

SECTION 102 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

102.1 Construction and design provisions. The construction and design provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities and conditions arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code.
3. Existing structures, facilities and conditions where required in Chapter 11.
4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions that, in the opinion of the fire code official, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.
5. An existing structure that has been closed, vacated, or abandoned for 31 days or more will be classified as a "U" occupancy and will be subject to the requirements of the adopted code as a new facility, even if no construction has occurred.

SECTION 105 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

105.1.1 Permits required. A property owner or owner's authorized agent who intends to conduct an operation or business, or construct, substantially improve, enlarge, alter, repair, move or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be performed, shall first make application to the County Engineer and obtain the required construction permit(s) or make application to the County Fire Marshal and obtain the required operational permit.

105.6 Required construction permits. County Engineer is authorized to issue construction permits for work as set forth in Sections 105.6.1 through 105.6.27, and Chapters 2-10, 30, 35, and Sections 1405, 1505, 1705.15 through 1705.19, 2403, 2406 through 2409, 3101 through 3105, 3110, 3111, 3301, 3302, 3306, 3307, 3309 through 3314 and Appendix C of the International Building Code.

105.6.4 Emergency responder communication coverage system. A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to in-building, two-way emergency responder communication coverage systems and related equipment. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered to be a modification and does not require a construction permit. This permit shall be processed through the

County Fire Marshal in coordination with Harris County Universal Services to ensure compliance with applicable technical and operational requirements.

SECTION 106 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

106. 5 PREDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS.

The fire code official, or representative, is authorized to participate in predevelopment meetings to provide early guidance on fire code compliance. For any meetings scheduled by the County Engineer' s Office that include discussion of initial planning or site development subject to the provisions of the Harris County Fire Code, the Office shall notify and invite the fire code official. The fire code official shall coordinate participation and representation as appropriate.

~~106.5.1 Scope.~~

~~Predevelopment meetings may include, but are not limited to, review and discussion of the following:~~

- ~~1. Site development proposals, including evaluation of fire department access, access road dimensions, fire lane configuration, and turning radii in accordance with Section 503;~~
- ~~2. location, spacing, and number of fire hydrants, available fire flow, and water supply requirements as specified in Section 507 and Appendix B;~~
- ~~3. occupancy classification and construction type, in accordance with Chapter 3 of the International Building Code;~~
- ~~4. fire protection system requirements, including but not limited to automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm and detection systems, and standpipe systems as regulated by Chapter 9 of this code;~~
- ~~5. storage of high-piled combustible materials, hazardous materials thresholds, and other special use occupancies regulated by Chapters 23 and 50-67;~~
- ~~6. alternative methods and materials, performance-based design approaches, or requested code modifications in accordance with Sections 104.8 and 104.9.~~
- ~~7. Any other preliminary fire code-related requirements needed to assist the developer in project planning and compliance.~~

~~106.5.2 Documentation.~~

~~The fire code official may provide written guidance, meeting notes, or a checklist summarizing the applicable fire code requirements discussed. Any information provided shall be advisory and subject to change based on formal plan review.~~



~~106.5.3 Effect.~~

~~Participation in a predevelopment meeting does not waive any fire code or county permitting requirements, nor does it constitute approval of final plans or issuance of a final review. All submittals must comply with Section 106.2 and are subject to the rules and regulations adopted by Harris County Commissioners Court.~~

510 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Remove RESIDENTIAL GROUP R-4 from definitions as it is straight code language

SECTION 510 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

510.4.1.1 Minimum signal strength into the building.

The minimum **downlink** signal strength shall be sufficient to provide usable voice Communications throughout the coverage area as specified by the *fire code official*. The **downlink** signal level shall be sufficient to provide not less than a Delivered Audio Quality (DAQ) of 3.0 **throughout the coverage area using either narrowband analog, digital or wideband LTE signals or an equivalent bit error rate**

(BER), Signal-to-Interference- Plus-Noise Ratio (SINR) applicable to the technology for either analog or digital signals.

510.4.1.2 Minimum signal strength out of the building.

The minimum **uplink** signal strength shall be sufficient to provide usable voice communications throughout the coverage area as specified by the *fire code official*. The **uplink** signal level shall be sufficient to provide not less than a **delivered audio quality** DAQ of 3.0 **using either narrowband analog, digital or wideband LTE digital signals or an equivalent bit error rate (BER)**, or an equivalent SINR applicable to the technology for either analog or digital signals.

510.6.1 Testing and proof of compliance. The *owner* of the building or *owner's* authorized agent shall have the in-building, two-way emergency responder communication **enhancement** system inspected and tested

annually or where structural changes occur, including additions or remodels that could materially change the original field performance tests. Testing shall consist of the following:

1. In-building coverage test as described in Section 510.5.4.
2. Signal boosters shall be tested to verify that the gain is the same as it was upon initial installation and acceptance or set to optimize the performance of the system.
3. Backup batteries and power supplies shall be tested under load of a period of 1 hour to verify that they will properly operate during an actual power outage. If within the 1-hour test period the battery exhibits symptoms of failure, the test shall be extended for additional 1-hour periods until the integrity of the battery can be determined.
4. All active components shall be checked to verify operation within the manufacturer's specifications.

At the conclusion of the testing, a report, which shall verify compliance with Section 510.5.4, shall be submitted to the *fire code official*.

In addition to annual testing, all emergency responder communication enhancement systems shall undergo full system re-permitting every five (5) years. This re-permitting process shall include comprehensive testing (including grid report), documentation, and submission for review and approval by the fire code official, regardless of whether structural changes have occurred.

SECTION 611.2.4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

611.2.4 Labeling. Emergency disconnect switches shall be clearly visible and labeled to correspond to the associated charging station. The emergency disconnect/shutoff shall be labeled "EMERGENCY ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER DISCONNECT" in letters not less than 1 1/2 inches high.

SECTION 907.6.2.1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

907.6.2.1 Fire Alarm surge protectors. **Each fire alarm related component necessary for the function of all associated notification and initiation devices**, shall be equipped with surge protection, installed in accordance with manufacturer specifications. These components include but are not limited to, signaling line circuits (SLC), notification appliance circuits (NAC), telephone lines, and AC power connections.

SECTIONS 907.8.4.1 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

907.8.4.1 Fire alarm control unit replacement. Where maintenance of an existing fire alarm system involves replacement or upgrade of the fire alarm control unit and requires a new installation tag and certification, the entire fire alarm system shall be considered a new system and meet the requirements of Section 907.2.

Exception:

Replacement of a fire alarm control unit with the exact same make and model as the existing panel shall not be considered a new system, provided no changes are made to system wiring, device layout, or programming that would otherwise require compliance with Section 907.2. Contractor will have to submit documentation outlining prior installation and replacement panel specifications. The permit will require an onsite inspection to verify functionality.

SECTION 1101.2.1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1101.2.1 Applicability. All existing buildings, structures, facilities, or occupancies are subject to review and permitting under this chapter **except under the following conditions:**

1. The previous business or occupancy was issued a development permit after the original adoption of the Harris County Fire Code, January 1, 2005, received a certificate of compliance, and was closed, vacant, or not utilized for the intended purpose for more than 30 days, regardless of if any construction is required to operate.

2. The business or occupancy has no record of being issued a development permit or a certificate of compliance regardless of if any construction is required to operate.
3. The proposed work for any building or occupancy does not constitute a substantial improvement.

Existing occupancies that do not meet the definition of substantial improvement and have been permitted after the adoption of the Harris County Fire Code, January 1, 2005, and issued a Certificate of Compliance that has not closed or vacated for more than 31 days shall be subject to review under this chapter. Any building of new walls, enclosing openings, or changing the floor plan, constitutes construction and will require chapter 11 fire code review. The fire code official has the authority to require compliance with this chapter for any existing building or structure in the interest of fire and life safety.

SECTION 1103.12 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1103.12 Fire Apparatus Access Roads for Existing Buildings.

The fire code official is authorized to require fire apparatus access roads to be provided for existing buildings when it is determined that the existing access roads do not provide sufficient access to buildings to enable efficient fire suppression and rescue operations

SECTION 1103.13 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1103.13.1 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) INSPECTIONS IN SCHOOLS.

Fire safety inspections of public, private, and open-enrollment charter schools shall include verification of the operational status of all automated external defibrillators (AEDs) located on the premises. Verification shall be conducted by the fire code official or an authorized representative in accordance with applicable state law.

1103.13.2 Inspection criteria.

AEDs shall be subject to visual inspection and review of maintenance documentation. Verification shall include confirmation that:

1. The AED is located in its designated position.
2. The device is visible and unobstructed.
3. The device appears ready for use.
4. The status indicator, if present, indicates a “ready” condition.
5. Electrodes and battery are within the manufacturer’s expiration date.
6. The device is free of physical damage that may impair function.



7. Audible alert functions, if equipped, are operational.
8. The device is presented upon request.
9. Maintenance or inspection documentation required by law is available for review.

1103.13.3 Report.

The fire code official shall issue a written report of findings to the school authority having jurisdiction. The report shall identify the date, time, and method of delivery.

1103.13.4 Record retention.

A copy of the inspection report shall be maintained on site at the campus for which it was issued. Reports shall be retained in accordance with local and state record retention requirements.

1103.13.5 Referenced standards. Verification shall be conducted in accordance with:

1. Texas Government Code § 419.909
2. SB 1177 (89th)
3. Texas Education Code § 38.107(e)
4. Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 779

SECTION 1203.2.21 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1203.2.21 Group I-1 and I-2. In addition to other provisions in this code, secondary power **systems** shall be provided for Group I-1 assisted living facilities and Group I-2 nursing homes to provide power for simultaneous operation of the following:

1. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems for all areas **designated by the facility to be occupied by residents or patients identified in the emergency plan).**
12. Change "stores" to **"stories."**

Text below 13.

The secondary power supply (**ies**) can be a permanent on-site emergency, standby generator, fuel cell, or mobile power supply(**ies**) approved by the fire code official. Where the secondary power source(**s**) is not a permanent on-site system, the facility shall submit a plan to the fire code official detailing how secondary power will be provided. The secondary power supply plan shall become a component in the facility's fire and



life safety plan. Where the secondary power source(s) is a mobile power supply located off-site and operated under contract to be delivered to the facility at times of need, the secondary power supply(ies) shall be capable of being delivered, connected, and providing power within a 3-hour time frame following the loss of power. Table 405.3 I1 change from "semiannually on each shift" and "all occupants"

Remove for **Exhibit B 308.3.3 four to 16 persons receiving custodial care. Refer to section 429**

Add EXHIBIT C- CONTACTS FOR PROCESSES

Add Harris County Fire Code Hub

<https://hcfchub.net/>

