

2025 Ohio Fire Code

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PREFACE

Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fire code addressing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, explosion, handling or use of hazardous materials and the use and occupancy of buildings and premises. The *Ohio Fire Code* is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive fire code contains the Ohio Administrative Code Rules that comprise the *Ohio Fire Code*. These administrative rules became effective on November 20, 2025. The *Ohio Fire Code* is a code of statewide applicability that consists of rules relating to all aspects of fire safety and other matters regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal. The *Ohio Fire Code* establishes the minimum standards for safeguarding life and property from fire and explosion in Ohio. In promulgating the *Ohio Fire Code*, the State Fire Marshal, per Ohio Revised Code Section 3737.82, must include rules relating to the movable contents of any building, or class of buildings, the transportation, storage, location, and use of flammable or explosive materials, the procedures to be employed by persons in the event of fire, the installation and location of fire protection equipment, and other similar matters. The fire code may also contain rules applicable to particular classes of existing buildings or structures as the use and occupancy of such buildings or structures suggest are necessary. The *Ohio Fire Code* as promulgated is enforceable by the State Fire Marshal, Assistant State Fire Marshals and/or certified fire safety inspectors working for a duly constituted municipal or township fire department in Ohio.

The 2025 *Ohio Fire Code* is based on the *International Fire Code*® (2021 Edition, First Printing; Chapter 12 2024 Edition), as amended by the State Fire Marshal of Ohio. The *Ohio Fire Code* is designed to be fully compatible with the portions of the Ohio Building Code that are based upon the International Building Code® (2021 Edition). The *Ohio Fire Code* is also designed to be fully compatible with all of the International Codes® (I-Codes®) published by the International Code Council® (ICC®), including the *International Building Code*® (IBC®), *International Energy Conservation Code*® (IECC®), *International Existing Building Code*® (IEBC®), *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC®), *International Green Construction Code*® (IgCC®), *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC®), *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC®), *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*® (IPSDC®), *International Property Maintenance Code*® (IPMC®), *International Residential Code*® (IRC®), *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*® (ISPSA®), *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*® (IWUIC®), and *International Zoning Code*® (IZC®), many of which have been specifically adopted for use in Ohio. As the *Ohio Fire Code* is primarily based on the *International Fire Code* (2021 Edition; and the 2024 Edition of IFC Chapter 12) and it is enforceable by local fire officials, it also encourages statewide consistency in the application of its provisions.

Maintenance

The State Fire Marshal of Ohio, through its involvement in the national model code development process, works with other fire code officials and regulated industry members to submit proposed changes to the *International Fire Code* through the International Code Council's code development process and to update the *Ohio Fire Code* in accordance with all of the changes to the *International Fire Code*. In addition, interested parties can also submit proposed changes to the *Ohio Fire Code* to the State Fire Marshal of Ohio in accordance with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 1 of the *Ohio Fire Code*.

ICC Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each of the International Code Council's (ICC) code development cycles, proposed changes to the *International Fire Code* are considered at the Committee Action Hearings by the International Fire Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. Code change proposals to sections of the code that are preceded by a bracketed letter designation are considered by a different code development committee. For example, proposed changes to code sections that have [BE] in front of them (e.g., [BE] 604.4) are considered by the appropriate International Building Code Development Committee (IBC—Egress) at the code development hearings.

The bracketed letter designations for ICC committees responsible for portions of the *International Fire Code* are as follows:

- [A] = Administrative Code Development Committee
- [BE] = IBC—Egress Code Development Committee
- [BF] = IBC—Fire Safety Code Development Committee
- [BG] = IBC—General Code Development Committee
- [BS] = IBC—Structural Code Development Committee
- [EB] = International Existing Building Code Development Committee
- [FG] = International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee
- [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee
- [P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee

Where this designation is applicable to the entire content of a main section of the code, the designation appears at the main section number and title and is not repeated at every subsection in that section.

Marginal Markings

Single solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the *Ohio Fire Code* indicate an ICC technical change from the requirements of the 2018, 2021 and 2024 (in part) editions of the *International Fire Code*. Double vertical lines in the margins indicate an Ohio amendment. Deletion indicators in the form of a bold arrow (➡) are provided in the margin where an entire section, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a row of a table has been deleted by the ICC from *International Fire Code* language. A caret (>) in the margin indicates an Ohio deletion of *International Fire Code* language.

Italicized Language

Italicized text throughout the *Ohio Fire Code* is “Ohioized” language, meaning that it contains provisions written by the State Fire Marshal of Ohio specifically for application in Ohio. These italicized provisions are substantively different than the suggested model code (*International Fire Code*) text for those particular sections. The “Ohioized” language is the law of Ohio and it is to be given equal weight with nonitalicized text.

Adoption

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The ICC also recognizes the need for jurisdictions to make laws available to the public. All I-Codes and I-Standards, along with the laws of many jurisdictions, are available for free in a nondownloadable form on the ICC's website. Jurisdictions should contact the ICC at adoptions@iccsafe.org to learn how to adopt and distribute laws based on the IFC in a manner that provides necessary access, while maintaining the ICC's copyright.

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