

	New/Amended Language	Reason for Change
Chapter 9, Fire Code		
Sec. 9-18. Inspections and testing.	Requirements for licensed contractors to submit/upload test reports to the city's 3rd party vendor within 30 days of their inspection. The new language also stipulates the timeframes the uploads must be submitted and identifies acceptable documentation.	State Fire Code contains requirements for varying frequency of inspections, testing and maintenance for fire protection systems. The City uses a 3rd party vendor, The Compliance Engine, as the tool for all inspections records to be stored. The system automatically identifies which properties are overdue, what deficiencies are unresolved, and where follow-up is needed. The new language is already referenced on the Compliance Engine platform, however, the specific city requirements should be in the local fire code to strengthen enforcement efforts when the property owners or their licensed vendors fail to meet the guidelines.
2024 NFPA 1, Amended by State Fire Prevention Code		
Annex A , A.10.2.7.1	A.10.2.7.1 The frequency of fire prevention inspections of existing buildings should be based upon a risk assessment of these properties completed by the responsible AHJ. Considerations for this assessment should include, but not be limited to, the occupancy classification of the building and hazards associated with that classification; the number, location, and physical and mental capabilities of potential building occupants (especially self-evacuation abilities); construction design and maintenance of the property; fire protection features of the building; special hazards associated with activities or operations conducted within the building; available fire department suppression resources with special consideration to necessary special suppression operations; and resources available for fire code inspections and enforcement actions.	New language allowing for a risk assessment to be completed by the AHJ to determine the frequency of fire prevention inspections of existing buildings. Similar language is in the previous edition of NFPA 1. However, this new language provides the AHJ with clearer flexibility and authority so they can make the best decisions for their communities when considering occupant risk in existing buildings.

Section 10.10.6.1	Unless permitted by 10.10.6.2, for other than one- and two-family dwellings, outdoor cooking appliances, grills, or other similar devices intended for cooking, heating, or any other purpose shall not be used, kindled, or stored in any of the following locations: (1) On any balcony (2) Under any overhanging portion of a structure (3) Within 20 ft (4.7 6.1 m) of any structure.	The State Fire Prevention Code amended the standard code of 10 ft to 15 ft. Locally, we are increasing the minimum distance from a structure from 15 ft to 20 ft due to the increased number fire events nationally and locally associated with open flames in outdoor cooking. In addition, the proposed change aligns the city requirements with Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg.
Subsection 10.21.1	Where one or more powered micromobility devices will be charged inside or within 15 ft (4.6 m) of a building or structure, the charging operation shall be in accordance with Section 10.21	Increase the minimum distance the micromobility device may be located from a building from 10 ft to 15 ft due to the rise in fires nationally involving these devices. New language in the State Fire Prevention Code.
Section 11.10.2	All newly constructed below-ground floors of a building, all floors in buildings greater than 25,000 sq.ft per floor, and all floors of buildings greater than three (3) stories in height must meet minimum emergency radio communication system performance criteria adopted by Montgomery County Department of Technology Services. Proof that minimum performance criteria are met must be provided in writing to the AHJ, and testing shall comply with the following: (a) Performance testing shall be performed in accordance with the technical standards for systems and testing personnel established by Montgomery County Department of Technology Services. (b) Compliance testing shall be performed at the time of occupancy and annually thereafter. (c) All testing, design, installation and maintenance required must be performed by personnel approved by the City of Rockville Fire Marshal. Exception: The requirements of this section shall not apply to one- and two-family dwellings or townhomes.	We have used the language from this Montgomery County standard for some time without having the language in our local fire code. It should be added to the city's fire code to strengthen our enforcement efforts.

Section 13.3.2.24.2	Existing high-rise buildings, other than those meeting 13.3.2.24.2.1 or 13.3.2.24.2.2, shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with this chapter and 13.3.2.24.2.3 through 13.3.2.24.2.5.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.1	An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required where every dwelling unit has exterior access in accordance with 14.10.3.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.2	An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required in buildings that have a previously approved and implemented engineered life safety system complying with 13.3.2.24.2.2.1 and 13.3.2.24.2.2.2.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.2.1	The engineering life safety system shall have been developed by a registered professional engineer experienced in fire and life safety system design, approved by the authority having jurisdiction, and shall include any or all of the following: (1) Partial automatic sprinkler protection (2) Smoke detection systems (3) Smoke control systems (4) Compartmentation (5) Other approved systems.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.2.2	The engineering life safety system shall be maintained in accordance with the approved design documents and applicable standard.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.3	Each building owner shall, within 180 days of receiving notice, file an intent to comply with this regulation with the AHJ for approval.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.4	The AHJ shall review and respond to the intent-to-comply submittal within 60 days of receipt.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.24.2.5	The entire building shall be required to be protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system within 12 years of the date of the original violation notice issued by the fire authority having jurisdiction.	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.

Section 13.3.2.24.2.6	In high-rise buildings that are not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system, signage shall be posted complying with 13.3.2.24.2.6(A) through 13.3.2.24.2.6(D). (A) Signage shall be posted at all main building entrances as approved by the AHJ. (B) The lettering on the sign shall be at least 1 inch high. (C) The lettering shall be placed on a contrasting background. (D) The wording shall state as follows: "WARNING: THIS HIGH-RISE BUILDING IS NOT PROTECTED THROUGHOUT WITH AN AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM".	This language has been adopted at the State Level and will be codified in Chapter 9 due to the critical nature of the requirement.
Section 13.3.2.27.1.1	All new day care occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 of NFPA 101 [NFPA:16.3.5.2] Automatic protection is not required if all of the following conditions are met: (1) The total number of occupants in the occupancy in which the day care center is located is not more than 300 persons. (2) All rooms used for day care are located on the level of exit discharge; (3) All rooms used for day care have at least one exterior door at grade level; (4) The occupancy in which the day care center is located does not exceed 12,000 sq ft in area.	New requirements for increased safety in day care occupancies. This new language is also new to the State Fire Prevention Code.
Section 20.1.5.8.3	In the following assembly occupancies, an audible announcement shall be made, or a projected image shall be shown, within 10 minutes prior to the start of each program that notifies occupants of the location of the exits to be used in case of a fire or other emergency: (1) Theaters (2) Motion picture theaters (3) Auditoriums (4) Other similar assembly occupancies with occupant loads exceeding 300 where there are non-continuous programs [101:12.7.7.3; 101: 13.7.7.3]	Language is designed to increase awareness of exits in assembly occupancies due to fires and other emergencies. This new language is also new to the State Fire Prevention Code.

Section 14.4.2.1.1	Trash or recyclable materials awaiting scheduled collection shall not be placed in exits, exit access corridors or on egress balconies.	New language in the State Fire Prevention Code to address the storage of these items in the exits or exit access.
2024 NFPA 101, Amended by State Fire Prevention Code		
Section 31.3.5.9	All high-rise buildings, other than those meeting 31.3.5.9.2 or 31.3.5.9.3, shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 31.3.5.2 within 12 years of the date of the original violation notice issued by the fire authority having jurisdiction.	This new language is also new to the State Fire Prevention Code.