

Significant Changes of the Fire Code Technical Subcommittee

Issue Number	Brief Description	Committee Discussion	Committee Position
CC1	Addition of emergency responder radio coverage	Committee generally agreed to the need for such systems in certain buildings. Questions/concerns are: 1) Should not be a blanket requirement with the CEO judgment being the way not to requirement 2) Should be a triggering list for a need, not a performance requirement at the end of the construction process 3) Standardized testing and inspection standards or guidelines should be incorporated.	Unanimously Accept the Technical Requirements, but not the charging language. Recommend inclusion of topic if specific installation criteria can be included.
CC2	Addition of requirements for PV (solar) panel installations	Agreed to by consent of committee- No objections or issues	
CC3	Additional requirements for the code official to post signs and barrier tape regarding vacant buildings	Committee agreed that the placarding requirements that are in the current code are over burdensome in some ways, such as the sign is too big. Committee discussed the ability for alternative notifications, such as 911 centers, paint, and pre-planning that is approve by the FD.	Committee agreed to direct staff to permit the use of alternative notification means, if acceptable to the CEO and FD.
CC4	Addresses design and maintenance of rooftop gardens	Agreed to by consent of committee- No objections or issues	
CC5	Adds new chapter regarding marinas	Agreed to by consent of committee- No objections or issues	
CC6	Certification requirements for fire extinguisher service technicians	Agreed to by consent of committee- No objections or issues	
CC7	Changes fire pump power from standby power to emergency power	Committee thought that this might be over burdensome and could prohibit generator sets with electric fire pumps that have become the industry standard in NYS.	Committee position is that standby power should be appropriate for these locations if the only difference is the startup time. Generators and electric fire pumps should still be permitted.
CC8	Creates the building information sign in an Appendix	Agreed to by consent of committee- No objections or issues	The does not meet all of the truss placarding requirements. The building identification sign was not received well by the committee. The committee would rather see a filing with the FD on new buildings with this information instead.
CC9	In Group E occupancies, removes the allowance for manual pull boxes to be removed because of two-way communications to classrooms. Also requires a voice/alarm communication system.	Committee to review. 2 way communication system are beneficial for more than just fires and manual pull boxes are a source of malicious false alarms.	Committee would like to see coordination with NYSED
CC10	Limits the installation of pressure vessels to ASME only; not DOT	Committee disagrees with the intent of this change. DOT cylinders are the vast majority of cylinders used in commercial, medical, and industrial operations and the reasoning does not provide any justification for this change.	The committee disagrees with the limitation of ASME cylinders.
CC11	Deletion of fire suppression systems of flammable motor-fuel dispensing operations	Discussion regarding falling fire incidents at gas stations by NFPA, system effectiveness, fire testing for listing, costs, fuel system technology, health hazards, and accidental discharges	The committee voted 5-2 to removed the requirements for fire suppression systems at flammable motor-fuel dispensing facilities. The committee unanimously agreed to keep existing systems as required fire protection systems until the fuel dispensing facility meets the requirements of the FCNYS for new construction.
CC12	Change of certain assembly occupancies to 300 persons	Staff reviewed several cases where the 100 person threshold is over burdensome for swimming pools, seasonal assembly spaces, and places of worship.	The committee unanimously accepted that Group A-3 and A-4 occupancies can have an occupant loads and converging exits of up to 300 persons without a sprinkler system as long the space does not have cooking facilities, stages, platforms, or similar uses within or connected to the space and it is not used as a night club or dance hall.