

Chapter 3: General Requirements

Introduction

The open burning, ignition source, vacant building, miscellaneous storage, roof gardens and landscaped roofs, outdoor pallet storage and hazards to firefighter's requirements and precautions, among other general regulations contained in this chapter, are intended to improve premises safety for everyone, including construction workers, tenants, operations and maintenance personnel, and emergency response personnel. As with other chapters of the *International Fire Code*® (IFC®), Section 302 contains a list of terms that are defined in Chapter 2 and are applicable to the chapter contents.

About This Chapter

Chapter 3 provides general requirements for asphalt kettles; combustible waste material; ignition sources; motion picture projection rooms and film; open burning; recreational fires; portable outdoor fireplaces; open flames; powered industrial trucks and equipment; smoking; vacant premises; vehicle impact protection; fueled equipment; indoor displays; miscellaneous storage; outdoor pallet storage; hazards to fire-fighters; roof gardens and landscaped roofs; laundry carts and mobile food preparation vehicles. These requirements are intended to improve premises safety for everyone, including construction workers, tenants, operations and maintenance personnel, and emergency response personnel.

Part II—General Safety Provisions

SECTION 301 GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire and general requirements of fire safety.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.14] Fire Hazard.

No person, including but not limited to the State and its political subdivisions, operating any occupancy subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations shall permit any fire hazard, as defined in this article, to exist on premises under their control, or fail to take immediate action to abate a fire hazard when requested to do so by the enforcing agency.

Note: “Fire Hazard” as used in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations means any condition, arrangement, or act which will increase, or may cause an increase of, the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire; or which may obstruct, delay, or hinder, or may become the cause of obstruction, delay or hindrance to the prevention, suppression, or extinguishment of fire.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.19(a) through (g)] Housekeeping.

Every building or portion of a building governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations shall be maintained in a neat orderly manner, free from any condition that would create a fire or life hazard or a condition which would add to or contribute to the rapid spread of fire. Provisions shall be made for the proper storage and disposal of waste materials and rubbish consistent with the following:

(b) All combustible waste material and rubbish shall be stored in approved containers or shall be stored in a manner approved by the enforcing agency as being consistent with standard fire prevention practices until such waste material and rubbish is removed from the premises or otherwise disposed of in a proper manner.

(1) Containers with a capacity exceeding 5.33 cubic feet (40 gallons) (0.15 m³) shall comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, Section 304.3.

(2) Wastebaskets and linen containers in Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies shall comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9, Section 808.

(c) Approved self-closing metal containers or listed disposal containers by an approved testing or listing agency shall be provided and maintained in all rooms or locations where oily rags, oily waste, paint rags, or similar materials subject to spontaneous ignition are

used, or are stored temporarily. Such containers shall be emptied daily.

(d) Ashes shall not be placed in, on, or near combustible material, but shall be placed in approved metal containers, until removed from the premises or otherwise properly disposed of.

(e) No dry vegetation shall be permitted to exist within 20 feet of any building or occupancies subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations.

(f) Except when permitted by the enforcing agency, boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, transformer and switchgear vaults and electrical panel rooms, shall not be used for storage.

(g) Electric motors, filters on heating equipment, and grease hoods shall be checked periodically and kept clean and maintained in a safe operating condition.

❖ Title 19, Sections 3.14 and 3.19.

SECTION 302 DEFINITIONS

❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 303 ASPHALT KETTLES

❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 304 COMBUSTIBLE WASTE MATERIAL

304.1 Waste accumulation prohibited. Combustible waste material creating a fire hazard shall not be allowed to accumulate in buildings or structures or upon premises.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.07(a)] Clearances.

(a) General. No combustible material shall be placed or stored within 10 feet of any building or structure.

❖ Title 19, Section 3.07.

304.1.2 Vegetation. Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in urban-wildland interface areas shall be in accordance with Chapter 49.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.07(b)] Clearances.

(b) Ground Clearance. The space surrounding every building or structure shall be maintained in accordance with the following:

Any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area or forest-covered lands, brush covered lands, or grass-covered lands, or any land which is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) Maintain around and adjacent to such building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This section does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.

(2) Maintain around and adjacent to any such building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all bush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth which is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from such building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the enforcing agency if he finds that, because of extra hazardous conditions, a firebreak of only 30 feet around such building or structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from such building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.

(3) Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.

(4) Cut and remove all dead or dying portions of trees located adjacent to or overhanging any building.

(5) Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

(6) Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove, or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in size.

(7) Vegetation around all applicable buildings and structures shall be maintained in accordance with the following laws and regulations:

(A) Public Resources Code Section 4291.

(B) California Code of Regulations Title 14 - Natural Resources, Division 1.5 - Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, "General Guideline to Create Defensible Space."

(C) California Government Code Section 51182.

(D) California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9.

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- ❖ Section 304.1.2 is proposed to be modified to correctly reference the user to Chapter 47 for defensible space provision pursuant to Public Resources Code 4291 and California Code of Regulations Title 14—Natural Resources, Division 1.5 - Department of Forestry, Chapter, "Fire Protection," Subchapter 2 "SRA Fire Safe Regulations," Articles 1–5 and Government Code 51175 – 51189.

304.3 Containers. Combustible rubbish, and waste material kept within or near a structure shall be stored in accordance with Sections 304.3.1 through 304.3.4.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.19(b) and (c)] Housekeeping.

Every building or portion of a building governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations shall be maintained in a neat orderly manner, free from any condition that would create a fire or life hazard or a condition which would add to or contribute to the rapid spread of fire. Provisions shall be made for the proper storage and disposal of waste materials and rubbish consistent with the following:

(b) All combustible waste material and rubbish shall be stored in approved containers or shall be stored in a manner approved by the enforcing agency as being consistent with standard fire prevention practices until such waste material and rubbish is removed from the premises or otherwise disposed of in a proper manner.

(1) Containers with a capacity exceeding 5.33 cubic feet (40 gallons) (0.15 m³) shall comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, Section 304.3.

(2) Wastebaskets and linen containers in Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies shall comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9, Section 808.

(c) Approved self-closing metal containers or listed disposal containers by an approved testing or listing agency shall be provided and maintained in all rooms or locations where oily rags, oily waste, paint rags, or similar materials subject to spontaneous ignition are used, or are stored temporarily. Such containers shall be emptied daily.

- ❖ Title 19, Section 3.19.

SECTION 305 IGNITION SOURCES

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 306 MOTION PICTURE PROJECTION ROOMS AND FILM

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 307 OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 308 OPEN FLAMES

308.1.1 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar approved device.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.25(a) and (b)] Open Flame Devices.

(a) Open flame devices shall be prohibited in every Group A, E, I, R-2.1, R-3.1 and R-4 Occupancy.

Exceptions:

(1) Fuel burning elements of approved appliances shall not be considered as open flame devices.

(2) Upon approval of the enforcing agency, open flame devices may be used under the following conditions.

(A) When necessary for ceremonial or theatrical purposes under such restrictions as may be deemed necessary to avoid danger of ignition of combustible materials or injury to occupants.

(B) In approved and stable candle holders on individual tables of dining establishments.

(b) Under no circumstances shall hand held open flame devices such as exposed candles be permitted for any purpose in any occupancy within the scope of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations.

- ❖ Title 19, Section 3.2.5.

308.5 Group I, R-2.1, R-3.1, R-4 occupancies or any Licensed Care Facility. A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized, an open flame in Group I, R-2.1, R-3.1, R-4 occupancies or any Licensed Care Facilities.

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- ❖ 308.5

The above section, as amended, or sections containing California regulations are brought forward with modification. The State Fire Marshal (SFM) proposes to add language to avoid conflict with Health and Safety Code, Section 13210 which defines high-rise buildings and separates Group I-2 occupancies from the term high-rise only, and

not the provisions. For additional information see proposed modifications to the *California Building Code*, Sections 308 and 310. Additional editorial modification is proposed to renumber Section 308.5. There is no change in regulatory effect.

SECTION 309 POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 310 SMOKING

310.2 Prohibited areas. Smoking shall be prohibited where conditions are such as to make smoking a hazard, and in spaces where flammable or combustible materials are stored or handled.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.32(a) and (b)] Smoking.

(a) Smoking shall not be permitted in any Group E Occupancy as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, except as provided in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, subsection (b), below.

(b) The governing board of any school district maintaining a community college or high school may adopt rules and regulations permitting the smoking and possession of tobacco on the campus of a community college or high school or while under the authority of school personnel by pupils of the community college or high school; provided that such rules and regulations shall not permit students to smoke in any classroom or other enclosed facility which any student is required to occupy or which is customarily occupied by nonsmoking students. Areas designated for smoking shall be approved by the enforcing agency.

NOTE: See Section 48901 of the Education Code relating to the smoking or possession of tobacco by pupils.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.32(d)] Smoking.

(d) Smoking shall be prohibited in any patient room of a Group I, R-2.1, R-3.1 or R-4 occupancy utilizing air-induced mattresses. "No Smoking – Open Flame" signs shall be installed as specified in NFPA 99B, *Hypobaric Facilities*, 2005 edition.

- ❖ Title 19, Section 3.32.

310.3 "No Smoking" signs. The fire code official is authorized to order the posting of "No Smoking" signs in a conspicuous location in each structure or location in which smoking is prohibited. The content, lettering, size, color and location of required "No Smoking" signs shall be approved.

Exception: In Group I-2 occupancies where smoking is prohibited, "No Smoking" signs are not required in interior locations of the facility where signs are displayed at all major entrances into the facility.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.32(c)] Smoking.

(c) Approved no smoking signs shall be posted on all stages and platforms of Group A occupancies. Smoking shall not be permitted on stages or platforms except in approved designated areas and as necessary for theatrical, opera or similar productions.

- ❖ Title 19, Section 3.32.

SECTION 311 VACANT PREMISES

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 312 VEHICLE IMPACT PROTECTION

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 313 FUELED EQUIPMENT

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 314 INDOOR DISPLAYS

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 315 GENERAL STORAGE

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 316 HAZARDS TO FIRE FIGHTERS

316.4 Obstructions on roofs. Wires, cables, ropes, antennas, or other suspended obstructions installed on the roof of a building having a roof slope of less than 30 degrees (0.52 rad) shall not create an obstruction that is less than 7 feet (2133 mm) high above the surface of the roof.

Exceptions:

1. Such obstruction shall be permitted where the wire, cable, rope, antenna or suspended obstruction is encased in a white, 2-inch (51 mm) minimum diameter plastic pipe or an approved equivalent.
2. Such obstruction shall be permitted where there is a solid obstruction below such that accidentally walking into the wire, cable, rope, antenna or suspended obstruction is not possible.

[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.05(b)] Fire Department Access and Egress. (Roofs).

(b) Roofs. No person shall install or maintain any security barrier such as barbed wire fencing, razor wire fencing, chain link fencing, or any other fencing material, cable, aerial, antenna, or other obstruction on the roof of any commercial establishment in such a manner as to obstruct or render egress or access hazardous in the event of fire or other emergency.

Exception: Guy wire, rods and aerial antenna masts may be attached to a roof structure having a slope of less than 30 degrees provided there is full clearance of seven feet or more between the roof and said obstruction. Guy wire or rods required to support aerial or antenna masts may be attached to a roof structure a lateral distance from the mast not in excess of one-sixth the height of the mast.

- ❖ Title 19, Section 3.05.

SECTION 317 ROOFTOP GARDENS AND LANDSCAPED ROOFS

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 318 LAUNDRY CARTS


- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 319 MOBILE FOOD PREPARATION VEHICLES

- ❖ No California amendments.

SECTION 320 ROAD TUNNELS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS [SFM]

320.1 General. Road tunnels, bridges, and other limited access highways that are state owned shall comply with NFPA 502.

 2013 Intervening

- ❖ SFM is proposing adoption of NFPA 502, Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways, 2014 Edition for consistency in the overall fire protection engineering practices in these types of structures. The 2014 Edition of NFPA 502 is the most current edition at this time.

Current regulations and state law allow that where regulations do not specifically cover any matter, then recognized fire prevention engineering practices shall be employed, which includes the most current standards of NFPA National Fire Codes. Due to the lengthy time line during the design phase of these projects, the use of the most current NFPA Standard during the design phase may result in financial burden and delays in the

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project. Specifically adopting the 2014 Edition of NFPA 502 will ensure consistency of the fire protection systems in these structures throughout the 2013 Code Cycle. This adoption will also ensure that architects and engineers understand which edition standard they are required to design to.
