

Baseline Ohio Fire Code references for Dine Safe Ohio

Barriers (including drapery and fabrics) (OFC 107.1; OFC 107.5)

1. Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of fire suppression systems.
2. Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of smoke alarms.
3. Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of fire alarm systems.
4. Barriers cannot interfere with or impede established egress. (OFC 807.2(c))

Drapery and Fabrics

5. Drapery and fabric used to separate individuals or parties that is suspended from walls or ceilings must not exceed 10% of the wall or ceiling area where they are located. (OFC 807.3)
6. Drapery and fabric must meet flame propagation performance criteria or exhibit a maximum rate of heat release per the OFC. (OFC 807.4; OFC 803.1.1)
7. Drapery and fabric must not exceed flame spread indices established in the OFC. (OFC 803.3; Table 803.3)

Note: Decreased occupant load may affect requirements and potentially mitigate some concerns.

Egress

8. Adequate egress must be maintained. (OFC 1001.2)
9. Barriers, partitions, draperies, etc. cannot interfere with, impede, obstruct egress / visibility thereto. (OFC 807.2(c))

Note: reduced and rearranged seating configurations may affect adequacy of exiting egress.

Occupancy

10. All establishments must be occupied in accordance with the Ohio Building Code (OBC) and the occupancy provisions of the OFC. (OFC 102.3.1)
11. Occupancy of a structure cannot be changed unless the building is made compliant with OBC requirements for the new use. However, the fire code official can approve a less hazardous use. (OFC 102.3.3)
12. Minimum conditions of occupancy must be met and no building shall be occupied unless it is in substantial compliance with the OFC and does not constitute a distinct or serious hazard. (OFC 105.3.3)

Full text of Ohio Fire Code references for Dine Safe Ohio

OAC 1301:7-7-01 Administration.

Section 102 Applicability

102.3 Minimum conditions of occupancy.

102.3.1. All structures subject to this code may be occupied only in accordance with the provisions of the building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code and, at a minimum, the following paragraphs:

(i) *New construction.* Occupancy of a newly constructed structure must be in compliance with paragraph (E)(3)(c) (105.3.3) and paragraph (I)(1)(109.1) of this rule and paragraph (A)(5)(901.5) of rule [1301:7-7-09](#) of the Administrative Code.

(ii) *Existing structures.*

(a) *Alterations.* Any alterations to an existing structure shall be done in accordance with paragraph (B)(4)(102.4) of this rule.

(b) *Change of occupancy.* Any changes of occupancy to an existing structure shall be done in accordance with paragraph (B)(3)(c)(102.3.3) of this rule.

(c) *General occupancy.* A new or existing structure or premises may only be occupied in accordance with paragraph (E)(3)(c)(105.3.3) and paragraph (I)(1)(109.1) of this rule. No existing structure or premises or part thereof that constitutes a distinct or serious hazard to life or property or is not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code shall be occupied.

(iii) *Occupancy of any structure, premise, vehicle or location that constitutes a distinct or serious hazard to life or property is hereby declared a public nuisance.*

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.

Section 105 Permits

105.3.3 Occupancy.

105.3.3.3 Minimum conditions for safe occupancy. No structure, premises or building, or any portion thereof shall be occupied unless:

105.3.3.3.1 Such structures, premises or buildings or portions thereof are in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of this code and the building code as referenced in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code.

105.3.3.3.2 The structure, premises or building, or any portion thereof does not constitute a distinct or serious hazard to life or property in accordance with the provisions of this code.

Section 107 Maintenance

107.1 Maintenance of safeguards. Where any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this code, or otherwise installed, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or other feature shall thereafter be continuously maintained in accordance with this code and applicable referenced standards.

107.5 Rendering equipment inoperable. Portable or fixed fire-extinguishing systems or devices, and fire-warning systems, shall not be rendered inoperative or inaccessible, except as necessary during emergencies, maintenance, repairs, alterations, drills or prescribed testing.

1301:7-7-08 Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings

Section 803 Interior wall and ceiling finish and trim in existing buildings

803.1 General. The provisions of this paragraph shall limit the allowable fire performance and smoke development of interior wall and ceiling finishes and interior wall and ceiling trim in existing buildings based on location and occupancy classification. Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be classified in accordance with section 803 of the building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code. Such materials shall be grouped in accordance with ASTM E 84 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code, as indicated in paragraph (C)(1)(a) (803.1.1) of this rule, or in accordance with NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code, as indicated in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(803.1.2) of this rule.

Exceptions:

1. Materials having a thickness less than 0.036 inch (0.9 mm) applied directly to the surface of walls and ceilings.
2. Exposed portions of structural members complying with the requirements of buildings of Type IV construction in accordance with the building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code shall not be subject to interior finish requirements.

803.1.1 Classification in accordance with ASTM E 84 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code. Interior finish materials shall be grouped in the following classes in accordance with their flame spread and smoke-developed index where tested in accordance with ASTM E 84 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code.

(i) Class A: flame spread index 0-25; smoke-developed index 0-450.

(ii) Class B: flame spread index 26-75; smoke-developed index 0-450.

(iii) Class C: flame spread index 76-200; smoke-developed index 0-450.

803.1.2 Classification in accordance with NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code.

Interior wall or ceiling finishes shall be allowed to be tested in accordance with NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code. Finishes tested in accordance with NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code shall comply with paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(803.1.2.1) of this rule. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials tested in accordance with NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code and meeting the acceptance criteria of paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(803.1.2.1) of this rule, shall be allowed to be used where a Class A classification in accordance with ASTM E 84 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code is required.

803.1.2.1 Acceptance criteria for NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code. The interior finish shall comply with the following:

(a) During the 40 kW exposure, flames shall not spread to the ceiling.

(b) The flame shall not spread to the outer extremity of the sample on any wall or ceiling.

(c) Flashover, as defined in NFPA 286 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code, shall not occur.

(d) The peak heat release rate throughout the test shall not exceed 800 kW.

(e) The total smoke released throughout the test shall not exceed 1,000 m².

803.2 Stability. Interior finish materials regulated by this rule shall be applied or otherwise fastened in such a manner that such materials will not readily become detached where subjected to room temperatures of 200°F (93°C) for not less than 30 minutes.

803.3 Interior finish requirements based on occupancy.

Interior wall and ceiling finish shall have a flame spread index not greater than that specified in Table 803.3 [below] of this rule for the group and location designated.

Section 807 Decorative materials other than decorative vegetation in new and existing buildings.

807.1 General. Combustible decorative materials, other than decorative vegetation, shall comply with paragraphs (G)(2)(807.2) to (G)(5)(f)(807.5.6) of this rule.

807.2 Limitations. The following requirements shall apply to all occupancies:

(a) Furnishings or decorative materials of an explosive or highly flammable character shall not be used.

(b) Fire-retardant coatings in existing buildings shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment under service conditions encountered in actual use.

(c) Furnishings or other objects shall not be placed to obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom or visibility thereof

(d) The permissible amount of noncombustible decorative materials shall not be limited.

807.3 Combustible decorative materials. In other than Group I-3, curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and other similar combustible decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall comply with paragraph (G)(4)(807.4) of this rule and shall not exceed 10 per cent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which they are attached.

Fixed or movable walls and partitions, paneling, wall pads and crash pads, applied structurally or for decoration, acoustical correction, surface insulation or other purposes, shall be considered interior finish, shall comply with paragraph (C)(803) of this rule and shall not be considered decorative materials or furnishings.

Exceptions:

1. In auditoriums of Group A, the permissible amount of curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and other similar combustible decorative material suspended from walls or ceilings shall not exceed 75 per cent of the aggregate wall area where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with paragraph (C)(3)(a)(i)(903.3.1.1) of rule [1301:7-7-09](#) of the Administrative Code, and where the material is installed in accordance with section 803.13 of the building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code.

2. In Group R-2 dormitories, within sleeping units and dwelling units, the permissible amount of curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and other similar decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall not exceed 50 per cent of the aggregate wall areas where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with paragraph (C)(3)(a)(903.3.1) of rule [1301:7-7-09](#) of the Administrative Code.

3. In Group B and M occupancies, the amount of combustible fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling and not supported by the floor shall comply with paragraph (G)(4)(807.4) of this rule and shall not be limited.

807.4 Acceptance criteria and reports. Where required to exhibit improved fire performance, curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and other similar combustible decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall be tested by an approved agency and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of NFPA 701 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code, or exhibit a maximum rate of heat release of 100 kW when tested in accordance with NFPA 289 as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code,

using the 20 kW ignition source. Reports of test results shall be prepared in accordance with the test method used and furnished to the fire code official upon request.

1301:7-7-9 Fire Protection Systems

Section 901 General

901.4 Installation. Fire protection systems shall be maintained in accordance with the original installation standards for that system. Required *fire protection* systems shall be extended, altered or augmented as necessary to maintain and continue protection where the building is altered, remodeled or added to. Alterations to fire protection systems shall be done in accordance with *the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code and applicable standards.*

901.6 Inspection, testing and maintenance. Fire detection, alarm and extinguishing systems, mechanical smoke exhaust

systems, and smoke and heat vents shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times, and shall be replaced or repaired where defective. Nonrequired fire protection systems and equipment shall be inspected, tested and maintained or removed. *Any discontinuance or removal of nonrequired fire protection equipment shall be approved by the fire code official. Such approval shall be conditioned upon receipt of verification of building official determination that such fire protection equipment is nonrequired.*

1301:7-7-10 Means of Egress.

Section 1001 General

1001.2 Minimum requirements. It shall be unlawful to alter a building or structure in a manner that will reduce the number of exits or the capacity of the means of egress to less than required by this code.

Table 803.3 Interior wall and ceiling finish requirements by occupancy^k

Group	Sprinklered ^l			Nonsprinklered		
	Interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways ^{a,b}	Corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways and exit access ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c	Interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways ^{a,b}	Corridors and enclosure for stairways and exit access ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c
A-1 & A-2	B	B	C	A	A ^d	B ^e
A-3 ^f , A-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A ^d	C
B, E, M, R-1, R-4	B	C	C	A	B	C
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C ^g	A	A	B
I-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
I-2	B	B	B ^{h,i}	A	A	B
I-3	A	A ⁱ	C	A	A	B
I-4	B	B	B ^{h,i}	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No restrictions			No restrictions		

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- Class C interior finish materials shall be allowed for wainscoting or paneling of not more than 1,000 square feet of applied surface area in the grade lobby where applied directly to a noncombustible base or over furring strips applied to a noncombustible base and fireblocked as required by section 803.11 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code.
- In exit enclosures of buildings less than three stories in height of other than Group I-3, Class B interior finish for nonsprinklered buildings and Class C for sprinklered buildings shall be permitted.
- Requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where a fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosing partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered as enclosing spaces and the rooms or spaces on both sides shall be considered as one. In determining the applicable requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces, the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.
- Lobby areas in Group A-1, A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall not be less than Class B materials.
- Class C interior finish materials shall be allowed in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 300 persons or less.
- In places of religious worship, wood used for ornamental purposes, trusses, paneling or chancel furnishing shall be allowed.
- Class B material is required where the building exceeds two stories.
- Class C interior finish materials shall be allowed in administrative spaces.
- Class C interior finish materials shall be allowed in rooms with a capacity of four persons or less.
- Class B materials shall be allowed as wainscoting extending not more than 48 inches above the finished floor in corridors.
- Finish materials as provided for in other paragraphs of this code.
- Applies when the vertical exits, exit passageways, corridors or rooms and spaces are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with paragraph (C)(3)(a)(i)(903.3.1.1) or (C)(3)(a)(ii)(903.3.1.2) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code.