	
OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-27 (D)(4)(b)	
Proposed Change: (c) 2304.4.3 Location of containers being filled. Portable containers shall not be filled while located inside the trunk, passenger compartment or truck bed of a vehicle, <u>OR ON A TRAILER, OR MARINE VESSEL ON A TRAILER.</u>	
Substantiation: The Ohio Fire Code specifically states that fuel tanks for marine use (i.e. boats) can only be filled at a marina fueling station per 2310.4.1. The NFPA Codes prohibit filling a portable vessel fuel container of 12 gallons or less inside a boat.	
Cost Impact: No cost to State of Ohio or public	
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. It is the opinion of the SFM that adopting the proposed language would be overreaching as the SFM is aware of no statewide issue concerning this matter nor of any significant hazardous occurrences resulting from such behavior warranting a statewide mandate. If Petitioner has any information and data to the contrary, Petitioner can submit it to the SFM; the SFM will continue to monitor this situation. Additionally, if such conduct is creating an issue in a particular jurisdiction, local authorities can address the issue through local regulations.	

Petition ID: 51	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Kurt Westergaard	
OFC Section(s): Section 1018 Aisles / 1018.3 Aisles in Groups B and M (exception following this paragraph)	
<p>Proposed Change: 1018.3 Aisles in Groups B and M. In Group B and M occupancies, the minimum clear aisle width shall be determined by Section 1005.1 for the occupant load served, but shall be not less than that required for corridors by Section 1020.21020.3</p> <p>Exception: Nonpublic aisles serving less than 50 people and not required to be accessible by Chapter 11 of the building code need not exceed <u>must be a minimum of 28 inches (711 mm) in width.</u></p>	
Substantiation: The original wording is incorrect and contradicted the intent. The change will remove any misunderstanding and ensure the fire marshals and inspectors can enforce the requirement.	
Cost Impact: No cost impact anticipated.	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The current exception allows specified nonpublic aisles to be less than the 28 inches otherwise required. Adopting the changes proposed in the Petition would require nonpublic aisles that serve less than 50 people and that are not required to comply with OBC accessibility requirements to be at least 28 inches, thereby nullifying the exception. Although the rationale for the petition indicates that the proposed change is a 'correction' to match the intent of the section it actually changes the meaning if the exception completely. Because the proposed amendment would have this effect it is not well taken and will not be included in the language proposed for inclusion in the OFC. Furthermore, the language proposed for amendment is IFC language; and any change in the language and /or clarification of ICC intent should first be vetted through the ICC.</p>	
Petition ID: 52	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department	
OFC Section(s): OFC Section 503 Fire Apparatus Access Roads 503.2.3 Surface [Appx. D]	
<p>Proposed Change: 503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities <u>where approved by the fire code official.</u></p>	
<p>Substantiation: My fire department is located in Summit County in Northeast Ohio and this past year I reviewed at least two plan submittals where the designer tried to place Heavy Duty Gravel Pavement for the fire apparatus access roads. I was able to go before our Planning & Zoning Committee and argue that heavy duty gravel pavement will not work in our location due to the snow, freeze and thaw that we get in our location.</p> <p>I also argued that under OFC Section 503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus that the fire apparatus access road must be unobstructed which included snow plowing of the access road. By plowing the heavy duty gravel pavement the plow would dig up the gravel and make the access road weaker with each snow plow causing the access road to not be secure over time to place and raise our aerial apparatus which is a 78,000 pound 100 foot bucket.</p> <p>I also argued that ice could get in between the gravel causing the gravel to become dislodged.</p> <p>I believe that adding the words "where approved by the fire code official" will allow the fire departments that are effected by snow and ice in the winter to decide what surface is appropriate for their area and their fire apparatus.</p>	

<p>Cost Impact: I found the costs of asphalt, concrete and gravel on ANGI.com for a parking lot to be:</p> <p>Asphalt: \$2 - \$4 per square foot</p> <p>Concrete: \$4 - \$7 per square foot</p> <p>Gravel: \$1.25 - \$1.80 per square foot</p> <p>The gravel lot will not last as long as the asphalt and concrete lot which would incur more costs for repairs.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The Petition is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC except that the language will be modified as follows:</p> <p>...all-weather driving capabilities <u>as approved by the fire code official.</u></p>

Petition ID: 53

Committee Action: Denied

<p>Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): Appendix D Fire Apparatus Access Roads Section D102 Required Access D102.1 Access and loading.[503.2.3]</p>
<p>Proposed Change: D102.1 Access and loading. Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an <i>approved</i> fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete or other <i>approved</i> driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of <u>the</u> fire apparatus. weighing up to 75,000 pounds (34 050 kg).</p>
<p>Substantiation: My fire department has a 2021 Pierce Arrow 100' Tower which weighs 78,000 pounds. With the size and weight of fire apparatus increasing I think the OFC should address this increase by removing the specific weight of fire apparatus.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: I do not see a cost impact to businesses in removing the weight of the fire apparatus.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The Petition proposes a change to Appendix D of the IFC. None of the appendices contained in the IFC are adopted as a part of the OFC. Therefore, the language cannot be changed as a part of the OFC petition process. Changes to IFC Appx. D would need to be submitted to the IFC for consideration.</p> <p>In addition, the IFC appendices are included in the OFC for reference only and for use by local jurisdictions that want to use them as a template for laws, rules or regulations the jurisdiction may adopt locally, If a local jurisdiction does locally adopt Appendix D (or any of the other appendices) the local jurisdiction would be able to amend the appendix as they determined necessary during that process.</p>

Petition ID: 54

Committee Action: Denied

<p>Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): OFC Rule 9 Fire protection Systems Section 907 Fire Alarm and Detection Systems 907.2 Where required-new buildings and structures. [907.4.1; 1103.7]</p>
<p>Proposed Change: 907.2 Where required-new buildings and structures. An approved fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 <i>as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code</i> shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with <i>paragraphs (G)(2)(a)(907.2.1) to (G)(2)(w)(907.2.23) of this rule</i> and provide occupant notification in accordance with <i>paragraph (G)(5)(907.5) of this rule</i>, unless other requirements are provided by another <i>paragraph</i> of this code.</p>

<u>Each building shall be provided with no more than one main fire alarm control panel that receives inputs from automatic and manual fire alarm devices and may be capable of supplying power to detection devices and transponder(s) or off-premises transmitter(s).</u>	
<p>Substantiation: I reviewed a plan submittal for a new 30,000 sq ft building (building 3) that provided one annunciator in the building. There will be three businesses on this lot when the company is finally done. The plan showed the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) in Building 1.</p> <p>This building is in an annexed part of our city and there is a high chance that our mutual aid companies will arrive to the building before our fire apparatus do.</p> <p>I believe one annunciator panel is not enough to have in such a large building. I requested a FACP be placed in building 3 and was told by the designer that the FACP was designed to monitor building 2 and the future building 3 and the previous plan was approved when building 2 was built. The designer said it would be costly to the business to place a FACP in building 3 and would like the FACP in building 1 to monitor the new building 3 as well. I was not the AHJ at the time the FACP for building 1 & 2 were designed and approved.</p> <p>The 2017 OFC does not address that each building has to have its own FACP. I believe having only one FACP in building 1 will extend the time trying to find out where in the building the alarm is activating and make testing the fire alarm difficult and more time consuming.</p> <p>I understand that there will be one annunciator device in the new building 3, but if we have to send someone to the FACP in building 1 there would be time constraints while the firefighter is looking for the FACP and trying to describe to firefighters what is alarming in building 3.</p>	
Cost Impact: Per forbel.com the cost of a FACP is \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00.	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The proposed language would constitute a construction provision and should more appropriately be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC. In addition, if similar language was included in the OBC and the systems designed and installed accordingly at the building phase only a minimal cost would incur for building owners. However, adding such a requirement only to the OFC may result in an enforcement action to obtain compliance after building completion. This would be substantially more costly to building owners and such an outcome is not warranted. In addition, any specific concerns with a particular facility can be addressed by the fire code official during plan review.</p>	
Petition ID: 55	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department	
OFC Section(s): This would be a new Text and I am not sure what Section it would apply.	
<p>Proposed Change: Elevator car to accommodate ambulance stretcher. Where elevators are provided in buildings two or more stories above or two or more stories below, grade plane, not fewer than one elevator shall be provided for fire department emergency access to all floors. The elevator car shall be of such a size and arrangement to accommodate an ambulance stretcher 24 inches by 84 inches (610mm by 2134 mm) with not less than 5-inch (127 mm) radius corners, in the horizontal, open position and shall be identified by the international symbol for emergency medical services (star of life). The symbol shall not be not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in height and shall be placed inside on both sides of the hoistway door frame.</p>	

<p>Substantiation: I have a proposed 3-story multifamily building for low-income, 55 and older residents. The building will have an elevator that was designed so that our cot can be placed in the elevator on a diagonal with two responders. Our fire department responds with 3 responders and 4 if the emergency warrants it.</p> <p>I asked for a "gurney elevator" and was told that per OBC 3002.4 a gurney cot is not required. If the multi-family building was 4 stories I would have gotten a "gurney elevator."</p> <p>My city has three other two-story buildings built in the past 10 - 15 years which include an Assisted Living, AHEPA two-story residence and a medical facility that have "gurney elevators" in them. I was not the AHJ at the time these buildings were built so I do not know how the AHJ before me got "gurney elevators" in them.</p> <p>Because the designer and owner decided to build a 3-story multi-family residence instead of a 4-story multi-family residence the residents aren't able to receive the same care and number of first responders. The third and possibly 4th responder either have to take the stairs or wait until the elevator comes back to the first floor to take the elevator to the floor.</p> <p>I understand that this Rule will more than likely not be addressed. But with the increase of EMS calls across the State of Ohio and fire departments responding to more and more EMS calls we should be providing everyone in Ohio the same medical service. It will be a detriment to the Ohio residents to have to wait another 5 years when the OBC is addressed to possibly add "gurney elevators" to multi-family buildings that are more than 2 stories in height to the OFC.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: Per fixr.com the cost of an elevator for a 3-story building can range from \$25,000 to \$55,000 depending on type and location.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM supports this in concept, the proposed language would constitute a construction provision and should more appropriately be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC. In addition, due consideration would have to be given to the fact that stretcher dimensions change over time.</p>

Petition ID: 56

Committee Action: Approved in part and as modified

<p>Submitter: Jeff Quick, Tallmadge Fire Department</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): This would be a new Rule.</p>
<p>Proposed Change: <u>Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS)</u></p> <p>Definitions.</p> <p>General requirements</p> <p>Colocation with Motor Fuel Dispensing Equipment</p> <p>DEFINITIONS.</p> <p>(a) "Electric vehicle charging station" or "EVCS" means a public parking space that is served by battery charging station equipment for the purpose of transferring electrical energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device within an electric vehicle.</p> <p>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>(a) These requirements pertain to all EVCS that use either Level 2 or Level 3 charging equipment, as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation. If a charging station has more than (1) one port, each port shall count as a charging station.</p>

- (b) The designated parking space(s) for an EVCS shall be above the minimum number of parking spaces required for the site.
- (c) The recommended parking space dimensions for an EVCS are a minimum of ten (10) feet wide by twenty (20) feet long when new spaces are installed for such use. An additional five feet in width shall be required for ADA accessible locations.
- (d) The charging station and equipment shall be protected by wheel stops and bollards in accordance with Ohio Fire Code (2017) Section 312, Vehicle Impact Protection.
- (e) Each parking space designated for EVCS shall be clearly identified as reserved for electric vehicle charging only.
- (f) Charging station equipment shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.
- (g) Charging stations shall not include overhead canopies.
- (h) The EVCS shall comply with the current National Electric Code (NEC) and shall be inspected once a year and proof of inspection shall be made available to the AHJ.
- (i) An EVCS shall be installed in a location as follows:
1. Ten (10) feet from property lines,
 2. Twenty (20) feet or more from buildings having combustible exterior wall surfaces, and
 3. Ten (10) feet or more from buildings having a one-hour fire resistive exterior surface.
- (j) EVCS shall be designed and constructed in accordance with state and local building codes and this ordinance.
- (k) EVCS shall be constructed, operated, and maintained based on manufacturer's instructions.
- (l) Any attendants shall be instructed in the operation of the EVCS system and able to respond to emergencies. As a minimum, this instruction shall include:
1. How to shut off the EVCS,
 2. How to call 9-1-1 in an emergency, and
 3. How to use a fire extinguisher.
- (m) EVCS shall be provided with one or more clearly identified shutoff devices or electrical disconnects with an approved sign stating, "Emergency Electrical Vehicle Charging System Shutoff."
- (n) EVCS shall have emergency instructions conspicuously posted in the area and shall include the following:
1. Use of Emergency shutoff button/disconnection device,
 2. Report incident by calling 9-1-1, and
 3. Report location to emergency services.
- (o) Emergency shutoff devices or electrical disconnects shall be installed in an approved location accessible to patrons but not less than 20 feet or more than 30 feet from the EVCS.
- (p) Resetting from an emergency shutoff condition shall require manual intervention.
- (q) Lighting shall be selected and installed in accordance with applicable building codes and local ordinances and shall be sufficient for safe operation and security.

(r) At least one portable fire extinguisher for each group of EVCS shall be provided and shall not exceed a travel distance of 75 feet.

COLOCATION WITH MOTOR FUEL DISPENSING EQUIPMENT

(a) The following installation requirements shall be met when an EVCS is located in proximity to motor fuel dispensing equipment:

1. Shall be located twenty (20) feet or more in all directions from dispensing devices for flammable or combustible liquids;
2. Shall be located ten (10) feet in all directions from above ground and underground storage tanks, tank fill connections, remote and submersible pump transfer equipment, vapor recovery equipment, and vents; and
3. Shall be located twenty-five (25) feet in all directions from the location of tank vehicles while filling and transferring flammable or combustible liquids.

(b) EVCS shall be designed so that the pooling of flammable or combustible liquids cannot occur in the charging area.

(c) At attended locations and motor fuel dispensing facilities, an additional emergency EVCS shutoff or electrical disconnect shall be located at the attendant's location.

Substantiation: With the increase of EVCS across our state and the OFC not addressing EVCS I was able to make the above petition for EVCS an ordinance for our city.

The ordinance my city approved comes from the White Paper "Electric Vehicle Charging Systems" by North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NEOFPA) March 2023.

My understanding is that the next OFC will address EVCS and battery storage systems. I just wanted to make sure that the OFC knows that fire departments are already addressing EVCS and battery storage systems on plan reviews and code enforcement across the state.

I know of a neighboring city that was asked by their dealerships what the requirements would be for battery storage in their facility. I have reviewed a couple of plans already that have plans to place EVCS at their business and I was able to work with them through my cities ordinance.

Cost Impact: Per Future Energy the cost of a commercial EVCS level two station is around \$6,000 per port. Factors that effect commercial EVCS costs include infrastructure, type of equipment, subsidies, software for the EVCS.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved in part and as modified.** Portions of the language proposed above were included in language proposed by the SFM in the draft OFC language submitted to stakeholders at the beginning of the OFC update process. That language will be maintained in the language proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. In addition, and in response to some points made in the Petition, the language previously proposed by the SFM will be further amended as follows:

323-5324.1 Electric vehicle charging stations and systems. *Where provided, electric vehicle charging systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 70 and the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations. Electric vehicle charging system equipment shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2202. Electric vehicle supply equipment shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2594. Accessibility to electric vehicle charging stations shall be provided in*

accordance with Section 1107 of the building code. Electric vehicle charging stations and equipment shall comply with Sections 323.5.1324.2 through 323.5.4.4324.7.

324.5 Emergency shutdown and electrical disconnect.

~~323.5.4.3~~**324.5.3 Signage.** All ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 102.1.1,~~ electric vehicle charging station emergency shutdown devices and electrical disconnect switches shall be provided with approved signs that state “Emergency Shutdown Device” or “Electrical Disconnect Switch” in block letters on a contrasting background. The location of the signs shall be approved by the local authority having jurisdiction.

324.5.3.1 Existing electric vehicle charging stations. Electric vehicle charging stations in existence on or before the effective date of this code shall have signs installed in accordance with the provisions of Section 324.5.3 on or before the ninetieth day after the effective date of this code.

Exception: Signs installed at electric vehicle charging stations prior to the effective date of this code containing language that is substantially similar to the above language shall be deemed as compliant with this section.

324.6 Emergency procedures and signage. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 102.1.1, all electric vehicle charging stations shall have a sign posted in a conspicuous location within sight of each electric vehicle charging station that states:

“IN CASE OF FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY:

1. USE EMERGENCY SHUTDOWN DEVICE OR ELECTRICAL DISCONNECT SWITCH
2. CALL FIRE DEPARTMENT: _____.”

324.6.1 Existing electric vehicle charging stations. Electric vehicle charging stations in existence on or before the effective date of this code shall have signs installed in accordance with the provisions of Section 324.6 on or before the ninetieth day after the effective date of this code.

Exception: Signs installed at electric vehicle charging stations prior to the effective date of this code containing language that is substantially similar to the above language shall be deemed as compliant with this section.

324.7 Portable fire extinguishers. A portable fire extinguisher approved by the authority having jurisdiction shall be located within a travel distance of 75 feet from each electric vehicle charging station. All portable fire extinguishers shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 906.

See also, changes being made to this language in response to Petition 70 below, which includes moving previously proposed language from Section 323.5 to Section 324.

Petition ID: 57

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Bradley Dunn, City of Worthington Division of Fire & EMS

OFC Section(s): Section 510 / 510.1 [Section 510 / 510.2 & Section 1103 / 1103.2]

Proposed Change: 510.1 Emergency responder communication coverage in new buildings. Approved in-building, two-way emergency responder communication coverage for agency emergency responders shall be provided in all new buildings. In-building, two-way emergency responder radio communication coverage within the building shall be based on the existing coverage levels of the public safety

communication systems utilized by the jurisdiction, measured at the exterior of the building. This section shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication systems.	
<p>Substantiation: The proposed revision would clarify the intended meaning of the term "emergency responders" referenced within the proposed code text. While used throughout the aforementioned OFC section, the term "emergency responder" is not defined in the code. The identified shortcoming and resultant ambiguity allowed for a code interpretation where law enforcement radio coverage was excluded from an emergency responder communication assessment. Building code officials responsible for the interpretation issued a certificate of occupancy for a new building which lacked acceptable radio coverage for the law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction. This decision was reportedly based upon a lack of clarity associated with the term "emergency responder."</p> <p>Amending the current text to include the word "agency" would add clarity to future code interpretation. While the word "agency" is currently referenced in 1301:7-7-05 Section 502.1 and appears with other definitions listed in 1301:7-7-02 Section 202, it is not included in portions of the code addressing emergency responder communication coverage. Please note the definition of "agency" included below.</p> <p>"Agency." Any emergency responder department within the jurisdiction that utilizes radio frequencies for communication. This could include, but not be limited to, various public safety agencies such as fire departments, emergency medical services and law enforcement.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: There is no anticipated economic impact associated with the requested change, as the proposed language clarifies the code's original intent rather than expanding its scope.</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM understands the impetus behind the proposed language the SFM has determined that amending the OFC as proposed is not within the purview of the OFC. The provisions at issue are taken from the IFC and terminology used by the ICC seems appropriate particularly when considering the focus of the OFC (fire safety) and the fact that in some jurisdictions (perhaps many) fire departments and law enforcement agencies may not utilize the same equipment and/or communication systems. Thus, the OFC provisions could be applied to both systems in a vacuum with very different outcomes with regard to system requirements and configuration.</p> <p>This issue would be more appropriately addressed either at the national level so the interplay of multiple systems can be addressed and/or at the local level where any different systems can be accounted for and any issues with coverage can be addressed as necessary if issues arise due to varying technologies used within the jurisdiction.</p> <p>SEE ALSO PETITION 14.</p>	
Petition ID: 58	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Christopher Hite, Jackson Township Fire Department	
OFC Section(s): Definitions/Fire Lane/Page 58 [Rule 503]	
<p>Proposed Change: "Fire lane." A road or other passageway developed to allow the passage of fire apparatus. A fire lane is not necessarily intended for vehicular traffic other than fire apparatus. A fire lane shall not be interpreted to mean a residential and/or public street. <u>A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, public street, private street, parking lot lane and access roadway.</u></p>	
<p>Substantiation: The amendment would remove confusion as to what is or can be used as a fire lane. The commentary for the IFC defines a Fire Lane/Apparatus access road as. A road that provides fire apparatus</p>	

access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, public street, private street, parking lot lane and access roadway.

The current definition in the Ohio Fire Code has limited the fire AHJ's ability to enforce Rule 503 of the OFC.

Cost Impact: This change should have no negative economic impact, and could have a positive economic impact, as providing an additional designated fire lane may not be necessary when the public and private streets meet the requirements for fire apparatus access.

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** Many concepts proposed in the petition are addressed in changes already being proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. See revised definition of "fire lane". Remaining issues are a matter of local law and should be addressed at the local level.

Petition ID: 59

Committee Action: Approved as modified

Submitter: Randy Little, Jackson Township Fire Department/ Franklin County

OFC Section(s): Section 202, [A] definition of construction documents.

Proposed Change: Construction Documents. The written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location and physical characteristics of the elements of the project necessary for obtaining a permit. This term shall include development plans.

Substantiation: Grove City refuses to give us plans because they label label them as "not construction documents" because they say they are "development plans". It is a play on words and sometimes the information we are seeking is labeled "development plans" by the City and they refuse to give us a copy because they are not deemed construction plans.

Cost Impact: No expected economic impact.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved as modified.** The SFM has determined that the petition is well taken and that further clarification of the definition of "construction documents" is warranted. However, the language as proposed will be amended and the following language will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC:

Construction Documents. The written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location and physical characteristics of the elements of the project necessary for obtaining a permit. This term shall include development plans, building plans and similar submission documents relating to matters within the scope of this code.

SEE ALSO PETITION 34.

Petition ID: 60

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: Randy Little, Jackson Township Fire Department, Franklin County

OFC Section(s): Section 912, Code 912.2 Location

Proposed Change: Location. With respect to hydrants, driveways, fire apparatus access roads, public roadways, buildings and landscaping, fire department connections shall be so located that fire apparatus and hose connected to supply the system will not obstruct access to the buildings for other fire apparatus. The location of the fire department connections shall be approved by the fire code official.

Substantiation: The added text will clarify that blocking the roadway or fire apparatus access roads with hose supplying the fire department connection is also prohibited.

Cost Impact: No cost expected.
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. Although the proposed language does not actually change FDC location provisions, it does offer clarity to existing provisions and is therefore well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 61

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Ann-Marie McDonald
OFC Section(s): 1008 Means of Egress Illumination 1008.2
Proposed Change: Section 1008 (H)[BE] 1008.2 Illumination required: Means of egress will have egress signs at the floor level, of the following options illumination (to the side of the exit), or on the exit door itself with reflective or clear marking.
Substantiation: As heat, smoke and fire begin to bank down to the floor, victims/occupants are crawling low and may not see the illuminated exit signs at the top of a door/exit. Exit markings at the floor level would aid occupants in identifying the exit and possibly allow them to escape a fire sooner. Exit signs at the floor level would also be extremely beneficial to firefighters as they are searching at floor level.
Cost Impact: This would be as added cost to a developer and or business owner, however reflective signs would be a lesser cost option than the illuminated signs - this is in addition to the current illuminated signs above the doors
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM supports this petition in concept, this matter should first be submitted to and considered by the OBBS for inclusion in the OBC. In addition, the OFC already contains language that requires low-level exit signs in Group R-1 occupancies, which is the occupancy group that would most likely benefit from such provisions. See OFC Section 1013.2. Any further expansion of these provisions should, again, first be addressed by the OBBS.

Petition ID: 62

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: Thomas Deary, Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute

OFC Section(s): Table 5003.1.1(1)

Proposed Change: IFC TABLE 5003.1.1(1)

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POSING A PHYSICAL HAZARD^{a, j, m, n, p}

Portions of table not shown remain unchanged.

MATERIAL	CLASS	GROUP WHEN THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY IS EXCEEDED	STORAGE ^b			USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS ^b			USE-OPEN SYSTEMS ^b	
			Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds)	Gas (cubic feet at NTP)	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds)	Gas (cubic feet at NTP)	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds)
Flammable gas	Gaseous	H-2	NA	NA	1,000 ^{d, e, f}	NA	NA	1,000 ^{d, e, f}	NA	NA
	Liquefied			(150) ^{d, e, g}	NA		(150) ^{d, e, g}	NA		

t. The Maximum Allowable Quantity of A2L refrigerants is 195,000 cubic feet at NTP in Group M and S occupancies and 162,500 cubic feet at NTP in all other occupancy groups. Where Notes d and e apply, the applicable increases shall be applied.
u. The Maximum Allowable Quantity of A2L refrigerants is 20,000 pounds in Group M and S occupancies and 10,000 pounds in all other occupancies. Where Notes d and e apply, the applicable increases shall be applied. In Group S occupancies equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the maximum allowable quantities in storage areas exceeding 50,000 square feet are allowed to be increased by 2 percent for each 1,000 square feet of area in excess of 50,000 square feet, up to an aggregate amount per control area of 80,000 pounds.
<p>Substantiation: A2L refrigerants are low burning velocity, mildly flammable gases. As the air conditioning and refrigeration industries transition to lower global warming potential refrigerants, applications where A1 refrigerants are currently being used will begin using A2Ls. This code change recognizes that even though these refrigerants are categorized as flammable gases, their low burning velocities give them characteristics more similar to A1 refrigerants than flammable gases such as hydrocarbons. As such, this code change allows the warehousing, storage and use of A2L refrigerants without the need to classify occupancies as Group H.</p> <p>This State Code Amendment Proposal is consistent with updates that have been approved in the 2024 International Building and Fire Codes.</p>
Cost Impact: This proposal will not impact cost.
Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The proposed changes to the MAQ are well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 63

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: Thomas Deary, Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute

OFC Section(s): Table 5003.1.1(3)

Proposed Change: TABLE 5003.1.1(3)

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POSING A PHYSICAL HAZARD IN AN OUTDOOR CONTROL AREA^{a, b, c, d}

Portions of table not shown remain unchanged.

MATERIAL	CLASS	STORAGE ^b			USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS ^b			USE-OPEN SYSTEMS ^b	
		Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^d	Gas cubic feet at NTP	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^d	Gas cubic feet at NTP	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^d
Flammable gas	Gaseous	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	3,000 ^e	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1,500 ^f	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Liquefied		(300) ^e	Not Applicable		(150) ^f	Not Applicable		

For SI: 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 gallon = 3.785 L, 1 cubic foot = 0.02832 m³.

<p>b. The aggregate quantities in storage and use shall not exceed the quantity listed for storage.</p> <p>d. Quantities in parentheses indicate quantity units in parentheses at the head of each column.</p> <p>e. <u>The Maximum Allowable Quantity of A2L refrigerants is 195,000 gas cubic feet at NTP and 20,000 pounds as a liquid in storage.</u></p> <p>f. <u>The Maximum Allowable Quantity of A2L refrigerants is 97,500 gas cubic feet at NTP and 10,000 pounds as a liquid in use in a closed system.</u></p>
<p>Substantiation: A2L refrigerants are low burning velocity, mildly flammable gases. As the air conditioning and refrigeration industries transition to lower global warming potential refrigerants, applications where A1 refrigerants are currently being used will begin using A2Ls. This code change recognizes that even though these refrigerants are categorized as flammable gases, their low burning velocities give them characteristics more similar to A1 refrigerants than flammable gases such as hydrocarbons. As such, this code change allows the warehousing, storage and use of A2L refrigerants without the need to classify occupancies as Group H.</p> <p>This State Code Amendment Proposal is consistent with updates that have been approved in the 2024 International Building and Fire Codes.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: This petition will not impact cost.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The proposed changes to the MAQ are well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.</p>
<p>Petition ID: 64 Committee Action: Denied</p>
<p>Submitter: Brian Baker, Homeworth Volunteer Fire Company/ Sebring Fire Department</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): 1301:7-7-03</p>
<p>Proposed Change: May 10,2024</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I spoke with an individual from the Fire Marshals office today who told me to submit a petition on here. I am unable to find in the fire code what it would be under and think it might need to be in the Ohio Revised Code. But i will explain my situation and what i would like to see happen. On Monday May 6th at 13:08 our department received a call for a male caught in industrial equipment and bleeding profusely. Upon arrival at our station, we arrived to find Columbia Gas conducting a dig for routine maintenance (Disconnecting an unused line, and not an emergency dig) at the end of our apron for our fire trucks. This is approximately 35 feet from our apparatus door and the hole was open as they were going back to their yard to get fill. Luckily we were able to get the 2 trucks we needed out but if it were a structure fire we would not have been able to get out our tanker or second out engine. I should add that we are a volunteer fire department and our department was not notified of any work to be done prior to our arrival for the call. The employees for Columbia gas said they tried the non emergency number listed in the window and did not get any answer but did not try the other number that was listed (which is our emergency number and answered 24/7. And also the first number listed).</p>
<p>Substantiation: I would like to see a rule implemented that any non emergency work (utility , road , ect.) that would impede the response of any emergency vehicle from its place of origin be required a 24 hour notice of work to be done. And for emergency work an immediate notification that work is going to be done that could impede response. I feel an immediate notification by emergency number would give</p>

<p>enough time to move vehicles that would be affected. .I would like to see this implemented for all emergency (fire ,police ,ems ,military, hospitals, ect.).</p> <p>I think this or something similar needs to be implemented because as of right now there is nothing to keep utility companies, contractors, road workers ect. from impeding with the response of emergency vehicles.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: I do not feel this would add any additional cost to anyone.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The petition does not actually propose language for inclusion in the OFC. The concept proposed appears to be beyond the scope of the OFC. Current regulations regarding notification procedures that must be followed by gas companies are not within the purview of the OFC and should be addressed through the PUCO or other utility governing bodies. The Petition is not well taken and the SFM will not create language to propose for inclusion in the 2024 OFC on this matter.</p>

Petition ID: 66

Committee Action: Approved as modified

<p>Submitter: Kurt Westergaard</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): 322.1</p>
<p>Proposed Change: 322.1 The operation and maintenance of all laboratories shall be in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 45 <u>or Chapter 38.</u></p>
<p>Substantiation: NFPA 45 and Chapter 38 have different requirements; it's not possible to comply with both at the same time. One example of the difference is the limits on hazardous materials; NFPA 45 deviates from Chapter 50 Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) only in the flammable and combustible hazard categories; whereas Chapter 38 deviates in all categories (especially for higher floors). A second example is the number of control areas. These are not the only areas where NPFA 45 and Chapter 38 deviate.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: No cost impact. It will save time and frustration trying to understand and follow the code.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. With the addition of new Chapter 38, the need for clarification in Sec. 322 is well taken. The proposed language will be amended and proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as follows:</p> <p><i>322.1 The operation and maintenance of all laboratories shall be in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 45 <u>or, as applicable, Chapter 38.</u></i></p>

Petition ID: 67

Committee Action: Denied

<p>Submitter: Kurt Westergaard</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): 322.2</p>
<p>Proposed Change: <u>322.2 Laboratories complying with the requirements of NFPA 45 shall be permitted to exceed the maximum allowable quantities of hazardous and combustible liquids in control areas set forth in Chapter 50 without requiring classification as a Group H occupancy; this includes the altered reduction based on floor level. The number of control areas is limited to that shown in Chapter 50.</u></p>
<p>Substantiation: Need to resolve this difference and let both the public and the local fire marshals know, without a doubt, whether they are to follow NFPA 45 limits for flammable and combustibles or Chapter 50 limits as the quantities are different (in fact, the whole scheme is different). Note: Chapter 50 limits are the same as limits in another NPFA document...NFPA 400 (Hazardous Materials Code) which is the same</p>

<p>table as in IFC Chapter 50 and has been for years. Clearly, NFPA feels confident allowing the additional limits of flammables and combustible due to the increased safety requirements for laboratories. Furthermore, NFPA 45 doesn't address how many laboratory units you can have on a floor, but I believe your intent is to limit it to the number of control areas in Chapter 50. If you can allow more control areas, then by all means, please change the wording to indicate so!</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: No cost impact. Adds clarification and eliminates frustration when trying to understand the code</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The proposed language is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Longstanding applicability and interpretation provisions in the OFC state that standards referenced in the OFC are to be applied only to the extent that the OFC sends you to that particular standard. See OFC Section 102.7. Likewise, the OFC provides that to the extent of any conflict between an OFC provision and a provision in a referenced standard exists, the provisions of the OFC control. See OFC Section 102.7.2. Furthermore, occupancy classifications and MAQ levels are in place to provide occupant safety and have been carefully coordinated with both national and OBC standards. Permitting an occupancy to increase MAQs without further compliance with occupancy standards is not warranted, particularly when not vetted through the national or OBBS code update processes.</p>	
Petition ID: 68	Committee Action: Denied
<p>Submitter: Kurt Westergaard</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 3801.1</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: 3801.1 Scope. Higher education laboratories complying with the requirements of this chapter shall be permitted to exceed the maximum allowable quantities of hazardous materials in control areas set forth in Chapter 50 without requiring classification as a Group H occupancy. Except as specified in this chapter, such laboratories shall comply with all applicable provisions of this code and the building code. <u>The local fire official may allow businesses with laboratory operations similar to higher education laboratories (many small laboratories separated by walls, using smaller containers of hazardous materials) to follow Chapter 38 instead of Section 322 of OFC/NFPA 45.</u></p>	
<p>Substantiation: There should not be a drastically different standard based solely on a name. There are many Ohio businesses that conduct research, a number of them have multi-story buildings, and they, like higher education, have a number of smaller laboratories, separated by walls, with smaller container sizes and limited quantities. Their hazards and risks are the same or similar to those posed in college and university laboratories.</p> <p>These businesses have many of the same reasons to follow Chapter 38 as do higher education. Many of these reasons are spelled out in the IFC commentary to Chapter 38 and include: Mixed-use occupancies - when densely populated offices are forced to the upper floors in buildings containing laboratories, those occupants would then need to egress past the areas where the hazardous materials are located; compartmentation - many laboratories on a floor, and each laboratory separated by walls; size – many small containers distributed across multiple laboratories, this results in a much lower hazard than having large containers. And, per the IFC commentary, historical data over the last 25 years has shown the vast majority of laboratory fires do not typically extend beyond the area, or even the room, of origin.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ventilation in laboratory spaces often exceeds standard business occupancies. Air is not recirculated in the HVAC systems – 100% fresh make-up air is provided – thus preventing harmful smoke/contaminants from fires or other unfortunate events from entering other rooms/spaces. Laboratories are designed with a negative pressure compared to surrounding</p>	

areas. Laboratory exhaust ventilation vents many feet above the roof of the building. Laboratory exhausts are designed to stay on during a fire alarm. These are vast differenced from how a standard business operates.

NFPA 45 provided only one allowance/increase – and that is only for flammable and combustible liquids. There are many other categories of hazardous materials and businesses which are required to follow NFPA 45 will also need to follow the allowances in Chapter 50 for all the other hazards.

Chapter 50 provides for no allowances nor increases based on floor sizes. The amount of any hazard on a 10,000 square foot 4th floor, is the same amount allowed on a 50,000 square foot 4th floor, is the same amount allowed on a 100,000 square foot 4th floor. It's beyond the scope of this suggestion to change that; but it is an important fact to keep in mind as you weigh the facts.

Chapter 38 and chapter 50 Maximum Allowable Quantities differ greatly when looking at upper floors. This difference is enormous. There should not be an enormous difference between two very similar buildings containing similar labs based solely on the fact that one is engaged in higher education instruction & research and the other is engaged in business research. Below is a sampling of the limits imposed for a few select hazards; this represents the total amount of the hazard allowed on the whole floor (quantity x reduction for floor level x number of control areas or lab suites allowed on the 4th floor)

- Highly Toxic Liquid or Solid (4th floor, all increases applied)

- Chapter 50: 8 lbs

- Chapter 38, fully compliant construction: 120 lbs

- Chapter 38, existing labs, fully sprinklered: 40 lbs

- Oxygen Cylinders – (4th floor, increase for sprinklers applied; standard size 300 cylinder = nominal 300 cubic feet of gas)

- Chapter 50: 2 cylinders

- Chapter 38, fully compliant construction: 28 cylinders

- Chapter 38, existing labs, fully sprinklered: 10 cylinders

Both types of laboratories often have small containers of chemicals distributed across many laboratories on a floor; and each laboratory separated by walls. The sum of the contents of the small containers, on 4th floor or higher, can easily exceed Chapter 50 limits; but at the same time can be well under the Chapter 38 limits.

Cost Impact: The cost savings are hard to quantify. But considering the fact that moving laboratories to lower floors in a multi-floor building, or even constructing labs on the lower floors in a multi-floor building would require installing longer vertical shafts, through several additional floors, to take the exhaust to the roof, at a cost of tens of thousands, if not 100,000 dollars per shaft is expensive. Retrofitting existing buildings is likely more expensive than new construction. Furthermore, when the shafts extend through more floors, businesses loose that floor space - there's a cost to that lost usable square footage too.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The proposed language is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. There are too many potential variables that would need to be assessed to determine what would constitute a “business operating in a manner similar to a higher education laboratory” to add such a blanket provision to the OFC as the one proposed in the instant petition. Also, enforcement of such a provision at the local level would likely result in vastly different

business requirements from one jurisdiction to the next. Such an outcome could impede business in some areas and the SFM is not inclined to support a proposal that could result in such an outcome.

Petition ID: 69

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Kurt Westergaard

OFC Section(s): 3801.2

Proposed Change: 3801.2 Application. The provisions of this chapter shall be applied as exceptions or additions to applicable requirements of this code. Unless specifically modified by this chapter, the storage, use and handling of hazardous materials shall comply with the provisions in Chapters 50 through 67 and the building code for quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity. Laboratories using chemicals will follow either Section 322 of OFC or Chapter 38, not both.

Substantiation: Need to make it clear that laboratories don't need to follow both as there is conflicting guidance in several areas including MAQ limits, occupancy groups, etc.

Cost Impact: No cost impact. Provides clarity and eliminates frustration when interpreting and implementing the fire code.

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** The proposed language is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Language has been added in Section 322 to point to the new language in Chapter 38 for higher education laboratories. An additional pointer here, sending readers back to Section 322 would likely only add confusion to the applicability of Chapter 38.

Petition ID: 70

Committee Action: Approved in concept in part and further amendments made

Submitter: Michael Benson

OFC Section(s): Section 323.5 Electric vehicle charging and systems, 1301:7-7-03 [Chapter 2 - Definitions, Electric Vehicle Charging Station, 1301:7-7-02]

Proposed Change: 1301:7-7-02 - Chapter 2, Definitions:

Electric Vehicle Charging Station refers to "public or commercial parking space." This needs to be defined further to explain this charging station is a commercial activity providing this service to the public, and not a plug on a wall or electric vehicle supply equipment hard-wired to building AC power, and available at a workplace or parking lot/garage. This activity should be treated similarly to fuel dispensing stations under the mercantile use group.

1301:7-7-03 - Chapter 3, Section 323.5

This section is fundamentally flawed in two ways:

This section misapplies building-connected electrical systems powering electrical vehicle supply equipment with considerations for lithium-ion battery-powered electric vehicle (EV) safety. EV chargers do not typically have Lithium-ion batteries as part of their system. If they do, then this section would/could apply, but that is not explained in this section. EV charging should be part of the building systems chapter as it is an extension of the building's electrical system, unless the system is a stand-alone EV charging operation, like a gas station for EVs.

This section also ignores the vast difference between home and workplace charging based on AC power from a building (referred to as Level 1 at 120V, and Level 2 at 240V), and DC fast charging (480V and higher). All of these provide electricity as a fuel for electric vehicles, but the risk from Level 1-2 is no higher than from a clothes dryer or residential air conditioner. This section needs to clarify the definition of an

<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Chapter 2 to apply this code to DC fast charger EV fueling stations, and treat them similarly to other vehicle fueling stations.</p>
<p>Substantiation: The code draft as written fails to delineate between home/workplace electric vehicle charging at no higher than 240V power, and electric vehicle charging stations with 480V and higher power intended as commercial fueling stations for electric vehicles, similar to other vehicle fueling stations. The definition of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Chapter 2, and the entire section 323.5 needs to be rewritten to separate commercial electric vehicle fueling stations with 480V and higher power (DC fast charging) from home/workplace charging based on no more than 240 V building power.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: This draft as written creates a burden on every business or multi-unit dwelling owner who simply wants to provide electricity to charge electric vehicles in their parking lot or garage. If they are using an outlet or hard-wired electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) based on their own building's existing electrical system at up to 240V power it may cost \$1,500 per EVSE. To make them build out a full vehicle charging system away from their building based on the draft code may increase their cost to \$15,000 per EVSE.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved in concept in part and further amendments made. Although the Petition states that there are issues with the language proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC at Section 323 it does not actually offer a substantive solution or actual language to amend the OFC to address the issues raised. Typically, the SFM would not entertain a petition that merely points to issues but does not propose actual text amendments to correct the issues alleged. However, electric vehicles charging station technology is quickly emerging and evolving. Currently, the OFC does not contain provisions specific to this technology and the SFM feels that it is important that the next iteration of the OFC contain some baseline provisions. Likewise, it is important that those provisions be as accurate and concise as possible. Therefore, the SFM will make changes to the previously proposed 2024 OFC text in response to the Petition as follows:</p> <p>The definition of electric vehicle charging station, in Section 202, will be amended as follows:</p> <p><i>Electric vehicle charging station.</i> <i>A public or commercial parking space that is served by battery charging station equipment for the purpose of transferring electrical energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device within an electric vehicle. <u>This term does not include electric vehicle charging equipment installed at or in a private garage unit serving a one-, two-, or three-family dwelling.</u></i></p> <p>Language contained in proposed section 323.5 will be moved to Section 324.</p> <p>In addition, in reviewing the Petitions regarding electric vehicle charging, the SFM also reviewed information from the PUCO. To ensure that there is no overlap in regulations that may be promulgated by the PUCO, the OFC will also be amended as follows:</p> <p><i>101.2.2.1 Exemptions to the Ohio Fire Code.</i> <i>This code does not apply to any of the following:</i></p> <p><i>10. Structures, and premises, and installations subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the public utilities commission of Ohio as established in the Revised Code or in administrative rules promulgated by the public utilities commission, to the extent of such exclusivity.</i></p>
<p>Petition ID: 71 Committee Action: Denied</p>
<p>Submitter: Randall A. Grogean, Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council</p>
<p>OFC Section(s): 2024 OFC (Draft) Section 202 General definitions. [2024 OFC (Draft) Section 102.1.1 General applicability, #4 and 112.1.2 Distinct hazards.]</p>

Proposed Change: <u>Definition: Distinct hazard. A clear, unmistakable source of exposure or liability to injury, pain or loss.</u>	
Substantiation: "Distinct hazard" is initially used in Section 102.1.1 General applicability , #4, but it is not clearly defined in the paragraph. Section 12.1.2 Distinct hazards also refers back to Section 102.1.1 "...including as described in Section 102.1.1..." with no clear definition. Both the terms <i>Imminent hazards</i> and <i>Serious hazards</i> in Section 112.1 Unlawful acts are defined in the text (in that section) or in Section 202 Definitions . The lack of definition or commentary leaves the door open to confusion and conflict amongst fire service professionals, private sector stakeholders and municipalities.	
Cost Impact: Various fire officials with various backgrounds enforcing their own interpretations of what a "Distinct hazard" is without any commentary or guidance for uniformity or foundational backdrop could lead to increased development costs and loss of commercial occupancies that cannot afford certain renovations (which would negate the any effort that the additional Ohio language of "distinct hazard" sought to achieve). Additionally, code officials that are apprehensive to take action without further guidance to enforce elements of 2024 Draft Rule 11 will miss opportunities to reduce fire and system failures, ultimately increasing dollar loss.	
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The State Fire Marshal empathizes with the petitioner as it also must navigate the nuances of the distinct hazard standard in its own Ohio Fire Code enforcement program. However, as the term "distinct hazard" is a court created concept that been defined through applicable case law to balance constitutionally based property owner rights against public safety needs, the State Fire Marshal does not believe it has the requisite authority to further define or alter the meaning of this phrase in administrative code, particularly because such an attempt could inadvertently limit the applicability of this concept in contravention of the intention of the courts. Therefore, the proposed language is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. However, the SMF will consider providing fire code officials with expanded educational information regarding existing caselaw on this matter to give fire code officials a better understanding of the instances of where and how courts have applied this standard.	
Petition ID: 72	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Randall A. Grogean, Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council	
OFC Section(s): 2024 OFC (Draft) Section 104.6.3.1, Paragraph 2	
Proposed Change: All reports required under this section shall be submitted to the state fire marshal within <u>thirty-one</u> seven days of the incident referenced in the report.	
Substantiation: Maintaining the thirty-one day submittal time allows any and all fire departments adequate time to complete and conduct quality control measures for reports. Times to complete and conduct quality control measures may vary for departments due to scheduling of shifts, holidays or department administrative limitations. Not all of the process may be able to be completed within the seven days.	
Cost Impact: No economic impact impact can be analyzed due to the the lack of explanation for lowering of the submittal time by the state fire marshal's office.	
Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The SFM generates reports and statistics from the submission of fire reports on a monthly basis for the prior calendar month. If information occurring at the end of any given month is not reported for an additional 31 days, information used by the SFM to follow and monitor fire occurrence trends throughout the state would be significantly	

delayed. However, the point is well taken that a 7-day fire report submission deadline may cause hardship in some instances. Therefore, the proposed text will be amended to change 7 to 15 days.

In addition, the SFM will further amend this section to more accurately reflect reporting expectations. The changes will offer clarity for the fire service as well as provide more than adequate reporting timeframes. The new language will be proposed as follows:

104.6.3.1 Fire reports. *The fire department described in Section 104.6.3, the political subdivision served by such fire departments described in Section 104.6.3 or the fire prevention officer described in Section 104.6.3 shall report fire incidents required by Sections 3737.23 and 3737.24 of the Revised Code using coding information and procedures prescribed by the ~~“United States Fire Administration”~~ in the ~~“National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)”~~ state fire marshal and shall send to the state fire marshal these reports in a manner approved by the state fire marshal. The reports shall include the ~~“Incident Report,” the “Civilian Casualty Report,” and the “Fire Service Casualty Report.”~~with all required sections/modules completed. Electronic reporting of fire incidents to the state fire marshal must be in a format approved by both the ~~“United States Fire Administration”~~ and the state fire marshal, ~~as being compatible with the current version of the “National Fire Incident Reporting System.”~~ The state fire marshal, in the state fire marshal's sole discretion, may choose a federally recognized manner of reporting with which departments must comply. Any electronic reporting also must be in a format that is specifically compatible with the software used by the state fire marshal to process such reports and be transmitted in a format that has been approved by the state fire marshal.*

All reports required under this ~~paragraph~~ section shall be submitted to the state fire marshal within ~~seven~~ fifteen days of the end of the calendar month in which the incident referenced in the report occurred. In months where no reportable fire incidents have occurred, the fire department described in Section 104.6.3 and the political subdivision served by the fire department described in Section 104.6.3 shall file a “No Activity Report” as prescribed by the state fire marshal and in a manner approved by the state fire marshal.

In addition, and to ensure clarity, language will be amended in Section 104.11.3 to clarify that notification of major fire incidents in accordance with that section still must be done “immediately”, notwithstanding the timeframes above for uploading fire incident report information into the SFM's OFIRMS program. That section will be amended to read as follows:

104.11.3 Major fire notifications to state fire marshal. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 104.6.3.1 and the timeframes within which fire incident information must be reported to the state fire marshal, political subdivision fire departments, including such departments and private fire companies providing services to another jurisdiction that does not have a fire department, must immediately report to the state fire marshal any fire or explosion occurring within its jurisdiction or response area that caused or had a substantial risk of causing death or serious physical harm to any person(s).

Petition ID: 73

Committee Action: Approved in concept

Submitter: Randy Little, Jackson Township Fire Department/ Franklin County

OFC Section(s): 104.1.1

Proposed Change: 104.1.1

The state fire marshal or fire chief of municipal corporations having fire departments or the fire chief of townships having fire departments shall enforce all provisions of Chapters 3781. and 3791. of the Revised Code, and any rules promulgated pursuant to those chapters, relating to fire prevention. **Incorporated**

areas of a municipality, where the municipal corporation does not have a fire department, are subject to the enforcement of the Ohio Fire Code and adopted appendices of the fire department having jurisdiction.

Substantiation: Grove City is a home rule city without a fire department. Since 1945 Jackson Township has provided fire and ems services to the entire Township, including Grove City and the Village of Urbancrest. Grove City has not succeeded from the Township. All residents of the City are also residents of the Township and vote for elected officials of the township. The city has adopted an ordinance stating the Public Safety Director appointed by the Mayor of Grove City is the fire code official. They disregard fire code requirements from the fire department and state they are home rule. The Public Safety Director has no fire experience and does not possess a CFSI certification. We have no choice but to issue citations to developers for not following the code.

Cost Impact: No cost.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved in concept.** The language submitted in the petition will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as proposed, particularly since the referenced section deals primarily with the application of the OBC. However, the SFM has included language addressing these same concepts in OFC Section 103.1 to clarify OFC enforcement and applicability for certified fire safety inspectors acting within the scope of their jurisdiction and the scope of local fire safety rules as measured against the application of the OFC.

Petition ID: 74

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 202 Uses other than Group H

Proposed Change: 202 Uses other than Group H. The storage, use or handling of hazardous materials as described in one or more of the following items shall not cause the occupancy to be classified as Group H, but it shall be classified as the occupancy that it most nearly resembles:

18. Distilling or brewing of beverages exceeding the T.5003.1.(1)MAQs conforming to the requirements of this code.

Substantiation: Clarifies that compliance with this code includes compliance with the MAQ table. Areas with Flammable Liquid in excess of the MAQs should be separated from other occupancies.

Cost Impact: No cost impact anticipated.

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** Although the SFM does not support limiting the exception to the H occupancy classification to only those facilities that exceed the MAQs specified in Chapter 50 and asserts that if anything the exception to the H classification should be limited to only those facilities that do not exceed the MAQ, this issue should first be submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC.

Petition ID: 75

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 202 Uses other than Group H

Proposed Change: Uses other than Group H. The storage, use or handling of hazardous materials as described in one or more of the following items shall not cause the occupancy to be classified as Group H, but it shall be classified as the occupancy that it most nearly resembles:

<p>19.The storage of beer, distilled spirits <u>provided this use is separated from Occupancy Groups A,E,I, and R by 2hr rated construction and from Groups B and M by 1hr rated construction where quantities exceeding those listed in T.5003.1.1 (1) are present</u> and wines in <u>wooden</u> barrels and casks conforming to the requirements of this code.</p>	
<p>Substantiation: Areas with Flammable Liquids in excess on the MAQs should be separated from the occupancies other than F or S.</p> <p>Wooden barrels behave differently from steel or plastic battels and fire conditions</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. This issue should more appropriately be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC.</p>	
<p>Petition ID: 76 Committee Action: Denied</p>	
<p>Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 903.2.4.2 Group F-1 Distilled Spirits</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: 903.2.4.2 Group F-1 distilled spirits.</p> <p>An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout a Group F-1 fire area used for the manufacture of distilled spirits <u>where T.5003.1.(1) MAQs are exceeded.</u></p>	
<p>Substantiation: Up to 120 gallons of Class IB and IC Flammable Liquid is a de minimis amount which does not pose sufficient risk of fire to require sprinklers. The cost of sprinklers presents an undue hardship to small businesses, distilleries, that process and store quantities of Flammable liquid under the MAQs.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: No economic impact anticipated</p>	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. This issue should more appropriately be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC.</p>	
<p>Petition ID: 77 Committee Action: Approved</p>	
<p>Submitter: Randall A. Grogean, Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council</p>	
<p>OFC Section(s): 2024 OFC (Draft) Section 906.1 Where required, #1, Exceptions: 3.</p>	
<p>Proposed Change: In storage areas of Group S occupancies <u>where the building or area is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system and</u> where forklift, powered industrial truck or powered cart operators are the primary occupants, fixed extinguishers, as specified in NFPA 10, shall not be required where in accordance with all of the following: 3.1. Use of vehicle-mounted [sic]</p>	
<p>Substantiation: Proper distribution of fire extinguishers per Section 906 Portable fire extinguishers of the 2024 OFC (Draft) and 2013 NFPA 10 across any occupancies is necessary for adequate accessibility for fire fighting at any time for any condition. NFPA 10, Section 6.1.3.2 indicates that “Fire extinguishers shall be located along normal paths of travel, including exits from areas.” Generally, forklifts, powered industrial truck or powered cart operators are in specific, concentrated areas when not in use. Therefore, the fire extinguisher that they retain are not available throughout the occupancy in fixed locations at all times. If this level of fire protection is not available throughout the occupancy at all times, an automatic sprinkler system can provide an adequate level of fire protection.</p>	
<p>Cost Impact: Only a minor impact of installation and maintenance costs would occur to occupants/owners if fixed extinguishers were installed per NFPA 10. Installation of an automatic sprinkler system that would</p>	

not be required in specific Group S occupancies is a significant cost increase for the occupants/owners. Therefore, placement of fire extinguishers on forklift, powered industrial truck or powered cart operators should not be exclusive and eliminate the requirements of NFPA 10.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved.** The language proposed in the petition is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 78

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 903.2.9.3 Group S-1 Distilled Spirits or Wine

Proposed Change: [903.2.9.3 Group S-1 distilled spirits or wine.](#)

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout a Group S-1 fire area used for the bulk storage of distilled spirits where T.5003.1.1(1) MAQs are exceeded or wine.

Substantiation: Up to 120 gallons of Class IB and IC Flammable Liquid is a de minimis amount which does not pose sufficient risk of fire to require sprinklers. The cost of sprinklers presents an undue hardship to small businesses that process and store quantities of Flammable liquid under the MAQs.

Cost Impact: No economic impact anticipated

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** This issue should more appropriately be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC.

Petition ID: 79

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 4001.1 General

Proposed Change: [4001.1 General.](#)

The storage of distilled spirits and wines in wooden barrels and casks shall comply with this chapter in addition to other applicable requirements of this code.

Substantiation: Wooden barrels behave differently from steel or plastic barrels under fire conditions.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** Although distilled spirits and wines in wooden barrels and casks may behave differently from such in plastic or steel barrels under fire conditions, the SFM does not agree that only wooden barrels require fire protection. The petition is therefore not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 80

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 4003.1 Spill Control

Proposed Change: [4003.1 Spill control.](#)

Drainage or containment systems shall be provided by means of curbs, scuppers, special drains or other suitable means to prevent the flow of spills throughout the building. Exemption: Where the NS (non-sprinklered) allowable area figure from OBC T.506.2 is used to calculate the allowable area of the building.

<p>Substantiation: Prior codes and NFPA 30 had not required drainage and containment for storage of spirits in wooden barrels. However, the size of the storage occupancy was limited to the NS area. Containment and drainage should only be required as an additional safety measure where fire risk is increased due to the increased storage area and capacity permitted under Group S-1.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Pursuant to provisions in the OBC, spill control or containment would be required for hazardous materials regardless of whether the instant petition was approved in the OFC. Therefore, any measure to exempt distillery locations from spill control or containment provisions should be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC. In addition, Petitioner's reliance on OBC table 506.2 seems misplaced and the SFM is not sure how the application of the table would apply to justify an exemption from spill control requirements, regardless of the size and/or sprinklered area of the building.</p> <p>The SFM believes that it is necessary to have some type of containment system regardless of the sprinklered area of the building and is not inclined to support any measure to eliminate such.</p> <p>However, Petitioner should note that the application of the drainage or containment system requirements would not be retroactive in application unless an existing facility was not built in conformance with applicable code provisions in effect at the time of the construction, the facility was renovated, or a distinct hazard was found to exist.</p>

Petition ID: 81	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild	
OFC Section(s): 4003.1 Spill Control	
<p>Proposed Change: 4003.3 Sources of ignition.</p> <p>Sources of ignition shall be controlled in accordance with Sections 4003.3.1 through 4003.4.</p> <p>4003.1.1 Containment Volume: Where required, containment volume shall equal the volume of the largest vessel plus 20 minutes of fire water falling over the containment area or the sprinkler remote design area, whichever is less.</p>	
Substantiation: Clarifying the containment volume provides information needed to comply with the code.	
Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact.	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The proposal to include language in the OFC setting a containment volume is well taken. However, the language as set forth in the Petition will be modified and proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as follows:</p> <p>4003.1.1 Containment Volume. Where required, containment volume shall equal the volume of 4 times the quantity of the largest drum or barrel stored in the containment area plus 20 minutes of fire water falling over either the containment area or the sprinkler remote design area, whichever is less.</p>	
Petition ID: 82	Committee Action: Denied; rule further modified
Submitter: Randall A. Grogean, Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council	
OFC Section(s): 2024 OFC (Draft) Section 603.5.2 Application and use., Exceptions #1	
<p>Proposed Change: Where approved for use in a Group A occupancy or in a meeting room in a Group B occupancy, <u>and where approved by the relocatable power taps' manufacturer installation instructions</u>, not</p>	

more than five relocatable power taps shall be permitted to be connected together or connected to an extension cord for temporary use to supply power to electronic equipment.
Substantiation: Multiple, interconnected relocatable power taps are a violation of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the National Electrical Code. Interconnecting relocatable power taps can cause them to become overloaded, which could lead to their failure and a possible fire. Please reference the September 2016 article produced by the United States Congress, Office of Compliance, <i>Power Strips and Dangerous Daisy Chains</i> .
Cost Impact: Please reference the September 2016 article produced by the United States Congress, Office of Compliance, <i>Power Strips and Dangerous Daisy Chains</i> .
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Denied; rule further modified. The language proposed in the petition has merit. However, in reviewing the language in this section, which is new language added to the IFC, the SFM has determined that the longstanding policy in Ohio of not allowing daisy-chained power taps or current taps should be upheld. Therefore, and in order to streamline enforcement, the SFM will delete the proposed IFC exceptions from this section. The language that will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 IFC will continue to state that relocatable power taps (and now current taps) shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle. No exceptions to this provision will be included. The language proposed in this section in the draft of the rule published at the kickoff of the 2024 OFC update cycle will be amended as follows:</p> <p>603.5.2 Application and use. Relocatable power taps <u>and current taps</u> shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Where approved for use in a Group A occupancy or in a meeting room in a Group B occupancy, not more than five relocatable power taps shall be permitted to be connected together or connected to an extension cord for temporary use to supply power to electronic equipment.</u> <u>2. Current taps and relocatable power taps shall not be required to connect directly to a permanently installed receptacle outlet where used for 90 days or less for the purpose of testing the performance of such devices.</u>

Petition ID: 83	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild	
OFC Section(s): 4003.2 Ventilation	
<p>Proposed Change: 4003.2 Ventilation. For rooms and spaces where distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks are stored, ventilation shall be provided in accordance with the International Mechanical Code and one of the following:</p> <p>1. The rooms and spaces shall be ventilated at a rate sufficient to maintain the concentration of vapors within the area at or below 25 percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL). This shall be confirmed by sampling the actual vapor concentration under normal operating conditions <u>or by calculations stamped by a registered design professional.</u> The sampling shall be conducted throughout the enclosed storage area, extending to or toward the bottom and the top of the enclosed storage area. The vapor concentration used to determine the required ventilation rate shall be the highest measured concentration during the sampling procedure. The sampling shall be conducted manually or by installation of a continuously monitoring flammable vapor detection system.</p>	

Substantiation: Hundreds of calculations comparing the rate of alcohol evaporation from wooden barrels, substantiated by required federal TTB tax reporting, have proven that the rate of ventilation needed to maintain concentrations of ethanol vapor in barrel storage areas due to this evaporation is significantly less than 0.06cfm/sf, the ventilation rate for warehouses required by the OMC and a ventilation rate akin to that available through infiltration.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** Limiting calculations to one snapshot taken during the design phase is unwarranted. The effect of atmospheric and ambient conditions cannot be adequately factored into the calculations at the design stage. It is necessary to obtain calculations in actual context so that the effect of humidity, outside air temperatures and other ambient air conditions can be calculated and monitored and so that correct functioning of the ventilation system can be established.

Petition ID: 84

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 4004.3 Basement Storage

Proposed Change: [4004.3 Basement storage.](#)

Class I liquids shall be allowed to be stored in basements in amounts not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area for use-open storage systems in Table 5003.1.1(1). Provided that automatic suppression and other fire protection are provided in accordance with Chapter 9. Class II and IIIA liquids shall also be allowed to be stored in basements, provided that automatic suppression and other fire protection are provided in accordance with Chapter 9.

Substantiation: Barrels in an S-1 occupancy are, by definition, storage, not use. Sprinklers should not be required where quantities of Flammable Liquid are below MAQs.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** The storage of Class I liquids in basements poses a firefighter safety risk and the SFM cannot support allowing such while deleting safety features. In addition, the proposed deletion of language requiring a sprinkler system should be first submitted for consideration to the OBBS as a request for a change to the OBC.

Petition ID: 85

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 4004.3 Basement Storage

Proposed Change: [4004.3 Basement storage.](#)

Class I liquids shall be allowed to be stored in basements in amounts not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area for use-open storage systems in Table 5003.1.1(1). Provided that automatic suppression and other fire protection are provided in accordance with Chapter 9. Class II and IIIA liquids shall also be allowed to be stored in basements, provided that automatic suppression and other fire protection are provided in accordance with Chapter 9. Class IB and IC Flammable Liquids shall also be allowed to be stored in basements provided the allowable area used to calculate the basement area is 25% or less than that listed in OBC T.506.2 under NS and that automatic suppression and other fire protection are provided in accordance with Chapter 9 and this use is separated from the remainder of the building by 2hr rated construction.

Substantiation: Basement locations do not present any increase in risk of fire. However, fighting a fire in a basement is more difficult. Spirits stored in barrels represent a significant structural load that cannot be reasonably address other than when located directly on ground. Many micro distilleries are small businesses that begin in existing buildings likely to be built with basements. The cost of adding structural elements to existing elevated floor systems presents an undue financial hardship to these small businesses.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** The storage of flammable and combustible liquids below grade / in a basement poses one of the biggest challenges from a fire safety and fire-fighting standpoint. Class 1B and 1C flammable and combustible liquids have a higher flammability ignition source and create a large fire load. From a firefighting capability and containment standpoint such an environment poses a huge risk and is hard to control. Therefore, the language as proposed is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 86

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 4004.4 Bulk Beverage Storage

Proposed Change: [4004.4 Bulk beverage storage areas.](#)

~~There shall be no storage of combustible materials in the bulk beverage storage areas not related to the beverage storage activities.~~

Bulk beverage storage shall comply with all applicable sections of this and other adopted codes except OFC Chapters 50 and 57. This includes Chapter 32 High Piled Combustible Storage where High Piled Storage of High Hazard Commodity Class spirits in barrels is defined in Chapter 2 as exceeding 6'-0" high. Per Chapter 32, storage higher than 6'-0" is permitted provided the storage arrangements meet the requirements for High Piled Storage."

Substantiation: Spirits in wood barrels are already classified as a High Hazard Commodity requiring space and pile design to follow the requirements for this most restrictive commodity class. Any other commodity, combustible or otherwise, would present a lesser hazard. Small business micro distilleries often need multipurpose space to operate efficiently, particularly in smaller facilities. Nothing in the code exempts distilleries and distilled spirits storage occupancies from compliance with all parts of the OFC, except Chapters 50 and 57. Mentioning Chapter 32 here in Chapter 40 provides helpful clarification regarding its application to storage of spirits in barrels.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Denied.** The language proposed for deletion is a national standard regarding bulk storage. Changing bulk storage requirements and exempting such from other applicable provisions of the code should be proposed first for consideration at the national level. In addition, the SFM does not support the deletion of language prohibiting combustible storage in bulk beverage storage areas. Contrary to the rationale provided, adding combustibles to an area with an already increased fire risk increases the fire load in the event of a fire and inherently increases risk to firefighter safety, volatility of the situation and the likelihood of more extensive damage (regardless of whether or not, under other conditions not related to bulk storage of spirits, the safety systems in place in a bulk storage facility would ably contain the combustible materials in and of themselves).

Petition ID: 87

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild
OFC Section(s): 4005.1 Automatic Sprinkler System
Proposed Change: 4005.1 Automatic sprinkler system. <p>The storage of distilled spirits and wines shall be protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system as required by Chapter 9. Exception: Bulk sprits in wooden barrels or properly vented per NFPA 30 stainless-steel vessels not in excess of 2000 gallons aggregate per control area where no single vessel exceeds 350 gallons, and the storage area is separated from all other parts of the building by 2hr rated construction.</p>
Substantiation: Limited volume, container size, and compartmentalization are sufficient additional safety measures to offset the elimination of sprinklers. This gives small business micro distilleries a greater opportunity to get into and stay in business
Cost Impact: No economic impact anticipated
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. While the SFM appreciates the proposal of alternate safety measures for the applicability of the proposed exception, the language would alter a national standard regarding required fire protection for storage areas for distilled spirits and wines and thus should be proposed first for consideration at the national level. Excepting locations from required fire protection should be fully vetted and the SFM is not inclined to deviate from the national standard on this issue and certainly cannot justify doing so without detailed information regarding potential consequences of such a change.

Petition ID: 88

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild
OFC Section(s): 5001.1 Scope
Proposed Change: 5001.1 Scope. <p>Prevention, control and mitigation of dangerous conditions related to storage, dispensing, use and handling of hazardous materials shall be in accordance with this chapter.</p> <p>This chapter shall apply to all hazardous materials, including those materials regulated elsewhere in this code, except that where specific requirements are provided in other chapters, those specific requirements shall apply in accordance with the applicable chapter. Where a material has multiple hazards, all hazards shall be addressed.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>10. The storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in <u>wooden</u> barrels and casks. [Emphasis added based on other petitions submitted by this Petitioner]</p>
Substantiation: Wooden barrels behave differently from steel or plastic barrels under fire conditions.
Cost Impact: No economic impact anticipated
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The petition is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Although prior OFC provisions limited the exemption to wooden barrels and casks, current national language proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC was specifically amended to state that the storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in all barrels and casks (wooden or otherwise) is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 50. In conjunction with this change, language addressing all barrels and

casks was added to new Chapter 40. The SFM is not inclined to deviate from the new national standards at this time.

Petition ID: 89

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 5701. 2 Nonapplicability

Proposed Change: [5701.2 Nonapplicability.](#)

This chapter shall not apply to liquids as otherwise provided in other laws or regulations or chapters of this code, including:

10. The storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in wooden barrels and casks.

Substantiation: Wooden barrels behave differently from steel or plastic barrels under fire conditions.

Cost Impact: No anticipated economic impact.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The petition is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Although prior OFC provisions limited the exemption to wooden barrels and casks, current national language proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC was specifically amended to state that the storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in all barrels and casks (wooden or otherwise) is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 57. In conjunction with this change, language addressing all barrels and casks was added to new Chapter 40. The SFM is not inclined to deviate from the new national standards at this time.

Petition ID: 90

Committee Action: Approved as modified and further amendments made

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 5704.1 Public Access

Proposed Change: "Exception 5 Distilleries where the public is escorted and supervised by distillery personnel during access.

Substantiation: A key business component of micro distilleries is demonstrating authenticity to the public. Tours of production and storage facilities are critical to this component. Supervision by staff can provide sufficient assurance that members of the public will not cause any risk to the facility or be present in locations where they could be at risk.

Cost Impact: No economic impact anticipated.

Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified and further amendments made. The petition is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC but will be amended as follows:

5704.1.1 The aboveground tank storage of flammable and combustible liquids, shall be prohibited on premises to which the public has access.

Exceptions: ...

5. At a distillery, members of the public may access the property for purposes of tours of storage and production areas as long as no more than five members of the public are present on the property at any given time and all members of the public are escorted and supervised by distillery personnel at all times while on the premises.

Note, however, that the section number referenced in the Petition (Sec. 5704.1) should be Section 5704.1.1 and that is where the above language will be included in the rules proposed for adoption.

In addition, and to ensure clarity regarding the applicability of Chapter 57 to distilleries for matters not otherwise addressed in the OFC, Section 5701.2 will likewise be amended as follows:

5701.2 Nonapplicability. This chapter shall not apply to liquids as otherwise provided in other laws or regulations or chapters of this code, including: ...

10. To the extent a subject area referenced in or regulated by this Chapter related to the storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks is addressed elsewhere in this code (including chapter 40 of this code), the storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks is exempt from this Chapter.

SEE ALSO PETITION 92 FOR AMENDMENTS TO THIS SECTION IN CONFORMANCE WITH CHANGES MADE HEREIN.

Petition ID: 91

Committee Action: Approved as modified

Submitter: Randall A. Grogean, Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council

OFC Section(s): 2024 OFC (Draft) Section 904.13 Commercial cooking systems

Proposed Change: The automatic fire-extinguishing system for commercial cooking systems shall be of a type recognized for protection of commercial cooking equipment and exhaust systems of the type and arrangement protected. Preengineered automatic dry- and wet-chemical extinguishing systems shall be tested in accordance with UL 300 and listed and labeled for the intended application. Other types of automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be listed and labeled for specific use as protection for commercial cooking operations. The system shall be installed, inspected and maintained in accordance with this code, NFPA 96, its listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Automatic fire-extinguishing systems of the following types shall be installed in accordance with the referenced standard indicated, as follows:

1. Carbon dioxide extinguishing systems, NFPA 12.
2. Automatic sprinkler systems, NFPA 13.
3. Automatic water mist systems, NFPA 750.
4. Foam-water sprinkler system or foam-water spray systems, NFPA 16.
5. Dry-chemical extinguishing systems, NFPA 17.
6. Wet-chemical extinguishing systems, NFPA 17A.
7. Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations, NFPA 96.

Substantiation: The OFC provides little backing to fire code officials when attempting to enforce items within NFPA 96 regarding the inspection and maintenance of fire protection systems in commercial cooking operations. Referencing NFPA 96 in this section allows fire code officials to apply a standard to the inspection and maintenance of such hazards as grease buildup in commercial cooking operations and such items as fusible link replacement in their fire protection systems.

Cost Impact: Minimal cost impact would be created due to the requirement to maintain fire protection in commercial cooking operations.

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved as modified.** The concept as proposed is well taken. However, the SFM has determined that rather than insert the language as proposed a new paragraph

should be added to the code to address inspection and maintenance. Therefore, language will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC at the end of this section (after the text currently contained in the exception to the section) as follows:

Automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 96 as applicable.

Petition ID: 92

Committee Action: Approved as modified

Submitter: Doug Moormann, Ohio Distillers Guild

OFC Section(s): 5704.1.2 Security

Proposed Change: *any text proposed for deletion.*

5704.1.2 Security

After “safeguarded” add “unauthorized”.

NOTE: I was unable to find the IFC reference in the copy I have. I apologize for this one being a verbatim change

Substantiation: A key business component of micro distilleries is demonstrating authenticity to the public. Tours of production and storage facilities are critical to this component. Supervision by staff can provide sufficient assurance that members of the public will not cause any risk to the facility or be present in locations where they could be at risk.

Cost Impact: Not anticipated to have an economic impact

Committee Response and Justification: **Approved as modified.** Given the approval of Petition 90, the instant Petition is well taken. However, for clarity the provisions will be amended, and Section 5704.1.2 will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as follows:

5704.1.2 Security. *Storage, dispensing, use and handling shall be secured against unauthorized entry and safeguarded against public access. Aboveground tanks that are not enclosed in vaults shall be enclosed by a fence, as listed below, at least 6 feet (1.8 m) high. The fence shall have a gate that is secured against unauthorized entry and shall either be:*

- 1. Chain link or other non-combustible material, spaced at a minimum of three (3) feet from the tank on all sides; or*
- 2. Fire-retardant coated wood or other fire-retardant combustible material, spaced at a minimum of 6 feet from the tank on all sides. No gaps shall be more than 3 inches in width.*

Exceptions:

1. *Listed, lockable engine mounted tanks that are connected to stationary pieces of equipment shall not be required to be enclosed in vaults or to have fencing if all of the following apply:*

1.1 *The tank has a capacity of 500 gallons or less; and*

1.2 *The equipment remains locked at all times unless the equipment is being serviced or the tank is being filled; and'*

1.3. *All other provisions of this code, including other security provisions such as vehicle protection, are complied with.*

2. Storage and production areas of distilleries shall not be required to be safeguarded against public access to the extent authorized in Section 5704.1, Exception 5 and where such access is conducted in accordance with that section.

SEE ALSO PETITION 90

Petition ID: 93

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Gregory P. Briya, Moody Nolan, Inc.

OFC Section(s): 903.2.10

Proposed Change: 903.2.10 Group S-2 parking garages. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings classified as parking garages where any of the following conditions exist:

1. Where the fire area of the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the building code exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m²).
2. Where the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the building code is located beneath other groups.

Exception: Enclosed parking garages located beneath Group R-3 occupancies.

1. [sic] ~~Where the fire area of the open parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.5 of the building, exceeds 48,000 square feet (4460m²).~~

Substantiation: The proposed change will match the 2024 Ohio Building Code Section 903.2.10, which is already published and enforced. The OBC Section 903.2.10 deletes Section 903.2.10 item 3. Section 903 of both the IBC and IFC are correlated to provide the same criteria. The proposed change will correlate the OFC with the OBC and will enable a consistent enforcement of both codes.

Cost Impact: The result will be a decrease in cost of new, stand-alone, open-air parking garages which exceed 48,000 square feet in area. The cost decrease will directly correlate with the area of the parking garage building.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the SFM is aware that this same requirement was deleted from the OBC, the SFM believes that this is an important safety requirement for the fire service, for property and for the life safety of the public. Particularly in light of advancing technologies in the automotive realm, added fire protection in such parking structures is vitally important to being able to contain a fire should it occur. Therefore, the SFM will not propose deletion of the language as suggested because it will directly have a negative impact on the safety of the public and fire service.

Petition ID: 94

Committee Action: Approved in part as modified

Submitter: Josh Sanders, Consultant for American Promotional Events

OFC Section(s): 5627.6 Sales Locations – General.

Proposed Change: ~~12. A licensed retailer shall own or control via a lease or similar document the building where fountains are offered for sale or stored under that licensed retailer's license, including all egress pathways, merchandise sales areas, employee supervision areas, and other licensed areas subject to this section.~~

"A licensed retailer with more than one location may submit a certification of ownership or control for all of their locations to meet this section."

Substantiation: This is new proposed language. This could become an issue with this language as they could require 700 plus proof of leases or ownership of each location. This new section seems unnecessary. Recommend removing and inserting new language.	
Cost Impact: Without the change, there could be a detrimental economic impact on those locations having to obtain and submit 700+ leases.	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved in part as modified. The text that the Petition proposes for deletion is new language that was added to the 2024 draft OFC. This language does not require that licensees submit proof of ownership upon the filing of an application. However, similar to other fireworks retailers, the language proposed here for deletion does require licensed retailers to have control of the property where fountain devices are sold or stored via a deed or lease or similar documentation. Otherwise, verification of compliance and enforcement of life safety rules for such locations where the public has direct access to explosive materials in an enclosed structure becomes exceptionally complex, and possibly not attainable. For example, validating licensure conditions and compliance (especially ongoing compliance) for a vendor seeking to sell fountains in an enclosed flea market structure where numerous independent entities own or control all of the areas immediately adjacent to the fountains is essentially impossible. Additionally, as noted, this language gives the SFM discretion to request proof of such ownership if or when such is warranted. Furthermore, and depending on the issue, the language gives the SFM latitude regarding what proof of ownership may actually need to be submitted to the SFM. For these reasons the petition is not well taken, and the language proposed in the draft 2024 OFC will not be deleted. However, this section will be further amended to state that:</p> <p><u>12. A licensed retailer shall own or control via a lease or similar document the building where fountains are offered for sale or stored under that licensed retailer's license, including all egress pathways, merchandise sales areas, employee supervision areas, and other licensed areas subject to this section. To determine compliance with this section, the state fire marshal may accept from a licensed retailer with common ownership of more than five licensed locations a submission of a certification of ownership or control for all of that licensed retailer's locations on a form issued by or otherwise deemed acceptable to the state fire marshal.</u></p>	
Petition ID: 95	Committee Action: Denied
Submitter: Josh Sanders, Consultant for American Promotional Events	
OFC Section(s): 5627.6.1.5	
Proposed Change: At least one sign that reads as follows, in letters at least 4 inches (102 mm) high on a contrasting background, shall be conspicuously posted on the exterior of each side of the fountain device sales location:	
Substantiation: This section is inconsistent with current NFPA 1124 requirements. This section is only applicable to CFRS locations, not stores. This is a overly burdensome requirement for fountain retailers that is not needed and should be deleted. Recommend removing.	
Cost Impact: Small cost impact with stores forced to comply with rule.	
Committee Response and Justification: Denied. The SFM contends that signage notifying the public (and first responders) that fireworks are being sold at the particular location and that fireworks cannot be discharged within 300 feet of the premises is warranted to maintain safety. Therefore, the proposed deletion of the requirement is not well taken and the language will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.	

Petition ID: 96	Committee Action: Approved as modified
Submitter: Josh Sanders, Consultant for American Promotional Events	
OFC Section(s): 5627.8.1 Timing and frequency	
Proposed Change: 5627.8.1 Timing and frequency. Employee training shall occur prior to any employees' or designated persons' handling, oversight, or sales of fountain devices. The training shall be repeated and updated as deemed necessary by the licensed retailer to ensure compliance with the minimum standards of this section. <u>An individual that has been trained may also train other employees.</u>	
Substantiation: This would simply clarify that an employee properly trained on the storage, display or sale of fountain devices could train other employees.	
Cost Impact: The cost of training each individual employee with an outside trainer is highly detrimental to stores. It would be greatly beneficial to clarify that those properly trained on fountain devices could train other employees.	
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved as modified. The point of the petition is well taken but will be amended. Language will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC as follows:</p> <p>5627.8.1 Timing and frequency. Employee training shall occur prior to any employees' or designated persons' handling, oversight, or sales of fountain devices. The training shall be repeated and updated as deemed necessary by the licensed retailer to ensure compliance with the minimum standards of this section. <u>A properly trained individual is authorized to train other employees of the same licensee.</u></p>	
Petition ID: 97	Committee Action: Approved
Submitter: Danial Peart, Phantom Fireworks	
OFC Section(s): 5627.9.1 Location and Quantity	
Proposed Change: 5627.9.1 Location and Quantity <i>Fountain device displays shall be limited to three hundred square feet. No single fountain device display shall exceed one hundred fifty square feet, and each display must be placed at least fifty twenty-five feet from any other fountain device display and any other highly flammable materials including but not limited to, aerosols, acetone, rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizers, pool chemicals, automotive fluids, and other similar products.</i>	
<p>Substantiation: ORC section 2743.27 (A)(1) Requires fountain device displays to be "at least 25 feet from any other highly flammable materials." The initial Fountain Device Retailer rules proposal in July of 2022 only required a 25' setback from highly flammable materials. July 28, 2022, I am on record commenting on this section during the CSI period where the requirement is still set at only 25'. I recall the Fireworks Advisory Committee discussing this section, as at the time it needed guidance on what highly flammable materials may be. So, we came up with examples but we never discussed why the requirement would have been 50' as opposed to 25' as stated in statute, because it still read as 25' at that time. Somewhere after all of that, the distance was changed to 50' without discussion and industry hadn't caught the change until after.</p> <p>50' is unsubstantiated and clearly outside of what was intended in statute. Further, keeping the 50' setback will all but certainly eliminate certain, smaller, mix-use retailers from being able to participate in the Fountain Device retailer program, which was not the intent of the bill when passed.</p>	
Cost Impact: There should be no cost.	

Committee Response and Justification: Approved. Although the SFM disagrees with the implication that the change from a 25-foot to a 50-foot separation distance was “snuck by” the industry, the point made in the rationale supporting the petition regarding the potential impediment a 50-foot separation distance may have on smaller sales facilities to be able to engage in commerce as fountain device retailers is well taken. This amendment to the proposed rule was a direct result of substantial increases in the permissible net explosive weight of pyrotechnic compounds a licensed retailer could possess in each sales area that the public could access in a store (*i.e.* – increasing the 125 lbs. net explosive weight total per fountain device area to an essentially unlimited amount, which directly impacted occupant safety and the application of NFPA 1124). Likewise, the SFM does not believe that the 50-foot separation distance is beyond the SFM’s authority or beyond the intent of the statute. However, the SFM also believes that a separation distance of 25 feet is adequate and that an increase of the separation distance to 50 feet does not provide a substantially higher degree of safety when weighed against the potential impediment to commerce for small businesses. Therefore, the amendment proposed in the petition is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.

Petition ID: 98

Committee Action: Denied

Submitter: Tiler Williams, Village of Pioneer Fire Department

OFC Section(s): 104.6.3.1

Proposed Change:

Provisions regarding fire reports have been amended to reference coding and procedures prescribed by the SFM rather than NFIRS. Reports are now required to be submitted to the SFFM within 7 days of the subject incident for departments exceeding 100 calls per month.

Substantiation: Good morning,

In reading through the proposed changed to the OFC, it was noticed that the requirement for incident reporting is proposed as 7 days from the incident. This is not taking into consideration volunteer departments that may only have a few calls a week. You have volunteer firemen that work 40+ hours per week, have family and personal things that need taken care of, and now expect them to carve out ADDITIONAL time vs what is already dedicated to the fire service? I understand that the system may get flooded with reports if only done monthly, which is why taking into account call volume should matter. If my department averages 20-30 calls a month, that isn't going to bog the system when I do a monthly submittal. It is also going to automatically take the majority of departments out of running for any SFM grant funding. During our Williams County Chief's Meeting last night this was discussed, and we all feel there needs to be a call volume associated with the reporting requirements. 100 calls/week was a number that was used.

Cost Impact: For departments that are paid per call volunteer, or that get paid for their reporting time, this increased reporting requirement is going to cost them more money. With inflation, most smaller government entities aren't sitting on an over-abundance of funds for such things.

Committee Response and Justification: Denied. Although the instant Petition was filed well outside the formal petition period, the SFM felt it important to include a response to the Petition at this time. The language is not well taken and will not be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. The Petition asks for language to state that fire departments with fewer than 100 calls per month do not have to report fire incidents within 7 days due to time constraints faced by smaller departments, particularly those that are volunteer departments. However, the Petition does not propose an alternate timeframe, thereby leaving

the code silent on the issue and in effect allowing the submission of such reports at any time (which could technically be months after the incident). Such an outcome is not warranted and would not be conducive to accurate reporting statistics. In addition, the SFM has made amendments to this section in response to Petition 72 that clarify actual reporting timeframes and more accurately reflect how reports based on uploaded data are generated. The changes made to this section in response to Petition 72 should alleviate the concerns and issues raised in the instant Petition.

SEE ALSO PETITION 72

Petition ID: 99

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: SFM

OFC Section(s): 907.5.2.2.3

Proposed Change:

907.5.2.2.3 Alternative uses. The emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be allowed to be used for other announcements, provided that the manual fire alarm use takes precedence over any other use.

Exception: When the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the building has a single manual fire alarm pull station located in a normally occupied and secured area, and the fire alarm system provides initiating device identification and annunciation in accordance with Section 907.6.3, other high priority urgent emergency messages relating to the safety and security of the building occupants are permitted to take precedence over a fire alarm message when consistent with message priority levels and broadcasts previously established in a building-specific, emergency response plan developed by the building owners, administrators, and first responders, and such plan is approved by the building and fire code officials. No such system shall disconnect or terminate the process to notify the fire department of any fire alarm activations.

Substantiation: Ever increasing concerns for the security of children and educators in school occupancies has led to the development of additional alert systems for school buildings. This proposed language, which is also to be incorporated into the OBC, is essential to help properly coordinate the interactions between fire alarm-based activations of the emergency voice/alarm communication systems in impacted occupancies and other activations of such systems. This revised language, consistent with national trends, makes allowances for other non-fire alarm related message broadcasts via such systems, in limited circumstances, when building occupant safety may be at issue and establishes the proper approval protocols for and controls on the impacts of such messaging.

Cost Impact: Other than the potential cost of programming, no cost impact is anticipated as the above proposed language allows a system otherwise required in such occupancies (and likely already installed in existing structures) to be utilized for additional messaging. The cost of installing a separate/additional messaging system specifically for non-fire related messaging could actually be saved at locations that take advantage of the proposed exception.

Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The proposed language to allow for emergency messaging in response to building occupant safety issues in limited circumstances is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC. Furthermore, it is important to include this language in the 2024 OFC at this time to match the expected coordinating changes to the OBC to address these same issues.


Petition ID: 100

Committee Action: Approved

Submitter: SFM


OFC Section(s): 5604.6.6, 5604.6
<p>Proposed Change:</p> <p>5604.6 Construction. Magazines shall be constructed in accordance with Sections 5604.6.1 through 5604.6.5-26.</p> <p><u>5604.6.6 Grounding.</u> <i>Outdoor magazines shall be properly grounded.</i></p> <p><u>Exception:</u> <i>Type III portable day boxes are not required to be grounded.</i></p>
<p>Substantiation: Current OFC provisions state that magazines must be in accordance with manufacturer instructions and specifications, which generally require grounding. The proposed language will, therefore, not impose a new requirement but will make the requirement clearer and easier to find.</p>
<p>Cost Impact: No anticipated cost impact as the above language reiterates, in a more clear and concise manner, already existing requirements.</p>
<p>Committee Response and Justification: Approved. The proposed language is well taken and will be proposed for inclusion in the 2024 OFC.</p>

Appendix A – Petition Form

 Department of Commerce

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Ohio Fire Code (OFC)



Petition/Comment Form

to amend the OFC/Ohio Administrative Code 1301:7-7-01 – 1301:7-7-80


Note: All Petitions received by the submission deadline during an active code update cycle will be considered during that update cycle. Petitions received after the deadline, or not received during an active update cycle, will be considered during the next code update.

Only one Petition/Comment per form

** All Petitions/Comments must be typed into the Petition/Comment Form. Please do not submit hand-written forms. **

Date:

6/13/2024



Select One:

Select

Submitter Information: Please provide all information so you can be contacted if there is a question regarding your submission.

Name:

Affiliation(if any):

Address:

City:

State:

OH

Zip:

#####-####

Phone:

(###) ###-####

Email:

Petition/Comment Information:

OFC section/paragraph/table number proposed for amendment:

Other OFC sections/paragraphs/tables affected by proposed change:

Petition recommends (check one):




☐ Add New Text

☐ Delete Current Text

☐ Amend Current Text




Petition/Comment: Please provide the full text of the OFC section/paragraph/table to be amended. Please indicate all changes by underlining new text being proposed and by ~~striking through~~ any text proposed for deletion.

B *I* U abc

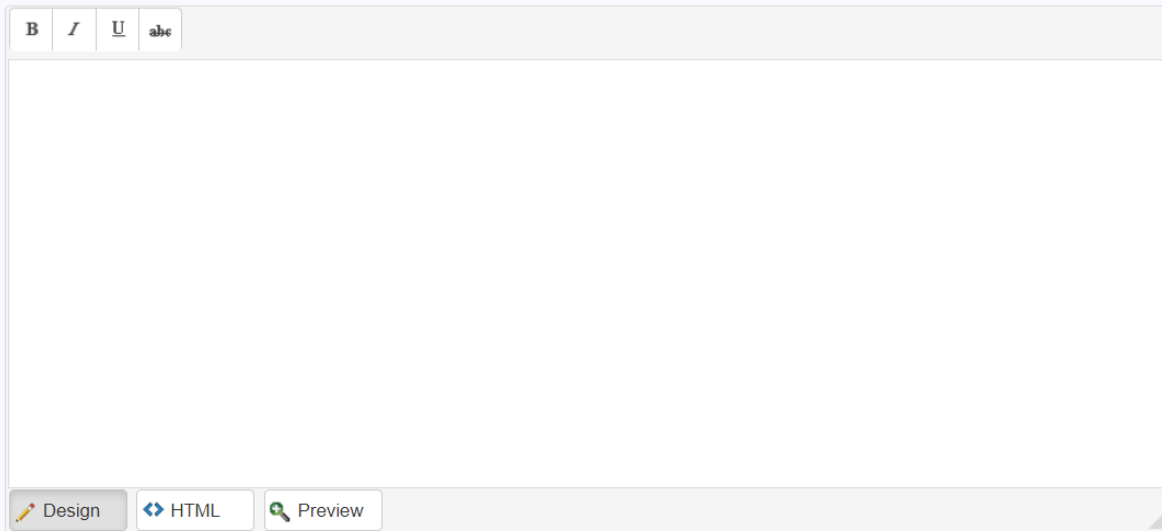
 Design  HTML  Preview

Statement of the Problem and Substantiation for Petition/Comment: Please describe the problem that would be resolved by your recommendation and give the specific reason/purpose for your Petition or Comment. Include copies of any tests, research papers, fire experiences, etc. If more than 200 words, it may be abstracted for publication.

B *I* U abc

 Design  HTML  Preview

Cost Impact: Include a description and any supporting analysis or information about the expected economic impact of your requested change upon the entity(s) responsible for compliance with the OFC.



Submissions:

Please use this form to submit all Petitions and Comments to the SFM for review.

TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM TO THE SFM FOR CONSIDERATION: hit the "SUBMIT FORM" button below. An email confirming your submission and containing the information that you submitted will be sent to the email address that you provided above. If there are any questions or issues regarding your submission, the SFM will contact you.

ATTACHMENTS: If applicable, you may forward any attachments regarding your submission to the SFM by following the instructions that will be contained in the confirmation email that you receive after submitting your Petition or Comment.

TO SAVE YOUR WORK AND CONTINUE EDITING AT A LATER TIME: hit the "SAVE FORM" button below. An email with a URL link will be sent to the email address that you provided above. **You will have 24 hours to access the link again and continue with your editing.** After 24 hours, the link will no longer be available and you will have to start over. However, if you do access the link within the 24 hour period and re-save the form, you will receive a new email with a new link that will remain active for an additional 24 hours. **Please note:** any forms or pictures that you have uploaded will not be saved and will have to be re-entered prior to submission of the form.

If you would like any additional information on the SFM's rule-making process or if you have questions regarding the submission of a Petition or Comment, please contact the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau at [614-728-5460](tel:614-728-5460) or [1-888-276-0303](tel:1-888-276-0303) or OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us

If you would like any information regarding the technical requirements for drafting rules in Ohio, please see the [Rule Drafting Manual \(ohio.gov\)](#) published by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission.

The information on this form may constitute a public record and is subject to disclosure in accordance with R.C. 149.43. By submitting a request for the inclusion of new or revised text to the Ohio Fire Code as described on this form, the person submitting such text agrees to forever waive all rights in any copyright(s) the submitter may have in any authorship contributions made to the Ohio Fire Code. This waiver includes any petition or comment in its original form as submitted or in any revised form. The submitter acknowledges and accepts that they will have no rights in any publications that use such contributions in the form as submitted or another similar form and certifies that such contributions are not protected by the copyright of any other person or entity.

Save Form

Submit Form

Appendix B – Ohio Fire Code Rule Revision / Development Process

Pursuant to Ohio law, the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) must write administrative rules regarding, among other things, hotel licensure and inspection, flammability standards, fireworks regulations, and all matters of fire safety. These rules are adopted as a part of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) – Sections 1301:7-7-01 through 1301:7-7-80 – and are known as the Ohio Fire Code (OFC). The OFC sets the minimum standards for fire safety in the State of Ohio and is intended to safeguard life and property from fire and explosion. The OFC applies to all aspects of fire safety at all structures, buildings, premises, vehicles and other locations within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Ohio.

Mandatory 5-year Rule Review. Ohio law also requires the SFM to periodically review all of the administrative rules that it has adopted; this review must occur at least every 5 years. See Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) sections 119.03 and 119.032. The purpose of this ‘five-year rule review’ is to determine whether any of the SFM’s rules should be rescinded or revised and to ensure that the rules contained in the OFC are necessary, relevant and incorporate the most current industry standards and best practices. During the five-year rule review process, the SFM reviews and updates all of the rules in the OFC.

Optional Interim Updates. In addition, the SFM may do ‘interim’ rule updates. An interim rule review is usually done as the result of a legislative directive, a large industry change that needs to be addressed prior to the time for the next scheduled 5-year rule review, or pursuant to an emergency. These ‘interim rule updates’ are more limited in scope and generally only affect one or two chapters of the OFC. The Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce and the State Fire Marshal determine when and if an interim rule update is warranted.

The process followed by the SFM for updating its rules consists of the same 5 steps regardless of whether the review is the result of an interim update or a 5-year rule review update. The SFM starts with crafting a draft of the new rule(s) and announcing that all or a part of the OFC is open for Petition.

The Process

Once the SFM has a draft of the OFC rule(s) prepared, it enters an “active code update cycle.” This cycle begins with a kickoff meeting and/or an announcement by the SFM which identifies the rules that will be updated. The SFM also establishes key dates for each stage of the update process. With the kickoff and announcement that a rule update is occurring, the SFM essentially opens a ‘call for Petitions’ and starts the official process for revision and adoption of the OFC. The process consists of the following five steps:

The Petition Period. Petitions are the mechanism by which any interested party may recommend a change to language in the OFC. This period usually lasts a few months but can be longer or shorter. All Petitions that are received during the petition period are catalogued and reviewed by the SFM and SFM staff. Once the review is complete the SFM will issue a proposed draft of the new OFC (Draft OFC) as well as a compendium report – called the ‘Report on Petitions’ or ‘ROP’ – of all Petitions that were submitted. The ROP will list the substance of each Petition, the SFM’s action regarding each Petition and the justification for such action. The publication of the Draft OFC and the ROP begins the Comment Period.

The Comment Period. The ‘Comment Period’ is a period when any interested party can submit a ‘Comment’ to the SFM regarding any of the changes proposed in the Draft OFC that was issued at the conclusion of the Petition Period and/or regarding any Petition that was previously submitted. Commenters may either advocate for or discourage adoption of any of the changes proposed in the Draft OFC and/or the Petitions. The Comment Period usually lasts from 30 to 60 days but can be longer or shorter. All Comments that are received during the comment period are catalogued and reviewed by the SFM and SFM staff. Once the review is complete the SFM will issue a revised draft of the new OFC as well as a compendium report – called the ‘Report on Comments’ or ‘ROC’ – of all Comments that were submitted. The ROC will list the substance of each Comment, the SFM’s action regarding each Comment and the justification for such action. The publication of the Revised Draft OFC and the ROC concludes the SFM’s internal rule update process and begins the formal rule adoption process that must be followed under Ohio law.

The Common Sense Initiative (CSI). CSI is a regulatory review process housed within the office of the Lieutenant Governor. CSI requires all state agencies that propose rules that will impact Ohio businesses to file the proposed rule(s) with the CSI Office for analysis. CSI reviews the proposed rules to determine if the regulatory intent of the rule justifies the impact to businesses. This process enables individuals, businesses and other interested parties to track, review and comment on rules that are being proposed or reviewed by the SFM (or any other Ohio regulatory agency). Parties interested in the rule adoption process may sign up for CSI e-Notification at <http://business.ohio.gov/reform/> and will thereafter receive e-notification regarding proposed rule changes from any selected regulatory agency or on any subject area that the user chooses.

Once the CSI process is successfully completed, the SFM may file the proposed rules with JCARR.

The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). JCARR is a joint committee of the Ohio Legislature comprised of 5 members of the Ohio House and 5 members of the Ohio Senate. The purpose of JCARR is to review proposed new, amended, and rescinded rules from Ohio’s regulatory agencies (including the SFM) to ensure the proposed rules do not exceed the agency’s rule-making authority. JCARR’s process constitutes the formal rule review and adoption process in Ohio and involves meeting the requirements of R.C. Chapter 119 and R.C. section 3737.86. At the successful conclusion of the JCARR process, which typically lasts 65 days, the SFM may file the proposed rules in their final form and set an effective date for the rules.

Publication and Training. When a new OFC is adopted, the final steps of the process are to have the new Ohio Fire Code published and to conduct training regarding significant changes between the prior and new OFC versions. The SFM works with the ICC to provide hard copy and online versions of the new OFC. In addition to publication, the SFM also develops training materials regarding the new OFC provisions. Depending on how extensively the OFC was updated training can include live, in-person training events hosted by the SFM throughout the state, on-line training courses hosted on the Ohio Fire Academy’s on-line training platform, and/or written training materials and Technical Bulletins which are distributed to SFM stakeholders and posted on the SFM’s website.

For more detailed information regarding the SFM's process for adopting the OFC and the CSI and JCARR processes, please visit the SFM's website.