

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, NEW JERSEY EDITION



**Q. When does the new fire code take effect?**

A. The new fire code goes into effect on February 1, 2009.

**Q. What documents will I need to enforce the new fire code?**

A. You will need to have the following documents to properly enforce the new fire code:

1. The New Jersey Uniform Fire Code – which contains Subchapter 1 (General Provisions), Subchapter 2 (Administration and Enforcement), Subchapter 3 (Language enabling the use of the International Fire Code), and Subchapter 4 (Retrofit Provisions). This is available from the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. The fire code book and 1 year subscription service is \$100.00 and code book without the subscription service is \$75.00. Additional information and orders can be obtained by contacting Marylain Kemp at (609) 633-7129.
2. The 2006 International Fire Code – New Jersey Edition – which contains the fire prevention code. This is available from the International Code Council. The 2006 International Fire Code – New Jersey Edition with a three-year subscription service is \$116.00 for ICC members and \$145.00 for non-members. The book can be ordered from the International Code Council at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). Code books will be shipped upon receipt of an order.

**Q. Is the code update course mandatory?**

A. All appointed Fire Officials and Fire Inspectors must take the code update course within their current recertification cycle.

The Division also encourages all non-appointed Fire Officials and Fire Inspectors to take the class, however it is not mandatory for them to do so.

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**Q. When will the code update course be given?**

A. The following are the currently scheduled courses and locations. Additional dates and locations will be posted on the Division of Fire Safety and Kean University Firesafety websites as they are made available.

**Friday, October 9, 2009 - Ocean County Fire Academy**

**Thursday, October 15, 2009 - Camden County Fire Academy**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2009 - Bergen County Fire Academy**

**Thursday, October 22, 2009 - Somerset County Fire Academy**

**Friday, October 23, 2009 - Morris County Fire Academy**

**Thursday, November 5, 2009 - Middlesex County Fire Academy (FOFI Retreat)**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009 - Passaic County Fire Academy**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2009 - Burlington County ESTC**

**Friday, December 11, 2009 - Middlesex County Fire Academy**

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**Q. When will my software vendor provide me with the software with the new fire code?**

A. You need to contact your software provider to obtain that information. Each software vendor must negotiate a licensing agreement with the International Code Council. The Division of Fire Safety has no involvement in this process.

**Q. Can I cite a business owner to install a system required for a specific operation such as an industrial oven, under Subchapter 3?**

A. No. If the system is required under the retrofit provisions of Subchapter 4, then a violation citing the specific requirement(s) of Subchapter 4 must be cited. If the system is not required under Subchapter 4, then a referral must be done to the local Construction Official to determine if the system is required to be installed.

**Q. It appears that the language in Section 603.6.1 Masonry chimneys is incorrect.**

A. There are several typographical errors in the section. The section should read as follows:

“Masonry chimneys that, upon inspection, are found to be without a flue liner and that have open mortar joints which will permit smoke or gases to be discharged into the building, or which are cracked as to be dangerous, shall be repaired or relined with a listed chimney liner system installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions or a flue lining system installed in accordance with the requirements of the building Subcode of the Uniform Construction Code and appropriate for the intended class of chimney service.”

We apologize for the mistake and any problems it may have caused.

**Q. How do I cite a violation under the new code?**

A. Code sections preceded by a double vertical line in the margin (II) have been modified, added to or edited by the Department of Community Affairs.

Unlike the previous *Fire Prevention Code* it is not necessary to distinguish between amended and un-amended provisions when citing violations.

Therefore, all violations will be cited as follows without respect to whether they are amendments or not:

**Example: (Testing of Emergency and Standby Power Systems)**

**Cite as: N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 604.3.1.1**

**Example: (Automatic fire extinguishing system tests)**

**Cite as: N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.5.1**

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**Q. How do I cross reference the existing 1996 BOCA Fire Prevention Code with the new 2006 International Fire Code - New Jersey Edition?**

A. The table below indicates where existing chapters in the current code can be found in the new code, as well as indicating any new chapters.

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>1996 UFC CODE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>2006 IFC CODE</u>
1	ADMINISTRATION	1	ADMINISTRATION
2	DEFINITIONS	2	DEFINITIONS
3	PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE	3	GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE
		6	BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS
		14	FIRE SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION
		7	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATED CONSTRUCTION
		8	INTERIOR FINISH, DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS
4	OPEN FLAMES OR BURNING	3	GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE
5	FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS	9	FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS
6	MEANS OF EGRESS	10	MEANS OF EGRESS
7	EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS	4	EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS
8	AIRPORTS, HELIPORTS AND HELISTOPS	11	AVIATION FACILITIES
9	BOWLING ESTABLISHMENTS	15	FLAMMABLE FINISHES
10	CROP-RIPENING AND COLORING PROCESSES	16	FRUIT AND CROP RIPENING

11	DRY CLEANING PLANTS	12	DRY CLEANING
12	DUST EXPLOSION HAZARDS	13	COMBUSTIBLE DUST PRODUCING OPERATIONS
13	APPLICATION OF FLAMMABLE FINISHES	15	FLAMMABLE FINISHES
14	FUMIGATION AND THERMAL INSECTICIDAL FOGGING	17	FUMIGATION AND INSECTICIDAL FOGGING
15	HAZARDOUS PRODUCTION MATERIAL FACILITIES	18	SEMICONDUCTOR FABRICATION FACILITIES
16	LUMBER YARDS AND WOODWORKING PLANTS	19	LUMBER YARDS AND WOODWORKING FACILITIES
17	MATCHES		
18	GAS AND OIL PRODUCTION	34	FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS
		38	LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES
19	ORGANIC COATINGS	20	MANUFACTURE OF ORGANIC COATINGS
20	TENTS AND AIR-SUPPORTED STRUCTURES	24	TENTS, CANOPIES AND OTHER MEMBRANE STRUCTURES
21	MATERIAL STORAGE, WASTE MATERIAL AND JUNK YARDS	3	GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE
22	WELDING OR CUTTING, CALCIUM CARBIDE AND ACETYLENE GENERATORS	26	WELDING AND OTHER HOT WORK
23	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	27	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GENERAL PROVISIONS
24	AEROSOL PRODUCTS	28	AEROSOLS
25	CELLULOSE NITRATE (PYROXYLIN) PLASTICS	42	PYROXYLIN (CELLULOSE NITRATE)
26	COMBUSTIBLE FIBER	29	COMBUSTIBLE FIBERS
27	COMPRESSED GASES	30	COMPRESSED GASES
		35	FLAMMABLE GASES
28	LIQUID AND SOLID CORROSIVE MATERIALS	31	CORROSIVE MATERIALS
29	CRYOGENIC LIQUIDS	32	CRYOGENIC FLUIDS

		APPENDIX G	CRYOGENIC FLUIDS-WEIGHT AND VOLUME EQUIVALENTS
30	EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION AND BLASTING AGENTS	33	EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS
31	FIREWORKS	33	EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS
32	FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS	34	FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS
		22	MOTOR FUEL - DISPENSING FACILITIES AND REPAIR GARAGES
33	FLAMMABLE SOLIDS	36	FLAMMABLE SOLIDS
34	LIQUID AND SOLID HIGHLY TOXIC AND TOXIC MATERIALS	37	HIGHLY TOXIC AND TOXIC MATERIALS
35	LIQUID AND SOLID IRRITANTS, SENSITIZERS AND OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS	37	HIGHLY TOXIC AND TOXIC MATERIALS
36	LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES	38	LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES
37	LIQUID AND SOLID ORGANIC PEROXIDES	39	ORGANIC PEROXIDES
38	LIQUID AND SOLID OXIDIZERS	40	OXIDIZERS
39	PESTICIDE DISPLAY AND STORAGE	27	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GENERAL PROVISIONS
40	LIQUID AND SOLID PYROPHORIC MATERIALS	41	PYROPHORIC MATERIALS
41	RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS	27	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GENERAL PROVISIONS
42	LIQUID AND SOLID UNSTABLE (REACTIVE) MATERIALS	43	UNSTABLE (REACTIVE) MATERIALS
43	LIQUID AND SOLID WATER - REACTIVE MATERIALS	44	WATER - REACTIVE SOLIDS AND LIQUIDS
44	REFERENCED STANDARDS	45	REFERENCED STANDARDS
	NEW SECTIONS	5	FIRE SERVICE FEATURES
		21	INDUSTRIAL OVENS
		23	HIGH - PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE

		<b>25</b>	<b>TIRE REBUILDING AND TIRE STORAGE</b>
		<b>APPENDIX E</b>	<b>HAZARD CATEGORIES</b>
		<b>APPENDIX F</b>	<b>HAZARD RANKING</b>
		<b>APPENDIX G</b>	<b>CRYOGENIC FLIUDS-WEIGHT AND VOLUME EQUIVALENTS</b>

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**Q. How do I determine what the use group is for a particular business or building as they are not listed in the International Fire Code – New Jersey Edition?**

A. N.J.A.C. 5:70 3.1(c) was added and it explains that the Use Group definitions of the Uniform Construction Code at the time the Certificate of Occupancy was issued shall be used to determine the use group for applying the maintenance provisions of Subchapter 3, except when applying the retrofit provisions of Subchapter 4 and no Certificate of Occupancy exists. The current Group definitions can be viewed through a link at the Division of Code and Standards website at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes> click on "ICC codes adopted by NJ" to view all the adopted ICC codes. The Use Group definitions to be used when applying the retrofit provisions can be found in the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code at N.J.A.C. 5:70-1.5.

**Q. How often do I have to conduct a fire drill in my building?**

A. The frequency of fire drills is dependent on the occupancy type and use of the building. Table 405.2 on page 25 of the International Fire Code – New Jersey Edition gives a list of occupancy types that are required to conduct fire drills, the frequency the drills must occur and who must participate in the drills. Section 408 explains when fire drills must take place for other specific types of occupancies such as Group E (educational), Group I daycare centers, and Group R-2 college and university dormitory buildings.

**Q. Is storage permitted in an attic or other unprotected, concealed space?**

A. No. Section 315.2.4 states the storage is not allowed unless the area is already protected with 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or by an approved automatic suppression system. This is not a retrofit provision, so the rated construction or suppression cannot be required to be installed; therefore the storage must be removed.

This provision is intended to prevent fires in concealed areas from going un-noticed and attacking critical building elements prior to the arrival of the fire department which could jeopardize the stability of the structure and the safety of the firefighters.

**Q. Are unattended, self-serve propane exchange systems allowed in New Jersey?**

A. No. With the adoption of the International Fire Code – New Jersey Edition, Section 3806.1 requires that the dispensing of LP-gas or the exchange of LP-gas cylinders be performed by a qualified attendant. Additionally, N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.6(a)9, which is the cylinder exchange cabinet section of the LP Gas Code, also requires that only a properly trained employee can place or remove cylinders from the exchange cabinet.

All cylinder exchange cabinets must be attended by a trained employee. Self-serve exchange cabinets must be shut off and powered down when a trained employee is not available to attend to the cabinet.

**Q. Are fire extinguishers still required on welding carts?**

A. No. The specific requirement for a fire extinguisher on a welding cart was removed as the new code requires that a fire extinguisher be within 30 feet of the work area. Additionally, NFPA 10 (Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers), NFPA 30A (Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages) and NFPA 51B (Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work) all do not require that a fire extinguisher be mounted on a welding cart.

**Q. What type of barbecue grill can I have on my deck or balcony?**

A. LP-gas barbecue grills and outdoor fireplaces are prohibited in all the following locations:

1. On any porch, balcony, or any other portion of a building;
2. Within any room or space of a building;
3. Within 5 feet of any combustible exterior wall;
4. Within 5 feet, vertically or horizontally, of an opening in any wall, and
5. Under any building overhang.

The only exception to this is detached one- and two-family dwellings.

Charcoal grills, other open-flame cooking devices and outdoor fireplaces shall not be used or stored in the following locations:

1. On combustible balconies or decks;
2. Within 5 feet of combustible construction.

The exceptions to this are detached one- and two-family dwellings and where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

In the case of a natural gas grill, as long as it was installed and maintained under a valid construction permit, it would be permitted to remain in place. In these instances it is determined that there would be no ash or burning briquettes falling to the combustible deck, that there would be a very limited flame height from the burners, that the sub-code officials should have ensured that it had sufficient clearance to combustible construction during inspection and that it presented an extremely limited hazard.

Electric grills would also be permitted for most of the same justifications are outlined above, except a construction permit would not be required unless it was wired directly into an electrical receptacle.

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### Q. What fees, if any can I assess at a construction site?

A. The Division of Fire Safety is receiving several inquiries regarding the Fire Official's ability to issue permits and collect fees at construction sites. The permitting requirements of Subchapter 2 were not affected by the adoption of the International Fire Code. The Fire Official has in the past and continues to date, to have the authority to issue permits under Subchapter 2 at any location other than a one- or two-family, owner-occupied dwelling. Fire officials are urged to work with the local Construction Official in enforcing the provisions of the Uniform Fire Code at construction sites.

### Q. Does Section 314.4, condition 1 require that the batteries of vehicles being display in dealership showrooms be disconnected?

A. The Division of Fire Safety has received several inquires regarding Section 314.4, condition 1, the requirement to disconnect the batteries for vehicles being displayed and whether this provision applied to vehicles being displayed inside of a dealership showroom. It was determined that this section was originally intended to apply to vehicles being displayed in areas other than dealership showrooms such as malls and larger mercantile uses. After reviewing the code section and situation, it was determined that the repeated connection/disconnection of the battery in any location presented a greater potential for a possible accident than leaving the battery constantly connected.

The Division of Fire Safety is in the process of developing a code change that will remove Section 314.4, condition 1, Section 2404.18.1 and Section 2404.18.4, condition 2 and renumber the remaining sections and conditions accordingly. The Division of Fire Safety is asking that all Local Enforcing Agencies refrain from enforcing condition 1 in Section 314.4, Section 2404.18.1 and Section 2404.18.4, condition 2. All of the remaining conditions in Section 314.4 and 2404.18 should be enforced.