

# CHAPTER 28

## AEROSOLS

### SECTION 2801 GENERAL

**2801.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter, the *International Building Code* and NFPA 30B shall apply to the manufacturing, storage and display of aerosol products. Manufacturing of aerosol products using hazardous materials shall also comply with Chapter 27.

**2801.2 Permit required.** Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.6.

**2801.3 Material Safety Data Sheets.** Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information for aerosol products displayed shall be kept on the premises at an *approved* location.

### SECTION 2802 DEFINITIONS

**2802.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

**AEROSOL.** A product that is dispensed from an aerosol container by a propellant.

Aerosol products shall be classified by means of the calculation of their chemical heats of combustion and shall be designated Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

**Level 1 aerosol products.** Those with a total chemical heat of combustion that is less than or equal to 8,600 British thermal units per pound (Btu/lb) (20 kJ/g).

**Level 2 aerosol products.** Those with a total chemical heat of combustion that is greater than 8,600 Btu/lb (20 kJ/g), but less than or equal to 13,000 Btu/lb (30 kJ/g).

**Level 3 aerosol products.** Those with a total chemical heat of combustion that is greater than 13,000 Btu/lb (30 kJ/g).

**AEROSOL CONTAINER.** A metal can, or a glass or plastic bottle designed to dispense an aerosol. Metal cans shall be limited to a maximum size of 33.8 fluid ounces (1000 ml). Glass or plastic bottles shall be limited to a maximum size of 4 fluid ounces (118 ml).

**AEROSOL WAREHOUSE.** A building used for warehousing aerosol products.

**PROPELLANT.** The liquefied or *compressed gas* in an aerosol container that expels the contents from an aerosol container when the valve is actuated. A propellant is considered flammable if it forms a flammable mixture with air, or if a flame is self-propagating in a mixture with air.

**RETAIL DISPLAY AREA.** The area of a Group M occupancy open for the purpose of viewing or purchasing merchandise offered for sale. Individuals in such establishments are free to circulate among the items offered for sale which are typically displayed on shelves, racks or the floor.

### SECTION 2803 CLASSIFICATION OF AEROSOL PRODUCTS

**2803.1 Classification levels.** Aerosol products shall be classified as Level 1, 2 or 3 in accordance with Table 2803.1 and NFPA 30B. Aerosol products in cartons which are not identified in accordance with this section shall be classified as Level 3.

TABLE 2803.1  
CLASSIFICATION OF AEROSOL PRODUCTS

CHEMICAL HEAT OF COMBUSTION		AEROSOL CLASSIFICATION
Greater than (Btu/lb)	Less than or equal to (Btu/lb)	
0	8,600	1
8,600	13,000	2
13,000	—	3

For SI: 1 British thermal unit per pound = 0.002326 kJ/g.

**2803.2 Identification.** Cartons shall be identified on at least one side with the classification level of the aerosol products contained within the carton as follows:

LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_ AEROSOLS

### SECTION 2804 INSIDE STORAGE OF AEROSOL PRODUCTS

**2804.1 General.** The inside storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products shall comply with Sections 2804.2 through 2804.7 and NFPA 30B. Level 1 aerosol products shall be considered equivalent to a Class III commodity and shall comply with the requirements for palletized or rack storage in NFPA 13.

**2804.2 Storage in Groups A, B, E, F, I and R.** Storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products in occupancies in Groups A, B, E, F, I and R shall be limited to the following maximum quantities:

1. A net weight of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of Level 2 aerosol products.
2. A net weight of 500 pounds (227 kg) of Level 3 aerosol products.
3. A combined net weight of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products.

The maximum quantity shall be increased 100 percent where the excess quantity is stored in storage cabinets in accordance with Section 3404.3.2.

**2804.2.1 Excess storage.** Storage of quantities exceeding the maximum quantities indicated in Section 2804.2 shall be stored in separate inside flammable liquid storage rooms in accordance with Section 2804.5.

**2804.3 Storage in general purpose warehouses.** Aerosol storage in general purpose warehouses utilized only for warehousing-type operations involving mixed commodities shall comply with Section 2804.3.1 or 2804.3.2.

**2804.3.1 Nonsegregated storage.** Storage consisting of solid pile, palletized or rack storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products not segregated into areas utilized exclusively for the storage of aerosols shall comply with Table 2804.3.1.

**TABLE 2804.3.1  
NONSEGREGATED STORAGE OF LEVEL 2 AND 3 AEROSOL  
PRODUCTS IN GENERAL PURPOSE WAREHOUSES<sup>b</sup>**

AEROSOL LEVEL	MAXIMUM NET WEIGHT PER FLOOR (pounds) <sup>b</sup>			
	Palletized or solid-pile storage		Rack storage	
	Unprotected	Protected <sup>a</sup>	Unprotected	Protected <sup>a</sup>
2	2,500	12,000	2,500	24,000
3	1,000	12,000	1,000	24,000
Combination 2 and 3	2,500	12,000	2,500	24,000

- For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Approved automatic sprinkler system protection and storage arrangements shall comply with NFPA 30B. Sprinkler system protection shall extend 20 feet beyond the storage area containing the aerosol products.
  - Storage quantities indicated are the maximum permitted in any 50,000-square-foot area.

**2804.3.2 Segregated storage.** Storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products segregated into areas utilized exclusively for the storage of aerosols shall comply with Table 2804.3.2 and Sections 2804.3.2.1 and 2804.3.2.2.

**2804.3.2.1 Chain-link fence enclosures.** Chain-link fence enclosures required by Table 2804.3.2 shall comply with the following:

- The fence shall not be less than No. 9 gage steel wire, woven into a maximum 2-inch (51 mm) diamond mesh.
- The fence shall be installed from the floor to the underside of the roof or ceiling above.
- Class IV and high-hazard commodities shall be stored outside of the aerosol storage area and a minimum of 8 feet (2438 mm) from the fence.
- Access openings in the fence shall be provided with either self- or automatic-closing devices or a labyrinth opening arrangement preventing aerosol containers from rocketing through the access openings.
- Not less than two *means of egress* shall be provided from the fenced enclosure.

**2804.3.2.2 Aisles.** The minimum aisle requirements for segregated storage in general purpose warehouses shall comply with Table 2804.3.2.2.

**2804.4 Storage in aerosol warehouses.** The total quantity of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products in a warehouse utilized for the storage, shipping and receiving of aerosol products shall not be restricted in structures complying with Sections 2804.4.1 through 2804.4.4.

**TABLE 2804.3.2  
SEGREGATED STORAGE OF LEVEL 2 AND 3 AEROSOL  
PRODUCTS IN GENERAL PURPOSE WAREHOUSES**

STORAGE SEPARATION	MAXIMUM SEGREGATED STORAGE AREA <sup>a</sup>		SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS
	Percentage of building area (percent)	Area limitation (square feet)	
Separation area <sup>c, f</sup>	15	20,000	Notes b, c
Chain-link fence enclosure <sup>d</sup>	20	20,000	Notes b, c
1-hour fire-resistance-rated interior walls	20	30,000	Note b
2-hour fire-resistance-rated interior walls	25	40,000	Note b
3-hour fire-resistance-rated interior walls	30	50,000	Note b

- For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The maximum segregated storage area shall be limited to the smaller of the two areas resulting from the percentage of building area limitation and the area limitation.
  - Automatic sprinkler system protection in aerosol product storage areas shall comply with NFPA 30B and be approved. Building areas not containing aerosol product storage shall be equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
  - Automatic sprinkler system protection in aerosol product storage areas shall comply with NFPA 30B and be approved. Sprinkler system protection shall extend a minimum 20 feet beyond the aerosol storage area.
  - Chain-link fence enclosures shall comply with Section 2804.3.2.1.
  - A separation area shall be defined as an area extending outward from the periphery of the segregated aerosol product storage area as follows.
    - The limits of the aerosol product storage shall be clearly marked on the floor.
    - The separation distance shall be a minimum of 25 feet and maintained clear of all materials with a commodity classification greater than Class III in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
  - Separation areas shall only be permitted where approved.

**TABLE 2804.3.2.2  
SEGREGATED STORAGE AISLE WIDTHS AND DISTANCE TO  
AISLES IN GENERAL PURPOSE WAREHOUSES**

STORAGE CONDITION	MINIMUM AISLE WIDTH (feet)	MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM STORAGE TO AISLE (feet)
Solid pile or palletized <sup>a</sup>	4 feet between piles	25
Racks with ESFR sprinklers <sup>a</sup>	4 feet between racks and adjacent Level 2 and 3 aerosol product storage	25
Racks without ESFR sprinklers <sup>a</sup>	8 feet between racks and adjacent Level 2 and 3 aerosol product storage	25

- For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.
- Sprinklers shall comply with NFPA 30B.

**2804.4.1 Automatic sprinkler system.** Aerosol warehouses shall be protected by an *approved wet-pipe automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with NFPA 30B. Sprinkler protection shall be designed based on the highest classification level of aerosol product present.

**2804.4.2 Pile and palletized storage aisles.** Solid pile and palletized storage shall be arranged so the maximum travel distance to an aisle is 25 feet (7620 mm). Aisles shall have a minimum width of 4 feet (1219 mm).

**2804.4.3 Rack storage aisles.** Rack storage shall be arranged with a minimum aisle width of 8 feet (2438 mm) between rows of racks and 8 feet (2438 mm) between racks and adjacent solid pile or palletized storage. Where early suppression fast-response (ESFR) sprinklers provide automatic sprinkler protection, the minimum aisle width shall be 4 feet (1219 mm).

**2804.4.4 Combustible commodities.** Combustible commodities other than flammable and *combustible liquids* shall be permitted to be stored in an aerosol warehouse.

**Exception:** Flammable and *combustible liquids* in 1-quart (946 mL) metal containers and smaller shall be permitted to be stored in an aerosol warehouse.

**2804.5 Storage in inside flammable liquid storage rooms.** Inside flammable liquid storage rooms shall comply with Section 3404.3.7. The maximum quantities of aerosol products shall comply with Section 2804.5.1 or 2804.5.2.

**2804.5.1 Storage rooms of 500 square feet or less.** The storage of aerosol products in flammable liquid storage rooms less than or equal to 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>) in area shall not exceed the following quantities:

1. A net weight of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of Level 2 aerosol products.
2. A net weight of 500 pounds (227 kg) of Level 3 aerosol products.
3. A combined net weight of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products.

**2804.5.2 Storage rooms greater than 500 square feet.** The storage of aerosol products in flammable liquid storage rooms greater than 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>) in area shall not exceed the following quantities:

1. A net weight of 2,500 pounds (1135 kg) of Level 2 aerosol products.
2. A net weight of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of Level 3 aerosol products.
3. A combined net weight of 2,500 pounds (1135 kg) of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products.

The maximum aggregate storage quantity of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products permitted in separate inside storage rooms protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with NFPA 30B shall be 5,000 pounds (2270 kg).

**2804.6 Storage in liquid warehouses.** The storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products in liquid warehouses shall comply with NFPA 30B. The storage shall be located within segregated storage areas in accordance with Section 2804.3.2 and Sections 2804.6.1 through 2804.6.3.

**2804.6.1 Containment.** Spill control or drainage shall be provided to prevent the flow of liquid to within 8 feet (2438 mm) of the segregated storage area.

**2804.6.2 Sprinkler design.** Sprinkler protection shall be designed based on the highest level of aerosol product present.

**2804.6.3 Opening protection into segregated storage areas.** Fire doors or gates opening into the segregated storage area shall either be self-closing or provided with automatic-closing devices activated by sprinkler water flow or an *approved* fire detection system.

**2804.7 Storage in Group M occupancies.** Storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products in occupancies in Group M shall comply with Table 2804.7. Retail display shall comply with Section 2806.

**TABLE 2804.7  
MAXIMUM QUANTITIES OF LEVEL 2 AND 3 AEROSOL  
PRODUCTS IN RETAIL STORAGE AREAS**

MAXIMUM NET WEIGHT PER FLOOR (pounds)			
Floor	Nonsegregated storage <sup>a, b</sup>	Segregated storage	
		Storage cabinets <sup>b</sup>	Separated from retail area <sup>c</sup>
Basement	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Ground floor	2,500	5,000	Note d
Upper floors	500	1,000	Note d

For SI: 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. The total aggregate quantity on display and in storage shall not exceed the maximum retail display quantity indicated in Section 2806.3.
- b. Storage quantities indicated are the maximum permitted in any 50,000-square-foot area.
- c. The storage area shall be separated from the retail area with a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated assembly.
- d. See Table 2804.3.2.

**SECTION 2805  
OUTSIDE STORAGE**

**2805.1 General.** The outside storage of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products, including storage in temporary storage trailers, shall be separated from exposures in accordance with Table 2805.1.

**TABLE 2805.1  
DISTANCE TO EXPOSURES FOR OUTSIDE STORAGE OF  
LEVEL 2 AND 3 AEROSOL PRODUCTS**

EXPOSURE	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM AEROSOL STORAGE (feet) <sup>a</sup>
Public alleys, public ways, public streets	20
Buildings	50
Exit discharge to a public way	50
Lot lines	20
Other outside storage	50

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. The minimum separation distance indicated is not required where exterior walls having a 2-hour fire-resistance rating without penetrations separate the storage from the exposure. The walls shall extend not less than 30 inches above and to the sides of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products.

**SECTION 2806  
RETAIL DISPLAY**

**2806.1 General.** This section shall apply to the retail display of 500 pounds (227 kg) or more of Level 2 and 3 aerosol products.

**2806.2 Aerosol display and normal merchandising not exceeding 8 feet (2438 mm) high.** Aerosol display and normal merchandising not exceeding 8 feet (2438 mm) in height shall be in accordance with Sections 2806.2.1 through 2806.2.4.

**2806.2.1 Maximum quantities in retail display areas.** Aerosol products in retail display areas shall not exceed quantities needed for display and normal merchandising and shall not exceed the quantities in Table 2806.2.1.

**TABLE 2806.2.1  
MAXIMUM QUANTITIES OF LEVEL 2 AND  
3 AEROSOL PRODUCTS IN RETAIL DISPLAY AREAS**

MAXIMUM NET WEIGHT PER FLOOR (pounds) <sup>P</sup>			
Floor	Unprotected <sup>a</sup>	Protected in accordance with Section 2806.2 <sup>a, c</sup>	Protected in accordance with Section 2806.3 <sup>c</sup>
Basement	Not allowed	500	500
Ground	2,500	10,000	10,000
Upper	500	2,000	Not allowed

For SI: 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. The total quantity shall not exceed 1,000 pounds net weight in any one 100-square-foot retail display area.
- b. Per 25,000-square-foot retail display area.
- c. Minimum Ordinary Hazard Group 2 wet-pipe automatic sprinkler system throughout the retail sales occupancy.

**2806.2.2 Display of containers.** Level 2 and 3 aerosol containers shall not be stacked more than 6 feet (1829 mm) high from the base of the aerosol array to the top of the aerosol array unless the containers are placed on fixed shelving or otherwise secured in an *approved* manner. When storage or retail display is on shelves, the height of such storage or retail display to the top of aerosol containers shall not exceed 8 feet (2438 mm).

**2806.2.3 Combustible cartons.** Aerosol products located in retail display areas shall be removed from combustible cartons.

**Exceptions:**

- 1. Display areas that use a portion of combustible cartons that consist of only the bottom panel and not more than 2 inches (51 mm) of the side panel are allowed.
- 2. When the display area is protected in accordance with Tables 6.3.2.7(a) through 6.3.2.7(l) of NFPA 30B, storage of aerosol products in combustible cartons is allowed.

**2806.2.4 Retail display automatic sprinkler system.** When an *automatic sprinkler system* is required for the protected retail display of aerosol products, the wet-pipe *automatic sprinkler system* shall be in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The minimum system design shall be for an Ordinary Hazard Group 2 occupancy. The system shall be provided throughout the retail display area.

**2806.3 Aerosol display and normal merchandising exceeding 8 feet (2438 mm) high.** Aerosol display and merchandising exceeding 8 feet in height shall be in accordance with Sections 2806.3.1 through 2806.3.3.

**2806.3.1 Maximum quantities in retail display areas.** Aerosol products in retail display areas shall not exceed quantities needed for display and normal merchandising and shall not exceed the quantities in Table 2806.2.1, with fire protection in accordance with Section 2806.3.2.

**2806.3.2 Automatic sprinkler protection.** Aerosol display and merchandising areas shall be protected by an *automatic sprinkler system* based on the requirements set forth in Tables 6.3.2.7(a) through 6.3.2.7(l) of NFPA 30B and the following:

- 1. Protection shall be based on the highest level of aerosol product in the array and the packaging method of the storage located more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above the finished floor.
- 2. When using the cartoned aerosol tables of NFPA 30B, uncartoned or display-cut Level 2 and 3 aerosols shall be permitted not more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above the finished floor.
- 3. The design area for Level 2 and 3 aerosols shall extend not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) beyond the Level 2 and 3 aerosol display and merchandising areas.
- 4. Where ordinary and high-temperature ceiling sprinkler systems are adjacent to each other, noncombustible draft curtains shall be installed at the interface.

**2806.3.3 Separation of Level 2 and 3 aerosol areas.** Separation of Level 2 and 3 aerosol areas shall comply with the following:

- 1. Level 2 and 3 aerosol display and merchandising areas shall be separated from each other by not less than 25 feet (7620 mm). Also see Table 2806.2.1.
- 2. Level 2 and 3 aerosol display and merchandising areas shall be separated from flammable and *combustible liquids* storage and display areas by one or a combination of the following:
  - 2.1. Segregating areas from each other by horizontal distance of not less than 25 feet (7620 mm).
  - 2.2. Isolating areas from each other by a noncombustible partition extending not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the merchandise.
  - 2.3. In accordance with Section 2806.5.
- 3. When Item 2.2 above is used to separate Level 2 or 3 aerosols from flammable or *combustible liquids*, and the aerosol products are located within 25 feet (7620 mm) of flammable or *combustible liquids*, the area below the noncombustible partition shall be liquid tight at the floor to prevent spilled liquids from flowing beneath the aerosol products.



**2806.4 Maximum quantities in storage areas.** Aerosol products in storage areas adjacent to retail display areas shall not exceed the quantities in Table 2806.4.

**2806.5 Special protection design for Level 2 and 3 aerosols adjacent to flammable and combustible liquids in double-row racks.** The display and merchandising of Level 2 and 3 aerosols adjacent to flammable and *combustible liquids* in double-row racks shall be in accordance with Sections 2806.5.1 through 2806.5.8 or Section 2806.3.3.

**2806.5.1 Fire protection.** Fire protection for the display and merchandising of Level 2 and 3 aerosols in double-row racks shall be in accordance with Table 7.4.1 and Figure 7.4.1 of NFPA 30B.

**2806.5.2 Cartoned products.** Level 2 and 3 aerosols displayed or merchandised more than 8 feet (2438 mm) above the finished floor shall be in cartons.

**2806.5.3 Shelving.** Shelving in racks shall be limited to wire mesh shelving having uniform openings not more than 6 inches (152 mm) apart, with the openings comprising at least 50 percent of the overall shelf area.

**2806.5.4 Aisles.** Racks shall be arranged so that aisles not less than 7½ feet (2286 mm) wide are maintained between rows of racks and adjacent solid-piled or palletized merchandise.

**2806.5.5 Flue spaces.** Flue spaces in racks shall comply with the following:

1. Transverse flue spaces—Nominal 3-inch (76 mm) transverse flue spaces shall be maintained between merchandise and rack uprights.
2. Longitudinal flue spaces—Nominal 6-inch (152 mm) longitudinal flue spaces shall be maintained.

**2806.5.6 Horizontal barriers.** Horizontal barriers constructed of minimum ¾-inch-thick (10 mm) plywood or minimum 0.034-inch (0.086 mm) (No. 22 gage) sheet metal shall be provided and located in accordance with Table 7.4.1 and Figure 7.4.1 of NFPA 30B when in-rack sprinklers are installed.

**2806.5.7 Class I, II, III, IV and plastic commodities.** Class I, II, III, IV and plastic commodities located adjacent to Level 2 and 3 aerosols shall be protected in accordance with NFPA 13.

**2806.5.8 Flammable and combustible liquids.** Class I, II, III A and III B Liquids shall be allowed to be located adjacent to Level 2 and 3 aerosol products when the following conditions are met:

1. Class I, II, IIIA and IIIB liquid containers: Containers for Class I, II, IIIA and IIIB liquids shall be limited to 1.06-gallon (4 L) metal-relieving and nonrelieving style containers and 5.3-gallon (20 L) metal-relieving style containers, and
2. Fire protection for Class I, II, IIIA and IIIB Liquids: Automatic sprinkler protection for Class I, II, IIIA and IIIB liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34.

**SECTION 2807  
MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**

**2807.1 General.** Manufacturing facilities shall be in accordance with NFPA 30B.

**TABLE 2806.4  
MAXIMUM STORAGE QUANTITIES FOR STORAGE AREAS ADJACENT TO RETAIL  
DISPLAY OF LEVEL 2 AND 3 AEROSOLS**

MAXIMUM NET WEIGHT PER FLOOR (POUNDS)			
Floor	Unseparated <sup>a,b</sup>	Separated	
		Storage Cabinets <sup>b</sup>	1-hour Occupancy Separation
Basement	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Ground	2,500	5,000	In accordance with Sections 6.3.4.3 and 6.3.4.4 of NFPA 30B
Upper	500	1,000	In accordance with Sections 6.3.4.3 and 6.3.4.4 of NFPA 30B

For SI: 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

a. The aggregate quantity in storage and retail display shall not exceed the quantity limits for retail display.

b. In any 50,000-square-foot area.

