



# *City of Albuquerque*

Albuquerque Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Office  
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## **2015 IFC Fire Code Adoption Summary of Significant Changes**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Albuquerque Fire Department is to serve the community by providing all hazards planning, prevention and response that provides public safety and trust while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of its firefighters. Updating and enforcing the city fire code with the most current fire and life safety codes available is just one of the many ways the Albuquerque Fire Department serves our community.

### **Background**

The current City of Albuquerque Fire Code (0-2012-029) was passed on October 18, 2012, adopting the 2009, edition of the International Fire Code, which is published by the International Code Council (ICC) family of Codes and the 2009 edition, of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code published by the National Fire Protection Association.

### **NEW Model Fire Codes to be Adopted**

- (1) The International Fire Code (IFC), 2015 Edition, including Appendices D and F, with local amendments.
- (2) All National Fire Protection Codes, Standards and Supplements, as published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Referenced in the (IFC) 2015 Edition. No amendments.
- (3) NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, (LSC) 2015 Edition as published by the National Fire Protection Association as applicable to Existing Structures and Facilities built prior to July 1, 2004, except Chapter 13 Section 13.3.5. No amendments.

Model Codes are developed by standard organizations through a network of development committees with representatives from various entities, both government and private. This method allows the pooling of financial and intellectual resources to produce codes that remain current and technically sound. The model code developers are constantly working to update the codes to incorporate latest research results and building technologies. These codes are typically updated on a three (3) year cycle.

The New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office, under the authority of the State Public Regulation Commission (PRC) is currently in the process of adopting the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code as the New Mexico State Fire Code.

### **Summary of Significant Changes**

This commentary is a section by section analysis of the proposed ordinance summarizing the amendments and changes made from the 2009, International Fire Code (IFC). Some of the amendments are for clarification and do not change the code, some sections were added to avoid any ambiguity where the interpretation is left to the reader. Most of the changes made were only to the Chapter and Section numbers in order to coincide with the new 2015 International Fire Code and are not listed in this summary of significant changes.

## **Section 1 Adoption of the Fire Code.**

The Albuquerque Fire Department has added four new Appendices out of the 2015 International Fire Code which are in accordance with the current DPM (Development Process Manual) and all current Building Codes.

1. Appendix B (Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings),
2. Appendix C (Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution),
3. Appendix H (Hazardous Materials Management Plan)
4. Appendix K (Construction requirements for Existing Ambulatory Care Facilities).

## **Section 3 Conflict of Codes**

Previous language directing the Fire Code Official to apply only the most stringent code when a conflict exists between specific code requirements has been changed. The new language allows the Fire Code Official to make the final determination on which code to use that best meets the public safety requirements of the jurisdiction. This could, if practical, allow the Fire Code Official to give different options for business owners and contractors to meet code compliance.

## **Section 105 Permits**

### **105.2.4.1 Completing Work and Final Inspection.**

Language was changed concerning the expiration date of approved construction permits. The current code allows permits to expire after 24 months. The new code will allow 180 days until a construction permit expires. This new time frame of 180 days is in accordance with the Building Department which will help with any confusion or delays.

## **Sections 105.6 and 105.7 New Operational and Construction Permits**

**105.6.4 Carbon Dioxide Systems used in Beverage Dispensing.** An operational permit is required for carbon dioxide systems used in beverage dispensing applications having more than 100 pounds of carbon dioxide.

**105.6.32 Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities.** An operational permit is required for the operation of automotive, marine and fleet motor fuel-dispensing facilities.

**105.6.37.1 Temporary Outdoor Assembly Events.** An operational permit is required to operate an outdoor assembly event as defined in Chapter 2.

**105.6.49 Temporary Change of Assembly Permit.** An operational permit is required to temporarily use any existing permitted assembly occupancy in a manner that deviates from the approved city building plans.

**105.6.50 Temporary Change of use Permit.** An operational permit is required to temporarily change the use of any existing building or space in a manner that deviates from the approved city building plans.

**105.7.5 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System.** A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to emergency responder radio 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.

## **107.3 Recordkeeping. (New Language directly out of the 2015 Internal Fire Code)**

A record of periodic inspections, tests, servicing and other operations and maintenance shall be maintained on the premises or other approved location for not less than 3 years, or a different period of time where specified in this code or referenced standards. Records shall be made available for inspection by the Fire Code Official, and a copy of the records shall be provided to the Fire Code Official upon request.

The Fire Code Official is authorized to prescribe the form and format of such recordkeeping. The Fire Code Official is authorized to require that certain required records be filed with the Fire Code Official.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Definitions**

All definitions have been moved to Chapter 2 in accordance with the 2015 International Fire Code. Only a few definitions were added to address words or terms that have specific meaning to other chapters and sections of this code.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Section 207**

#### **Fire Protection Water Supplies**

**507.4.1 Fire Hydrant Certificate of fitness.** New language added to clarify that persons applying for a Certificate of Fitness shall attend and complete the Hydrant Testing NFPA 291 class at the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, New Mexico. Each applicant will provide the Albuquerque Fire Marshal's Office a copy of the certification. This is the certificate that the Albuquerque Fire Department is already accepting.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Section 903**

#### **Automatic Sprinkler Systems**

**903.4.6 Exterior Riser Room.** This section requires a dedicated riser room accessible from exterior of the building for all newly constructed building and all buildings which are defined as Level III alterations as defined by the International Building Code which require an Automatic extinguishing System as per The International Fire Code Chapter 9. The dedicated riser room shall be within the conditioned space to protect the riser against freezing and/or corrosion as per NFPA 13.

Where Exterior Riser Rooms Accessible from the exterior cannot be provided or installed because of existing underground or aboveground waterways located on the property, topography, nonnegotiable grades, or other similar conditions, The Fire Code Official is authorized to approve an alternate means of equivalency. Equivalency proposals shall be provided by the designer.

## **Chapter 11**

### **Section 1103**

#### **Fire Safety Requirements for Existing Buildings**

**1103.5.4 Existing Assembly Occupancies.** New language added to existing section making Historical Buildings complying with Section 1103.1.1 exempt from providing sprinkler systems.

**3103.7.1 Inspection Time.** New language to clarify that inspection times shall be scheduled within four hours of the event opening with all electrical equipment, catering devices, tables, chairs, and merchandise shall be set in place prior to inspection.

**Chapter 31**  
**Section 3103**  
**Tents and Membrane Structures**

**3103.2 Approval Required.** The square footage for tents that require a permit has changed from 100 square feet or less to 400 square feet or less.

**3103.2.1 Anchorage Required** All Tents and membrane structures regardless of square footage will still be required to be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. Permitted Tents (greater than 400 square feet) will be required to ballast each leg with 75 lbs. for normal weather conditions and 5 lbs. per square foot for all weather conditions.

**3103.7.1 Inspection Time.** New language to clarify that inspection times shall be scheduled within four hours of the event opening with all electrical equipment, catering devices, tables, chairs, and merchandise shall be set in place prior to inspection.

**3104.7 Open or Exposed Flame.** New language was added directly out of the 2015 International Fire Code stating: Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the Fire Code Official.

All tents and other membrane structures that contain heat producing devices are required to be permitted, regardless of the square footage.

**Chapter 46**  
**Section 4603**  
**Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings**

**4603.4.3 Existing Assembly Occupancies.** New language added to existing section making Historical Buildings complying with Section 1103.1.1 exempt from providing sprinkler systems.

**Chapter 81**  
**Section 8101**  
**Places of Assembly**

**8101.5 Temporary Change of Assembly.** The intention of a Temporary Assembly is to permit a single event in an existing assembly that temporally changes the use from city approved building plans but still meets the requirements for the newly proposed temporary assembly use.

**8101.6 Temporary Change of Use.** The intention of a Temporary Change of Use is to permit a single event within a building or space that is not permitted for assembly purposes, but can still meets the requirements for the newly proposed temporary assembly use.

## **Chapter 83**

### **Required Inspection/Permit Rates and Fees**

There were NO increases in any rates or fees for any existing inspections or permits.

Six new permits were listed in Sections 105.6 and 105.7. The following lists the fees associated with each permit.

1. **105.6.4 Carbon Dioxide Systems used in Beverage Dispensing.** Permit fee of \$50.00 is only charged at time of new system plan review.
2. **105.6.32 Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities.** Falls under existing permit fees in Chapter 83 Table 8302.4-A. No additional permit fee is required
3. **105.6.37.1 Temporary Outdoor Assembly Events.** Permit fee of \$30.00
4. **105.6.49 Temporary Change of Assembly Permit.** Permit fee of \$30.00
5. **105.6.50 Temporary Change of Use Permit.** Permit fee of \$60.00
6. **105.7.5 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System.** Permit fee of \$50.00