

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
THE SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER**

CHAPTER 120-3-3

STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

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Section:

120-3-3-.04 (72) (g)

Modifications to Chapter 9

2. Add a new paragraph 9.1.1.1 to read as follows:

9.1.1.1 Where fuel gases are used in new buildings and facilities in Chapters 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 fuel gases detection and warning equipment shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 715 *Standard for the Installation of Fuel Gases Detection and Warning Equipment* as adopted in Rules and Regulations of the safety Fire Commissioner Chapter 120-3-3.

3. Add a new paragraph 9.1.1.2 to read as follows:

9.1.1.2 Where fuel gas equipment is replaced or installed new in existing buildings and facilities in Chapters 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 40 and 42 fuel gases detection and warning equipment shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 715 *Standard for the Installation of Fuel Gases Detection and Warning Equipment* as adopted in Rules and Regulations of the safety Fire Commissioner Chapter 120-3-3.

Delete 9.2.1 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

~~2~~ **4. 9.2.1** " Air Conditioning, Heating, Ventilating, Ductwork, and Related Equipment. Air conditioning, heating, ventilating ductwork, and related equipment shall be in accordance with the *International Mechanical Code (IMC)*, as adopted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. (Refer to **Table 1.4.4, CODES REFERENCE GUIDE**)"

~~3~~ **5.** Delete section 9.3 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

9.3.1 "** **General.** Smoke control systems, where required or permitted by Chapters 11 through 42, shall be designed, installed, tested, and maintained in conformance with Section 909 of the *International Fire Code (IFC)*, as adopted by Chapter 120-3-3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner."

~~4~~ **6.** Add a new subsection 9.3.2 to read as follows:

9.3.2 " Detention, holding or processing cell(s) which are used for the containment of an individual for not more than two hours in a 12-hour period shall not be

required to be provided with vent openings, smoke shafts, or an engineered smoke control system to provide ventilation provided each cell is monitored by closed circuit television or dedicated personnel located outside the holding area and which have visual supervision of the cell(s)."

5 7. Delete subsection 9.4.2.1 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

9.4.2.1 " New elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, and moving walks shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of ANSI/ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators. The elevator lobby of the designated floor and the alternate floor specified by Rule 211.3(a), and determined by the Fire Chief of the fire department having emergency response jurisdiction, shall be separated from the remainder of the building by 1-hour fire-rated construction. In buildings equipped with automatic sprinkler protection, smoke partitions in accordance with Section 8.4 may be used in lieu of 1-hour fire rated construction. Except health care occupancies as approved by the AHJ, openings in the elevator lobby shall be limited to those required for access to the elevators from exit access corridors or exits only. Elevator lobbies may be used as part of the means of egress from the building.

Exception No. 1: Elevator lobbies are not required within an atrium.

Exception No. 2: Elevator lobbies are not required where elevators are installed on open exterior walls.

Exception No. 3: Elevator lobbies are not required where elevators are installed in open air parking structures.

Exception No 4: Elevator lobbies are not required in buildings three stories or less with vertical openings protected in accordance with the applicable occupancy chapter.

Exception No 5: Elevator lobbies are not required in mercantile occupancies that have properly protected openings for escalators or stairs.

Exception No 6: Existing installations acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction."

6 8. Add a new subparagraph 9.6.2.10.8.1 to read as follows:

9.6.2.10.8.1 " Existing battery-powered smoke alarms as permitted by other sections of this *Code* shall be permitted to remain in use provided the following criteria are met:

1. The device is no older than 10 years of the manufactures date on the device; and,

2. The device is installed in a facility that was legally permitted before July 1, 1987, as a residential occupancy; and,
3. The facility has demonstrated to the authority having jurisdiction that the testing, maintenance, and battery replacement program will ensure reliability of power to the smoke alarms,

7 9. Add a new subparagraph 9.6.2.10.8.2 to read as follows:

9.6.2.10.8.2 " Existing battery-powered smoke alarms as permitted by other sections of this *Code* and which meet the provisions of subparagraph 9.6.2.10.8.1 shall be replaced with smoke alarms whose device housing is tamper resistant and is powered by a non-replaceable, non-removable energy source capable of powering the alarm for a minimum of ten years from the manufacture's date on the device when any of the following apply:

1. The device is replaced for any reason; or,
2. The provisions of subparagraph 9.6.2.10.8.1 or not met; or,
3. There is no manufactures date that exist on the device; or,
4. The device does not meet all of the provisions of subparagraph 9.6.2.10.8.1.

8 10. Delete 9.6.3.6.3 and its place substitute the following:

9.6.3.6.3 " * Where occupants are incapable of evacuating themselves because of age, dependence on verbal communication with caregivers, physical or mental disabilities, or physical restraint, the private operating mode as described in NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, shall be permitted to be used. Only attendants, caregivers, and other personnel that are required to relocate or assist in the relocation occupants from a zone, area, floor, or building shall be required to be notified. The notification shall include means to readily identify the zone, area, floor, or building in need of evacuation. Where approved by the authority having jurisdiction, the requirements for audible signaling shall be permitted to be further reduced or eliminated when visible signaling is provided in accordance with NFPA 72.

9 11. Add an Annex Note to 9.6.3.6.3 to read as follows:

A.9.6.3.6.3 "For example, in critical care patient areas, it is often desirable to not have an audible fire alarm even at reduced private mode levels. Another example would be classrooms for small children in day care or educational occupancies, where verbal communication is vital between caregivers or teachers and children during drills or during an actual fire or other emergency condition. Audible alarms often frighten small children and valuable time may be lost while trying to calm such

children. Also, audible alarms at or near locations where clear communications is required may present a problem. A school office or a receptionist desk common to various occupancies are examples. An additional example of where an audible fire alarm could be a problem would be high noise level work areas where an audible signal needed to overcome background noise at one time of the day would be excessively loud and potentially dangerous at another time of lower ambient noise. A sudden increase of more than 30 dB over 0.5 seconds is considered to cause sudden and potentially dangerous fright. Each case requires individual consideration by the authority having jurisdiction."

~~10~~ **12.** Add a new subparagraph 9.7.1.1.1 to read as follows:

9.7.1.1.1 "NFPA 13R, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Heights*, shall be permitted for use as specifically referenced in Chapters 24 through 33 of this *Code*. This standard shall also be permitted for the design and installation of automatic sprinkler systems in personal care homes, community living arrangements, day-care centers, and day-care homes in buildings up to and including four stories. When a single-story open-air parking structure of fire- restrictive construction is below a four-story residential occupancy the structure is considered within this scope. NFPA 13R automatic sprinkler systems shall not be permitted in assisted living communities or memory care units, as defined in [120-3-3-.03](#) of Chapter 120-3-3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner, unless authorized by the State Fire Marshal's Office."

~~11~~ **13.** Delete paragraph 9.9* in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

9.9 " * Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in all buildings, structures and facilities as set forth in this *Code* and as established in 906.1 of the *International Fire Code*, as adopted by Chapter 120-3-3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner. (Refer to **Table 1.4.4, CODES REFERENCE GUIDE**)

~~12~~ **14.** Delete paragraph 9.10 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

9.10 "Where required by either the provisions of another section of this *Code*, the *International Building Code (IBC)* as adopted by the Department of Community Affairs or the *International Fire Code (IFC)* as adopted by Chapter 120-3-3 Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner, standpipe and hose systems shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*. Where standpipe and hose systems are installed in combination with automatic sprinkler systems, installation shall be in accordance with the appropriate provisions established by NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, and NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*."

