

# CHAPTER 1

## ADMINISTRATION

### SECTION 101 GENERAL

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the *Seattle Fire Code* ((of [NAME OF JURISDICTION])), hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

Throughout this code, where references are made to the *International Building Code*, *International Residential Code*, *International Mechanical Code*, *International Fuel Gas Code* and the *International Existing Building Code*, those references mean the Seattle version of those codes. Where the *International Code Council Electrical Code Administrative Provisions* are referenced, it means the *Seattle Electrical Code*, which is the Seattle version of the *National Electrical Code*.

**101.2 Scope.** This code establishes regulations affecting or relating to structures, processes, premises, motor vehicles, marine vessels and safeguards regarding:

1. The hazard of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling or use of structures, materials or devices;
2. Conditions hazardous to life, property or public welfare in the occupancy of structures or premises;
3. Fire hazards in the structure or on the premises from occupancy or operation;
4. Matters related to the construction, extension, repair, alteration or removal of fire suppression or alarm systems.

**101.2.1 Appendices.** Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.

**101.3 Intent.** The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, premises, motor vehicles and marine vessels.

This code is enacted as an exercise of the police power of the City of Seattle to protect the public peace, health, safety and welfare, and its provisions shall be liberally construed to accomplish these purposes. The express purpose of this code is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefitted by the terms of this code or ordinance.

The specific intent of this code is to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon the owners or occupiers of premises, buildings, motor vehicles, marine vessels, and structures within its scope. No provision or term used in this code is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the city, or any of its officers or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of this code is discretionary, not mandatory.

((The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.))

**101.4 Severability.** If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

**101.5 Validity.** In the event any part or provision of this code is held to be illegal or void, this shall not have the effect of making void or illegal any of the other parts or provisions hereof, which are determined to be legal; and it shall be presumed that this code would have been adopted without such illegal or invalid parts or provisions.

**101.6 Point of information or code interpretation.** Text marked “Point of Information” or “Code Interpretation” in the *Seattle Fire Code* is for guidance only and shall not have the force of law.

### SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY

**102.1 Construction and design provisions.** The construction and design provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities and conditions arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code. A condition is not “legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code” unless the condition is in compliance with the building code and fire code of the City of Seattle in effect when the condition first arose, and the practice, process, materials used and storage configurations have not changed since the condition first arose.
3. Existing structures, facilities and conditions when identified in specific sections of this code.
4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions which, in the opinion of the fire code official, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.

**102.2 Administrative, operational and maintenance provisions.** The administrative, operational and maintenance provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Conditions and operations arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing conditions and operations.

**102.3 Change of use or occupancy.** No change shall be made in the use or occupancy of any structure that would place the

structure in a different division of the same group or occupancy or in a different group of occupancies, unless such structure is made to comply with the requirements of this code and the ~~((International))~~ *Seattle Building Code*. Subject to the approval of the fire code official, the use or occupancy of an existing structure shall be allowed to be changed and the structure is allowed to be occupied for purposes in other groups without conforming to all the requirements of this code and the ~~((International))~~ *Seattle Building Code* for those groups, provided the new or proposed use is less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing use.

**102.4 Application of building code.** The design and construction of new structures shall comply with the ~~((International))~~ *Seattle Building Code*, and any alterations, additions, changes in use or changes in structures required by this code, which are within the scope of the ~~((International))~~ *Seattle Building Code*, shall be made in accordance therewith.

**102.5 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings when such buildings or structures do not constitute a distinct hazard to life or property. Fire protection in designated historic buildings and structures shall be provided in accordance with an approved fire protection plan.

**102.6 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 45 and such codes and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between the provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply.

**102.7 Subjects not regulated by this code.** Where no applicable standards or requirements are set forth in this code, or are contained within other laws, codes, regulations, ordinances or bylaws adopted by the jurisdiction, compliance with applicable standards of the National Fire Protection Association or other nationally recognized fire safety standards, as approved, shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with the intent of this code. Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority of the fire code official to determine compliance with codes or standards for those activities or installations within the fire code official's jurisdiction or responsibility.

**102.8 Matters not provided for.** Requirements that are essential for the public safety of an existing or proposed activity, building or structure, or for the safety of the occupants thereof, which are not specifically provided for by this code shall be determined by the fire code official.

**102.9 Conflicting provisions.** Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

## SECTION 103 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PREVENTION

**103.1 General.** The department of fire prevention is established within the jurisdiction under the direction of the fire

code official. The function of the department shall be the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of this code.

~~((103.2 Appointment. The fire code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction; and the fire code official shall not be removed from office except for cause and after full opportunity to be heard on specific and relevant charges by and before the appointing authority.))~~

**103.2(3) Deputies.** In accordance with the prescribed procedures of this jurisdiction and with the concurrence of the appointing authority, the fire code official shall have the authority to appoint a deputy fire code official, other related technical officers, inspectors and other employees.

~~103.3(4) Liability for damages. Nothing contained in this code is intended to, nor shall be construed to, create or form the basis for any liability on the part of the city, its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of the owner or occupier of premises, buildings, structures, motor vehicles or marine vessels, to comply with this code, or for any injury or damage caused by any act or omission on the part of the city by its officers, employees or agents in the course of implementing or enforcing this code.~~

~~Any lawsuit brought against the city, or its officers or employees because of acts or omissions in the implementation or enforcement of this code, or other pertinent laws, ordinances or regulations implemented through the enforcement of this code or enforced by the fire code official, shall be defended by the city until final termination of such lawsuit, and any judgment or settlement resulting there from shall be assumed by the city as provided by Chapter 4.64 and other relevant sections of the *Seattle Municipal Code*.~~

~~Limited public funds are available for the implementation and enforcement of this code. The issuance of permits, reviews of permit applications, and inspections conducted pursuant to this code are spot checks designed to encourage compliance, and are not representations, guarantees or assurances that permits, or work undertaken pursuant to issuance of permits, comply with any applicable codes. ((The fire code official, officer or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of an act required or permitted in the discharge of official duties.))~~

~~((103.4.1 Legal defense. Any suit instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The fire code official or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in an action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code; and any officer of the department of fire prevention, acting in good faith and without malice, shall be free from liability for acts performed under any of its provisions or by reason of any act or omission in the performance of official duties in connection therewith.))~~

## SECTION 104 GENERAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**104.1 General.** The fire code official is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this code and shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code.

**104.2 Applications and permits.** The fire code official is authorized to receive applications, review construction documents and issue permits for construction regulated by this code, issue permits for operations regulated by this code, inspect the premises for which such permits have been issued and enforce compliance with the provisions of this code.

↳ **104.3 Right of entry.** Whenever it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code, or whenever the fire code official has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in a building or upon any premises any conditions or violations of this code which make the building or premises unsafe, dangerous or hazardous, the fire code official shall have the authority to enter the building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect or to perform the duties imposed upon the fire code official by this code. If such building or premises is occupied, the fire code official shall present credentials to the occupant and request entry. If such building or premises is unoccupied, the fire code official shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If entry is refused, the fire code official has recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

With the consent of the owner or occupier of a building, premises, motor vehicle, or marine vessel or pursuant to a lawfully issued warrant, the fire code official may enter any building, premises, motor vehicle, or marine vessel at any reasonable time to inspect or to perform the duties authorized by this code.

**104.3.1 Warrant.** ~~((When the fire code official has first obtained a proper inspection warrant or other remedy provided by law to secure entry, an))~~ An owner or occupant or person having charge, care or control of the building or premises shall not fail or neglect, after a warrant is presented ~~((proper request is made as herein provided,))~~ to permit entry therein by the fire code official for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code.

**104.4 Identification.** The fire code official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or premises in the performance of duties under this code.

**104.5 Notices and orders.** The fire code official is authorized to issue such notices or orders as are required to affect compliance with this code in accordance with Sections 109.1 and 109.2.

**104.6 Official records.** The fire code official shall keep official records as required by Sections 104.6.1 through 104.6.4. Such official records shall be retained for not less than five years or for as long as the structure or activity to which such

records relate remains in existence, unless otherwise provided by other regulations.

**104.6.1 Approvals.** A record of approvals shall be maintained by the fire code official and shall be available for public inspection during business hours in accordance with applicable laws.

**104.6.2 Inspections.** The fire code official shall keep a record of ~~((each inspection made, including notices))~~ violations, correction letters and orders issued, showing the findings and disposition of each. The fire code official shall serve the responsible party with a copy of violations, correction letters and orders issued.

**104.6.3 Fire records.** The fire department shall keep a record of fires occurring within its jurisdiction and of facts concerning the same, including statistics as to the extent of such fires and the damage caused thereby, together with other information as required by the fire code official.

**104.6.4 Administrative.** Application for modification, alternative methods or materials and the final decision of the fire code official shall be in writing and shall be officially recorded in the permanent records of the fire code official.

**104.7 Approved materials and equipment.** All materials, equipment and devices approved by the fire code official shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval.

**104.7.1 Material and equipment reuse.** Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused or reinstalled unless such elements have been reconditioned, tested and placed in good and proper working condition and approved.

**104.7.2 Technical assistance.** To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to inspection by the fire code official, the fire code official is authorized to require the owner or agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the fire code official and shall analyze the fire safety properties of the design, operation or use of the building or premises and the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon, to recommend necessary changes. The fire code official is authorized to require design submittals to be prepared by, and bear the stamp of, a registered design professional.

**104.8 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the fire code official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the fire code official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the department of fire prevention.

**104.9 Alternative materials and methods.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alterna-

tive has been approved. The fire code official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

**104.10 Fire investigations.** The fire code official, the fire department or other responsible authority shall have the authority to investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of any fire, explosion or other hazardous condition. Information that could be related to trade secrets or processes shall not be made part of the public record except as directed by a court of law.

**104.10.1 Assistance from other agencies.** Police and other enforcement agencies shall have authority to render necessary assistance in the investigation of fires when requested to do so.

**104.11 Authority at fires and other emergencies.** The fire chief or officer of the fire department in charge at the scene of a fire or other emergency involving the protection of life or property or any part thereof, shall have the authority to direct such operation as necessary to extinguish or control any fire, perform any rescue operation, investigate the existence of suspected or reported fires, gas leaks or other hazardous conditions or situations, or take any other action necessary in the reasonable performance of duty. In the exercise of such power, the fire chief is authorized to prohibit any person, vehicle, vessel or thing from approaching the scene and is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed or kept away from the scene, any vehicle, vessel or thing which could impede or interfere with the operations of the fire department and, in the judgment of the fire chief, any person not actually and usefully employed in the extinguishing of such fire or in the preservation of property in the vicinity thereof.

**104.11.1 Barricades.** The fire chief or officer of the fire department in charge at the scene of an emergency is authorized to place ropes, guards, barricades or other obstructions across any street, alley, place or private property in the vicinity of such operation so as to prevent accidents or interference with the lawful efforts of the fire department to manage and control the situation and to handle fire apparatus.

**104.11.2 Obstructing operations.** No person shall obstruct the operations of the fire department in connection with extinguishment, ((or)) control or investigation of any fire, or actions relative to other emergencies, or disobey any lawful command of the fire chief or officer of the fire department in charge of the emergency, or any part thereof, or any lawful order of a police officer assisting the fire department.

Any person who obstructs the operation of the fire department in connection with extinguishing any fire or responding to any emergency, or in the performance of other duties authorized by this code, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 109 of the *Seattle Fire Code*.

**104.11.3 Systems and devices.** No person shall render a system or device inoperative during an emergency unless

by direction of the fire chief or fire department official in charge of the incident.

**104.12 Motor vehicle impoundment and removal.** The fire code official may order the impoundment or removal of a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

1. The motor vehicle poses an immediate hazard to public safety; or
2. The motor vehicle is transporting hazardous materials, and is left unattended on a residential street or within 500 feet (152 400 mm) of any building containing a Group A, R, E or I occupancy, including, but not limited to, any dwelling apartment, hotel, day care, school, hospital or health care facility; or
3. The motor vehicle contains or is carrying hazardous materials, or flammable or combustible liquids or gases, and is left unattended while transferring such materials, liquids or gases by means of hose line.

The Seattle Police Department shall carry out motor vehicle impoundment orders of the fire code official in accordance with the authority of this section, Chapter 11.30 of the *Seattle Municipal Code* and impoundment procedures of the Seattle Police Department.

**104.13 Prohibition.** The fire code official may prohibit the use, display or sale of any device, material or object that is designed to be used in such a manner as to violate any provisions of this code, or where the use or sale of such constitutes a distinct hazard to life or property.

Any materials shown by test to have a life hazard greater than that indicated and controlled by building code interior finish regulations or fire code decorative material regulations is either prohibited or shall be installed or used with such additional fire safety features as are necessary to substantially reduce the life hazard.

**104.14 Standby personnel.** When, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in an assembly occupancy or any other place where people congregate, due to the number of persons, or the nature of performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved by the fire code official, to be on duty at such place. Such individual shall be subject to the fire code official's orders at all times when so employed and shall be in uniform and remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted. Such individuals shall not be required or permitted, while on duty, to perform any duties other than those specified.

## SECTION 105 PERMITS

**105.1 General.** Permits shall be in accordance with Sections 105.1.1 through 105.7.13.

**105.1.1 Permits required.** Permits required by this code shall be obtained from the fire code official prior to engaging in the activities or operations for which they are required. Permit fees, if any, ((shall)) may be required to be paid prior to issuance of the permit. Issued permits shall be

kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire code official.

**105.1.2 Types of permits.** There shall be ~~((two))~~ three types of permits as follows:

1. Operational permit. An operational permit allows the applicant to conduct an operation or a business for which a permit is required by Section 105.6 for either:
  - 1.1. A prescribed period.
  - 1.2. Until renewed or revoked.
2. ~~((Construction))~~ Installation permit. An ~~((construction))~~ installation permit allows the applicant to install, ~~((or))~~ modify or remove systems and equipment for which a permit is required by Section 105.7.
3. Temporary permit. The fire code official may issue temporary permits establishing fire safety controls for:
  - 3.1. A time-limited activity not specifically regulated, but where regulatory safeguards are necessary because of unusual circumstances; and
  - 3.2. Interim operation of a regulated activity at reduced scope and/or with temporary fire safeguards until permanent fire prevention features are provided.

**105.1.3 Permits for the same location.** When more than one permit is required for the same location, the fire code official is authorized to consolidate such permits into a single permit provided that each provision is listed in the permit.

**105.2 Application.** Application for a permit required by this code shall be made to the fire code official in such form and detail as prescribed by the fire code official. Applications for permits shall be accompanied by such plans as prescribed by the fire code official.

**105.2.1 Refusal to issue permit.** If the application for a permit describes a use that does not conform to the requirements of this code and other pertinent laws and ordinances, the fire code official shall not issue a permit, but shall return the application to the applicant with the refusal to issue such permit. Such refusal shall, when requested, be in writing and shall contain the reasons for refusal.

**105.2.2 Inspection authorized.** Before a new operational permit is approved, the fire code official is authorized to inspect the receptacles, vehicles, buildings, devices, premises, storage spaces or areas to be used to determine compliance with this code or any operational constraints required.

~~((105.2.3 Time limitation of application. An application for a permit for any proposed work or operation shall be deemed to have been abandoned six months after the date of filing, unless such application has been diligently prosecuted or a permit shall have been issued; except that the fire code official is authorized to grant one or more extensions of time for additional periods not exceeding 90 days each if there is reasonable cause.))~~

**105.2.3((4)) Action on application.** The fire code official shall examine or cause to be examined applications for permits and amendments thereto within a reasonable time after

filing. If the application or the construction documents do not conform to the requirements of pertinent laws, the fire code official shall reject such application in writing, stating the reasons therefor. If the fire code official is satisfied that the proposed work or operation conforms to the requirements of this code and laws and ordinances applicable thereto, the fire code official shall issue a permit therefore as soon as practicable.

**105.3 Conditions of a permit.** ~~The fire code official may condition any permit, increasing or decreasing the scope of activity, and/or specifying fire safety provisions in addition to those established by this code, where the fire code official deems such conditions are necessary to provide reasonable public safety.~~ A permit shall constitute permission to maintain, store or handle materials; or to conduct processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property; or to install equipment utilized in connection with such activities; or to install or modify any fire protection system or equipment or any other construction, equipment installation or modification in accordance with the provisions of this code where a permit is required by Section 105.6 or 105.7. Such permission shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of this code or other applicable regulations or laws of the jurisdiction.

**105.3.1 Expiration.** An operational permit shall remain in effect until reissued, renewed, or revoked or for such a period of time as specified in the permit. ~~((Construction permits shall automatically become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within 180 days after its issuance, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work is commenced. Before such work recommences, a new permit shall be first obtained and the fee to recommence work, if any, shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original construction documents for such work, and provided further that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one year.))~~ Permits are not transferable and any change in occupancy, operation, tenancy or ownership shall require that a new permit be issued.

~~((105.3.2 Extensions. A permittee holding an unexpired permit shall have the right to apply for an extension of the time within which the permittee will commence work under that permit when work is unable to be commenced within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The fire code official is authorized to grant, in writing, one or more extensions of the time period of a permit for periods of not more than 90 days each. Such extensions shall be requested by the permit holder in writing and justifiable cause demonstrated.))~~

**Point of Information**

Approval to occupy a building or structure is granted by the Department of Planning and Development through issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. A Fire Department recommendation to issue an occupancy certificate is conditional upon applicable provisions of this code being met.

**105.3.2((3)) Occupancy prohibited before approval.** The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to approval by the fire code official. ~~((issuing a permit that indicates that applicable provisions of this code have been met.))~~

**105.3.3((4)) Conditional approval to occupy ((permits)).** ~~((Where permits are required and upon the request of a permit applicant, t))~~ The fire code official is authorized to recommend to the building code official that a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy be issued granting a conditional permit to occupy the premises or portion thereof before the entire work or operations on the premises is completed, provided that such portion or portions will be occupied safely prior to full completion or installation of equipment and operations without endangering life or public welfare. The fire code official shall notify the ~~((permit applicant))~~ building code official in writing of any limitations or restrictions necessary to keep the permit area safe. The holder of a conditional permit shall proceed only to the point for which approval has been given, at the permit holder's own risk and without assurance that approval for the occupancy or the utilization of the entire premises, equipment or operations will be granted.

**105.3.4((5)) Posting the permit.** Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire code official.

**105.3.5((6)) Compliance with code.** The issuance or granting of a permit shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or of any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. Permits presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid. The issuance of a permit based on construction documents and other data shall not prevent the fire code official from requiring the correction of errors in the construction documents and other data. Any addition to or alteration of approved construction documents shall be approved in advance by the fire code official, as evidenced by the issuance of a new or amended permit.

**105.3.6((7)) Information on the permit.** The fire code official shall issue all permits required by this code on an approved form furnished for that purpose. The permit shall contain a general description of the operation or occupancy and its location and any other information required by the fire code official. Issued permits shall bear the signature of the fire code official or other approved legal authorization.

**105.3.7 Liability Insurance.** Where liability insurance is required by any section of this code or as a permit condition for any controlled hazardous activity, the applicant shall file with the fire code official: 1) a "Certificate of Insurance" showing the policy effective date, limits of liability and name of the insurance company; 2) a copy of the actual policy endorsement designating THE CITY OF SEATTLE as an additional insured for governmental permitting and on a primary and non-contributory basis; and 3) the declaration page(s) showing the existing coverages and policy limits. The applicant's policy shall evidence a "Comprehensive General Liability" (including automobile coverage) insurance limit of \$2 million (\$2,000,000), combined single limit

per occurrence and annual aggregate, no deductible and naming the City of Seattle as an additional insured. The fire code official may increase or decrease these amounts.

In those instances where this code requires, as a condition of issuing a permit, that the applicant for the license provide insurance, the purpose of the requirement is to insure that members of the public and the City will be compensated for losses caused by personal injury or property damage resulting from the negligent acts of the licensees or their agents or employees.

Whenever the issuance of a permit is conditioned upon obtaining a policy or policies of public liability insurance by the applicant for such permit, the policy:

1. Shall be issued by a company or companies authorized to do business as an insurer in Washington State pursuant to the provisions of RCW Title 48 as now or hereafter amended;
2. Shall contain, by endorsement or otherwise, the following recital:  
"This policy is issued pursuant to Section 105 of the Seattle Fire Code (as amended), of the City of Seattle for the purpose of complying with the conditions and requirements of the code. Any exception, limitation, provision or omission in this policy (including all other endorsements thereto) in conflict with such condition or requirement is void. This policy shall be continuous until canceled and terminable only on at least ten (10) days written notice to the fire code official."
3. May be approved as to sufficiency and form by the City Attorney and/or the City Risk Manager at the request of the fire code official.

**105.4 Construction documents.** Construction documents shall be in accordance with this section.

**105.4.1 Submittals.** Construction documents shall be submitted in one or more sets and in such form and detail as required by the fire code official. The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the fire code official ~~((statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed))~~.

**105.4.2 Information on construction documents.** Construction documents shall be drawn to scale upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are allowed to be submitted when approved by the fire code official. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as determined by the fire code official.

**105.4.3 Applicant responsibility.** It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the construction documents include all of the fire protection requirements and the shop drawings are complete and in compliance with the applicable codes and standards.

**105.4.4 Approved documents.** Construction documents approved by the fire code official are approved with the intent that such construction documents comply in all respects with this code. Review and approval by the fire

code official shall not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of compliance with this code.

**105.4.5 Corrected documents.** Where field conditions necessitate any substantial change from the approved construction documents, the fire code official shall have the authority to require the corrected construction documents to be submitted for approval.

~~((105.4.6 Retention of construction documents. One set of construction documents shall be retained by the fire code official until final approval of the work covered therein. One set of approved construction documents shall be returned to the applicant, and said set shall be kept on the site of the building or work at all times during which the work authorized thereby is in progress.))~~

~~((105.5 Revocation. The fire code official is authorized to revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this code when it is found by inspection or otherwise that there has been a false statement or misrepresentation as to the material facts in the application or construction documents on which the permit or approval was based including, but not limited to, any one of the following:~~

- ~~1. The permit is used for a location or establishment other than that for which it was issued.~~
- ~~2. The permit is used for a condition or activity other than that listed in the permit.~~
- ~~3. Conditions and limitations set forth in the permit have been violated.~~
- ~~4. There have been any false statements or misrepresentations as to the material fact in the application for permit or plans submitted or a condition of the permit.~~
- ~~5. The permit is used by a different person or firm than the name for which it was issued.~~
- ~~6. The permittee failed, refused or neglected to comply with orders or notices duly served in accordance with the provisions of this code within the time provided therein.~~
- ~~7. The permit was issued in error or in violation of an ordinance, regulation or this code.))~~

### **105.5 Revocation of permits and certificates.**

**105.5.1 Nonemergency revocations, suspensions and denials of renewals.** In accordance with applicable law, the fire code official may revoke, suspend or deny a request to renew any permit or certificate upon evidence submitted to the fire code official that conditions or circumstances have changed so that continued use of the permit or certificate would be unsafe. Such conditions or circumstances include, but are not limited to:

1. The permit has been used by a person other than the person to whom the permit was issued,
2. The permit has been used for a location other than that for which it was issued,
3. Any of the conditions or limitations set forth in the permit have been violated,
4. The permittee failed, refused or neglected to comply with orders or notices duly served in accordance with

the provisions of this code within the time provided therein.

5. There has been a false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the application or plans on which the permit or application was based, or
6. The permit was issued in error or in violation of any code, regulation or other law.

The permit or certificate holder shall be notified in writing no later than 5 business days prior to the revocation, suspension or denial of a request to renew such permit or certificate. The permit or certificate holder may request in writing a hearing before the fire code official for reconsideration of the decision to revoke, suspend or deny renewal. The request shall be filed with the fire code official by 5 o'clock p.m. of the second business day following service of the notice. The hearing shall be held no later than 1 business day from receipt of a written request. The fire code official shall issue a final decision, in writing, sustaining, modifying or withdrawing the initial decision to revoke, suspend or deny a request to renew the permit or certificate no later than the next business day following such hearing. Further appeals shall be in accordance with Section 108 of this code.

**105.5.2 Emergency Revocations, suspensions and denials of requests to renew.** The fire code official may revoke, suspend or deny a request to renew a permit or certificate in emergency situations, without providing prior notice to the permit or certificate holder, when an imminent fire, life-safety or other hazard regulated by this code exists, and failure to take immediate action may cause imminent harm to humans, domestic animals, livestock, wildlife, or to the immediate or neighboring property, lands or premises.

Where such emergency is found to exist, all certificates and permits shall be surrendered to the fire code official or his/her authorized representative upon demand. Those activities sanctioned by the suspended or revoked certificates or permits will be suspended until the fire code official finds the emergency no longer exists.

Persons surrendering said certificates and/or permits may appeal the fire code official's action by filing a written notice of appeal to the fire code official by 5 o'clock p.m. of the next business day following such revocation, suspension or denial or a request to renew a permit or certificate. The hearing with the fire code official shall be no later than 1 working day from the receipt of such written appeal.

The fire code official shall issue a final decision in writing, sustaining, modifying or withdrawing the initial decision to revoke, suspend or deny a request to renew the certificate or permit no later than the next business day following such hearing. Further appeals shall be in accordance with Section 108 of this code.

**105.6 Required operational permits.** The fire code official is authorized to issue operational permits for the operations set forth in Sections 105.6.1 through 105.6.46.

**105.6.1 Aerosol products.** An operational permit is required to manufacture, store or handle an aggregate quan-

tity of Level 2 or Level 3 aerosol products in excess of 500 pounds (227 kg) net weight.

**105.6.2 Amusement buildings.** An operational permit is required to operate a special amusement building.

**105.6.3 Aviation facilities.** An operational permit is required to use a Group H or Group S occupancy for aircraft servicing or repair and aircraft fuel-servicing vehicles. Additional permits required by other sections of this code include, but are not limited to, hot work, hazardous materials and flammable or combustible finishes.

**105.6.3.1 Battery systems.** An operational permit is required to maintain and operate a stationary lead-acid battery system((s)) having ((a)) an electrolyte liquid capacity of more than 50 gallons (189 L).

**105.6.3.2 Bonfires.** An operational permit is required to ignite a bonfire.

**105.6.4 Carnivals and fairs.** An operational permit is required to conduct a carnival or fair.

**105.6.5 Cellulose nitrate film.** An operational permit is required to store, handle or use cellulose nitrate film in a Group A occupancy.

**105.6.6 Combustible dust-producing operations.** An operational permit is required to operate a grain elevator, flour starch mill, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, or other operations producing combustible dusts as defined in Chapter 2.

**105.6.7 Combustible fibers.** An operational permit is required for the storage and handling of combustible fibers in quantities greater than 100 cubic feet (2.8 m<sup>3</sup>).

**Exception:** A permit is not required for agricultural storage.

**105.6.7.1 Combustible storage.** An operational permit is required to store in any building or upon any premises in excess of 2,500 cubic feet (71 m<sup>3</sup>) gross volume of combustible empty packing cases, boxes, barrels or similar containers, rubber tires, rubber, cork or similar combustible material.

**105.6.8 Compressed gases.** An operational permit is required for the storage, use or handling at normal temperature and pressure (NTP) of compressed gases in excess of the amounts listed in Table 105.6.8.

**Exception:** Vehicles equipped for and using compressed gas as a fuel for propelling the vehicle.

**TABLE 105.6.8  
PERMIT AMOUNTS FOR COMPRESSED GASES**

TYPE OF GAS	AMOUNT (cubic feet at NTP)
Corrosive	200
Flammable (except cryogenic fluids and liquefied petroleum gases)	200
Highly toxic	Any Amount
Inert and simple asphyxiant	6,000
Oxidizing (including oxygen)	504
Pyrophoric	Any Amount
Toxic	Any Amount

For SI: 1 cubic foot = 0.02832 m<sup>3</sup>.

**105.6.9.1 Covered mall buildings.** An operational permit is required for:

1. The placement of retail fixtures and displays, concession equipment, displays of highly combustible goods and similar items in the mall.
2. The display of liquid- or gas-fired equipment in the mall.
3. The use of open-flame or flame-producing equipment in the mall.

**105.6.9. 2 Cruise ship hazardous operations.** An operational permit is required to conduct hazardous operations on a cruise ship at a passenger terminal. Example: Hot work and fuel transfers.

**105.6.10 Cryogenic fluids.** An operational permit is required to produce, store, transport on site, use, handle or dispense cryogenic fluids in excess of the amounts listed in Table 105.6.10.

**Exception:** Permits are not required for vehicles equipped for and using cryogenic fluids as a fuel for propelling the vehicle or for refrigerating the lading.

**TABLE 105.6.10  
PERMIT AMOUNTS FOR CRYOGENIC FLUIDS**

TYPE OF CRYOGENIC FLUID	INSIDE BUILDING (gallons)	OUTSIDE BUILDING (gallons)
Flammable	More than 1	60
Inert	60	500
Oxidizing (includes oxygen)	10	50
Physical or health hazard not indicated above	Any Amount	Any Amount

For SI: 1 gallon = 3.785 L.

**105.6.11 Cutting and welding.** ((An operational permit is required to conduct cutting or welding operations within the jurisdiction.))

**Point of Information**

Cutting and welding operations, see Hot work operations. 105.6.23.

**105.6.12 Dry cleaning plants.** An operational permit is required to engage in the business of dry cleaning or to change to a more hazardous cleaning solvent used in existing dry cleaning equipment.

**105.6.13 Exhibits and trade shows.** An operational permit is required to operate exhibits and trade shows.

**105.6.14 Explosives.** An operational permit is required for the ((manufacture;)) storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosives, explosive materials, fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects within the scope of Chapter 33.

**Exception:** Storage in Group R-3 occupancies of smokeless propellant, black powder and small arms primers for personal use, not for resale and in accordance with Section 3306.



**105.6.15 Fire hydrants and valves.** An operational permit is required to use or operate fire hydrants or valves intended for fire suppression purposes which are installed on water systems and accessible to a fire apparatus access road that is open to or generally used by the public.

**Exception:** A permit is not required for authorized employees of the water company that supplies the system or the fire department to use or operate fire hydrants or valves.

**105.6.16 Flammable and combustible liquids.** An operational permit is required:

1. To use or operate a pipeline for the transportation within facilities of flammable or combustible liquids. This requirement shall not apply to the off-site transportation in pipelines regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOTn) nor does it apply to piping systems.
2. To store, handle or use Class I liquids in excess of 5 gallons (19 L) in a building or in excess of 10 gallons (37.9 L) outside of a building, except that a permit is not required for the following:
  - 2.1. The storage or use of Class I liquids in the fuel tank of a motor vehicle, aircraft, motorboat, mobile power plant or mobile heating plant, or storage of approved portable motor boat fuel containers of 6 gallons (22.7 L) or less individual capacity and 12 gallons (45.4 L) aggregate capacity, unless such storage, in the opinion of the fire code official, would cause an unsafe condition.
  - 2.2. The storage or use of paints, oils, varnishes or similar flammable mixtures when such liquids are stored for maintenance, painting or similar purposes for a period of not more than 30 days.
3. To store, handle or use Class II or Class IIIA liquids in excess of 25 gallons (95 L) in a building or in excess of 60 gallons (227 L) outside a building, except for fuel oil used in connection with oil-burning equipment.
4. To remove Class I or Class II liquids from an underground storage tank used for fueling motor vehicles by any means other than the approved, stationary on-site pumps normally used for dispensing purposes.
5. To operate tank vehicles, equipment, tanks, plants, terminals, wells, fuel-dispensing stations, refineries, distilleries and similar facilities where flammable and combustible liquids are produced, processed, transported, stored, dispensed or used.
6. To place temporarily out of service (for more than 90 days) an underground, protected above-ground or above-ground flammable or combustible liquid tank.
7. To change the type of contents stored in a flammable or combustible liquid tank to a material which poses a

greater hazard than that for which the tank was designed and constructed.

8. To manufacture, process, blend or refine flammable or combustible liquids.
9. To engage in the dispensing of liquid fuels into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental or manufacturing establishments.
10. To utilize a site for the dispensing of liquid fuels from tank vehicles into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental or manufacturing establishments.
11. To store, handle or use Class III-B liquids in excess of 1,000 gallons (3785 L).
12. To engage in the business of removing, abandoning or otherwise disposing of residential heating oil tanks.

**105.6.17 Floor finishing.** An operational permit is required for floor finishing or surfacing operations exceeding 350 square feet (33 m<sup>2</sup>) using Class I or Class II liquids.

**105.6.18 Fruit and crop ripening.** An operational permit is required to operate a fruit-, or crop-ripening facility or conduct a fruit-ripening process using ethylene gas.

**105.6.19 Fumigation and thermal insecticidal fogging.** An operational permit is required to operate a business of fumigation or thermal insecticidal fogging and to maintain a room, vault, freight container or chamber in which a toxic or flammable fumigant is used.

**105.6.20.1 Hazardous materials.** An operational permit is required to store, transport on site, dispense, use or handle hazardous materials in excess of the amounts listed in Table 105.6.20.

**105.6.20.2 Hazardous materials stabilization.** An operational permit is required to stabilize potentially unstable (reactive) hazardous materials.

**105.6.21.1 HPM facilities.** An operational permit is required to store, handle or use hazardous production materials.

**105.6.21.2 Helicopter lifts.** An operational permit is required to move suspended loads via helicopter over populated areas.

**105.6.22 High-piled storage.** An operational permit is required to use a building or portion thereof as a high-piled storage area exceeding 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>).

**105.6.23 Hot work operations.** An operational permit is required for hot work including, but not limited to:

1. Public exhibitions and demonstrations where hot work is conducted.
2. Use of portable hot work equipment, ~~((inside a structure-))~~

**Exception:** ~~((Work that is conducted under a construction permit-))~~

1. Within Group R, Division 3 and Group U Occupancies.

2. Torch assemblies connected for use to an acetylene gas cylinder having a maximum individual capacity of 40 cubic feet (1.13 m<sup>3</sup>).
3. Approved self-contained torch assemblies or similar appliances using LP-gas in accordance with the following:
  - a. LP-gas cylinders shall comply with UL 147A, Standard for Nonrefillable (Disposable) Type Fuel Gas Cylinder Assemblies.
  - b. LP-gas cylinders shall have a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb (1.2 kg).
  - c. The maximum aggregate water capacity of LP-gas cylinders in storage (e.g. not connected for use) and use shall not exceed 2.7 lb (1.2 kg) per control area.
3. Fixed-site hot work equipment such as welding booths.  
((4. Hot work conducted within a hazardous fire area.))
- 4.((5-)) Application of roof coverings with the use of an open-flame device.
5. Hot work on storage tanks, piping and associated systems containing or previously containing flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials that could present a fire or explosion hazard.
6. Hot work on marine vessels.
- 7.((6-)) When approved, the fire code official ((shall)) is authorized to issue a permit to carry out a Hot Work Program. This program allows approved personnel to regulate their facility's hot work operations. The approved personnel shall be trained in the fire safety aspects denoted in this chapter and shall be responsible for issuing permits requiring compliance with the requirements found in Chapter 26. These permits shall be issued only to their employees or hot work operations under their supervision.

**105.6.24 Industrial ovens.** An operational permit is required for operation of industrial ovens regulated by Chapter 21.

**105.6.25 Lumber yards and woodworking plants.** An operational permit is required for the storage or processing of lumber exceeding 100,000 board feet (8,333 ft<sup>3</sup>) (236 m<sup>3</sup>).

**105.6.26 Liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings.** An operational permit is required to display, operate or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings.

**105.6.27 LP-gas.** An operational permit is required for:

1. Storage and use of LP-gas.

**Exceptions:**

1. A permit is not required for individual containers with a ((500)) 125-gallon (((1893)))

**TABLE 105.6.20  
PERMIT AMOUNTS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

TYPE OF MATERIAL	AMOUNT
Combustible liquids	See Section 105.6.16
Corrosive materials	
Gases	See Section 105.6.8
Liquids	55 gallons
Solids	1000 pounds
Explosive materials	See Section 105.6.14
Flammable materials	
Gases	See Section 105.6.8
Liquids	See Section 105.6.16
Solids	100 pounds
Highly toxic materials	
Gases	See Section 105.6.8
Liquids	Any Amount
Solids	Any Amount
Oxidizing materials	
Gases	See Section 105.6.8
Liquids	
Class 4	Any Amount
Class 3	1 gallon <sup>a</sup>
Class 2	10 gallons
Class 1	55 gallons
Solids	
Class 4	Any Amount
Class 3	10 pounds <sup>b</sup>
Class 2	100 pounds
Class 1	500 pounds
Organic peroxides	
Liquids	
Class I	Any Amount
Class II	Any Amount
Class III	1 gallon
Class IV	2 gallons
Class V	No Permit Required
Solids	
Class I	Any Amount
Class II	Any Amount
Class III	10 pounds
Class IV	20 pounds
Class V	No Permit Required
Pyrophoric materials	
Gases	Any Amount
Liquids	Any Amount
Solids	Any Amount
Toxic materials	
Gases	See Section 105.6.8
Liquids	10 gallons
Solids	100 pounds
Unstable (reactive) materials	
Liquids	
Class 4	Any Amount
Class 3	Any Amount
Class 2	5 gallons
Class 1	10 gallons
Solids	
Class 4	Any Amount
Class 3	Any Amount
Class 2	50 pounds
Class 1	100 pounds
Water-reactive Materials	
Liquids	
Class 3	Any Amount
Class 2	5 gallons
Class 1	55 gallons
Solids	
Class 3	Any Amount
Class 2	50 pounds
Class 1	500 pounds

For SI: 1 gallon = 3.785 L, 1 pound = 0.454 kg.

- a. 20 gallons when Table 2703.1.1(1) Note k applies and hazard identification signs in accordance with Section 2703.5 are provided for quantities of 20 gallons or less.
- b. 200 pounds when Table 2703.1.1(1) Note k applies and hazard identification signs in accordance with Section 2703.5 are provided for quantities of 200 pounds or less.

473 L) water capacity or less or multiple containers with an aggregate quantity not exceeding 125 gallons (473 L), serving occupancies in Group R-3.

2. A permit is not required for LP-gas containers having a water capacity not exceeding 48 pounds [nominal 20 pounds (9 kg) LP-gas] connected to a LP-gas grill unless at a public assembly or on or serving a public way.
3. A permit is not required for storage of up to three spare forklift containers each having a maximum individual water capacity of 104 pounds (10 gallons LP-gas).

2. Operation of cargo tankers that transport LP-gas.

**105.6.28 Magnesium.** An operational permit is required to melt, cast, heat treat or grind more than 10 pounds (4.54 kg) of magnesium.

**105.6.29 Marine terminal.** An annual operational permit is required to handle or temporarily locate containers, tanks, or cylinders of hazardous materials at marine terminals located within the Seattle City limits. ~~((Miscellaneous combustible storage. An operational permit is required to store in any building or upon any premises in excess of 2,500 cubic feet (71 m<sup>3</sup>) gross volume of combustible empty packing cases, boxes, barrels or similar containers, rubber tires, rubber, cork or similar combustible material.))~~

**105.6.30 Open burning.** An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.

**Exception:** Recreational fires.

**105.6.31 Open flames and torches.** ~~((An operational permit is required to remove paint with a torch; or to use a torch or open flame device in a hazardous fire area.))~~ See Section 105.6.23 hot work operations.

**Point of Information**

See Section 105.6.23, which requires a permit for all hot work.

**105.6.32 Open flames and candles.** An operational permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments.

**Point of Information**

Open flame and candle permit conditions are included in assembly permits at no additional fee.

**105.6.33 Organic coatings.** An operational permit is required for any organic-coating manufacturing operation producing more than 1 gallon (4 L) of an organic coating in one day.

**105.6.34 ((Places of a) Assembly occupancy.** An operational permit is required to operate an ((place of)) assembly occupancy with an occupant load of 100 or more.

**105.6.34.1 Temporary assembly occupancy.** Temporary alterations to the existing means of egress, character or use of any facility used as an assembly occupancy shall be under separate temporary assembly occupancy permit.

Plans shall be submitted when required by the fire code official.

**105.6.35 Private fire hydrants.** An operational permit is required for the removal from service, use or operation of private fire hydrants.

**Exception:** A permit is not required for private industry with trained maintenance personnel, private fire brigade or fire departments to maintain, test and use private hydrants.

**105.6.36 Pyrotechnic special effects material.** An operational permit is required for use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material.

**105.6.37 Pyroxylin plastics.** An operational permit is required for storage or handling of more than 25 pounds (11 kg) of cellulose nitrate (pyroxylin) plastics and for the assembly or manufacture of articles involving pyroxylin plastics.

**105.6.38 Refrigeration equipment.** ~~((An operational permit is required to operate a mechanical refrigeration unit or system regulated by Chapter 6.))~~

**105.6.39 Repair garages and motor fuel-dispensing facilities.** An operational permit is required for operation of repair garages and automotive, marine and fleet motor fuel-dispensing facilities.

**105.6.40 Rooftop heliports.** An operational permit is required for the operation of a rooftop heliport.

**105.6.41 Spraying or dipping.** An operational permit is required to conduct a spraying or dipping operation utilizing flammable or combustible liquids or the application of combustible powders regulated by Chapter 15.

**105.6.42 Storage of tires, scrap tires and tire byproducts.** An operational permit is required to establish, conduct or maintain storage of scrap tires and tire byproducts that exceeds 2,500 cubic feet (71 m<sup>3</sup>) of total volume of scrap tires and for indoor storage of tires and tire byproducts. An operational permit is also required for indoor storage of tires and tire byproducts as regulated by Chapter 23.

**105.6.43 Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies.** See 105.7.13. ~~((An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet (19 m<sup>2</sup>); or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet (37 m<sup>2</sup>)).~~

**Exceptions:**

1. ~~Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.~~
2. ~~Fabric canopies open on all sides which comply with all of the following:~~

- 2.1. ~~Individual canopies having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>).~~
- 2.2. ~~The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a fire break clearance of not less than 12 feet (3658 mm) shall not exceed 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>) total.~~
- 2.3. ~~A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to structures and other tents shall be provided.~~

**105.6.44 Tire-rebuilding plants.** An operational permit is required for the operation and maintenance of a tire-rebuilding plant.

**105.6.45 Waste handling.** An operational permit is required for the operation of wrecking yards, junk yards and waste material-handling facilities.

**105.6.46 Wood products.** An operational permit is required to store chips, hogged material, lumber or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet (6 m<sup>3</sup>).

**105.7 Required ((~~construction~~)) installation permits.** The fire code official is authorized to issue installation ((~~construction~~)) permits for work as set forth in Sections 105.7.1 through 105.7.10(3).

**Point of Information**

Building permits for construction are issued by the Department of Planning and Design (DPD). The fire code official does not require separate Fire Department issued installation permits for the following:

- Automatic fire-extinguishing systems.
- Fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment.
- Standpipe systems.

All fire protection systems must be Confidence Tested in accordance with this code and Administrative Rule 9.02.07 Confidence Test Requirements for Life Safety Systems.

**Fire Department Installation and Operational Permits**

Where an installation permit is required, if an operational permit is also required, the approved installation permit is renewable annually as an operational permit.

**105.7.1 Automatic fire-extinguishing systems.** ((~~A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to an automatic fire-extinguishing system. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.~~))

**105.7.2 Battery systems.** A permit is required to install stationary storage battery systems having a liquid electrolyte capacity of more than 50 gallons (189 L).

**105.7.3 Compressed gases.** When the compressed gases in use or storage exceed the amounts listed in Table 105.6.8, an installation ((~~construction~~)) permit is required to install, repair damage to, abandon, remove, place temporarily out

of service, or close or substantially modify a compressed gas system.

**Exceptions:**

1. Routine maintenance.
2. For emergency repair work performed on an emergency basis, application for permit shall be made within two working days of commencement of work.

The permit applicant shall apply for approval to close storage, use or handling facilities at least 30 days prior to the termination of the storage, use or handling of compressed or liquefied gases. Such application shall include any change or alteration of the facility closure plan filed pursuant to Section 2701.6.3. The 30-day period is not applicable when approved based on special circumstances requiring such waiver.

**105.7.4 Fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment.** ((~~A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.~~))

**105.7.5 Fire pumps and related equipment.** An installation ((~~construction~~)) permit is required for installation of ((~~or modification to fire pumps and related~~)) fuel tanks, jockey pumps, controllers, and generators. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.

**105.7.6 Flammable and combustible liquids.** An installation ((~~construction~~)) permit is required:

1. To repair or modify a pipeline for the transportation of flammable or combustible liquids.
2. To install, construct or alter tank vehicles, equipment, tanks, plants, terminals, wells, fuel-dispensing stations, refineries, distilleries and similar facilities where flammable and combustible liquids are produced, processed, transported, stored, dispensed or used.
3. To install, alter, remove, abandon or otherwise dispose of a flammable or combustible liquid tank.

**105.7.7 Hazardous materials.** An installation ((~~construction~~)) permit is required to install, repair damage to, abandon, remove, place temporarily out of service, or close or substantially modify a storage facility or other area regulated by Chapter 27 when the hazardous materials in use or storage exceed the amounts listed in Table 105.6.20.

**Exceptions:**

1. Routine maintenance.
2. For emergency repair work performed on an emergency basis, application for permit shall be made within two working days of commencement of work.

**105.7.8 Industrial ovens.** An installation ((~~construction~~)) permit is required for installation of industrial ovens covered by Chapter 21.

**Exceptions:**

1. Routine maintenance.
2. For repair work performed on an emergency basis, application for permit shall be made within two working days of commencement of work.

**105.7.9 LP-gas.** ~~An installation ((construction)) permit is required for installation of or modification to an LP-gas system.~~

**105.7.10 Refrigeration permit.** ~~An installation permit is required to install a mechanical refrigeration unit or system regulated by Chapter 6. ((Private fire hydrants. A construction permit is required for the installation or modification of private fire hydrants.))~~

**105.7.11 Spraying or dipping.** ~~An installation ((construction)) permit is required to install or modify a spray room, dip tank or booth.~~

**105.7.12 Standpipe systems.** ~~((A construction permit is required for the installation, modification, or removal from service of a standpipe system. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.))~~

**105.7.13 Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies.** ~~An ((construction)) installation permit is required to erect an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet (19 m<sup>2</sup>), or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet (37 m<sup>2</sup>).~~

**Exceptions:**

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Funeral tents and curtains or extensions attached thereto, when used for funeral services.

~~((3. Fabric canopies and awnings open on all sides which comply with all of the following:~~

- ~~3.1. Individual canopies shall have a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>).~~
- ~~3.2. The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a fire break clearance of not less than 12 feet (3658 mm) shall not exceed 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>) total.~~
- ~~3.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to structures and other tents shall be maintained.))~~

## SECTION 106 INSPECTIONS

**106.1 Inspection authority.** The fire code official is authorized to enter and examine any building, structure, marine vessel, vehicle or premises in accordance with Section 104.3 for the purpose of enforcing this code.

**106.2 Inspections.** The fire code official is authorized to conduct such inspections as are deemed necessary to determine the extent of compliance with the provisions of this code and to

approve reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All reports of such inspections shall be prepared and submitted in writing for review and approval. Inspection reports shall be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual. The fire code official is authorized to engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual, detailed or complex technical issues subject to the approval of the governing body.

**106.3 Concealed work.** Whenever any installation subject to inspection prior to use is covered or concealed without having first been inspected, the fire code official shall have the authority to require that such work be exposed for inspection.

It is the duty of both the permit applicant and contractor to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. Neither the fire code official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

**106.4 Approvals.** Approval as the result of an inspection shall not be construed to be an approval of a violation of the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction. Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

106.5 Special inspections. The fire code official is authorized to appoint qualified persons or agencies having special technical skills as special inspectors or plan reviewers and accept their inspection, plan review and evaluation of specialized fire protection equipment or systems.

The fire code official is authorized to accept inspections performed by other jurisdictions and agencies and honor permits and certificates issued by other jurisdictions for activities regulated by this code, upon presentation to the fire code official of satisfactory evidence that such inspections, permits and certificates are substantially in accord with the fire safety requirements of this code.

## SECTION 107 MAINTENANCE

**107.1 Maintenance of safeguards.** Whenever or wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this code, or otherwise installed, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or other feature shall thereafter be continuously maintained in accordance with this code and applicable referenced standards.

**107.2 Testing and operation.** Equipment requiring periodic testing or operation to ensure maintenance shall be tested or operated as specified in this code.

**107.2.1 Test and inspection records.** Required test and inspection records shall be available to the fire code official at all times or such records as the fire code official designates shall be filed with the fire code official.

**107.2.2 Reinspection and testing.** Where any work or installation does not pass an initial test or inspection, the necessary corrections shall be made so as to achieve compli-

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ance with this code. The work or installation shall then be resubmitted to the fire code official for inspection and testing.

**107.3 Supervision.** Maintenance and testing shall be under the supervision of a responsible person who shall ensure that such maintenance and testing are conducted at specified intervals in accordance with this code.

**107.4 Rendering equipment inoperable.** Portable or fixed fire-extinguishing systems or devices and fire-warning systems shall not be rendered inoperative or inaccessible except as necessary during emergencies, maintenance, repairs, alterations, drills or prescribed testing.

**107.5 Owner/occupant responsibility.** Correction and abatement of violations of this code shall be the responsibility of the owner. If an occupant creates, or allows to be created, hazardous conditions in violation of this code, the occupant shall be held responsible for the abatement of such hazardous conditions.

**107.6 Overcrowding.** Overcrowding or admittance of any person beyond the approved capacity of a building or a portion thereof shall not be allowed. The fire code official, upon finding any overcrowding conditions or obstructions in aisles, passageways or other means of egress, or upon finding any condition which constitutes a life safety hazard, shall be authorized to direct actions be taken to reduce the overcrowding or cause the event to be stopped until such condition or obstruction is corrected.

### SECTION 108 (BOARD-OF) APPEALS

#### Point of Information

For information on appeals procedures, see Seattle Fire Department Information Bulletin *Requesting a Review by the Seattle Fire Code Appeals Board* at <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/firecode/infobulletins/fmoBulletins.htm>

**108.1 Appeals.** Appeals from decisions or actions pertaining to the application and interpretation of this Code shall first be addressed to the fire code official. If not resolved with the fire code official, the appellant may submit a written request to the fire code official for a review by the Fire Code Appeals Board in accordance with all applicable by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances. The results of this review will be advisory only, in accordance with City of Seattle Ordinance 119799. Following receipt of the Fire Code Appeals Board recommendation the fire chief shall issue a final written decision. ((Board of appeals established. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the fire code official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, there shall be and is hereby created a board of appeals. The board of appeals shall be appointed by the governing body and shall hold office at its pleasure. The fire code official shall be an ex officio member of said board but shall have no vote on any matter before the board. The board shall adopt rules of procedure for conducting its business, and shall render all decisions

and findings in writing to the appellant with a duplicate copy to the fire code official.))

~~((108.2 Limitations on authority. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the intent of this code or the rules legally adopted hereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do not fully apply, or an equivalent method of protection or safety is proposed. The board shall have no authority to waive requirements of this code.))~~

~~((108.3 Qualifications. The board of appeals shall consist of members who are qualified by experience and training to pass on matters pertaining to hazards of fire, explosions, hazardous conditions or fire protection systems and are not employees of the jurisdiction.))~~

### SECTION 109 VIOLATIONS

**109.1 Unlawful acts.** It shall be unlawful for a person, ~~((firm or corporation))~~ to erect, construct, alter, repair, remove, demolish or utilize a building, occupancy, premises or system regulated by this code, or cause same to be done, in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code. It is a violation of the Seattle Fire Code for any person ((-firm or corporation)) to fail to comply with the Seattle Fire Code or with any order issued by the fire code official.

**109.2 Notice of violation.** When the fire code official finds a building, premises, vehicle, marine vessel, storage facility or outdoor area that is in violation of this code, the fire code official is authorized to issue ((prepare)) a written notice of violation describing the violation ((conditions deemed unsafe)) and, when compliance is not immediate, specifying a time for reinspection. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to limit or preclude any other enforcement action or proceeding, and nothing in this section shall be deemed to obligate or require the fire code official to issue a notice of violation prior to the imposition of civil or criminal penalties.

**109.2.1 Service.** A notice of violation issued pursuant to this code shall be served upon the owner, operator, occupant, or other person responsible for the condition or violation, either by personal service, mail, or by delivering the same to, and leaving it with, some person of responsibility upon the premises. For unattended or abandoned locations, a copy of such notice of violation shall be posted on the premises in a conspicuous place at or near the entrance to such premises and the notice of violation shall be mailed by certified mail with return receipt requested or a certificate of mailing, to the last known address of the owner, occupant or both.

**109.2.2 Compliance with orders and notices.** A notice of violation issued or served as provided by this code shall be complied with by the owner, operator, occupant or other person responsible for the condition or violation to which the notice of violation pertains.

**109.2.3 Prosecution of violations.** If the notice of violation is not complied with promptly, the fire code official is authorized to request the legal counsel of the jurisdiction to institute the appropriate legal proceedings at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation or to

require removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant hereto.

**109.2.4 Unauthorized tampering.** Signs, tags or seals posted or affixed by the fire code official shall not be mutilated, destroyed or tampered with or removed without authorization from the fire code official.

### **109.3 (~~Violation-p~~) Penalties.**

**109.3.1 Alternative civil penalties.** Any person (~~Persons~~) who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction or installation documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be subject to a cumulative civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per day for each violation from the time the violation occurs or begins until compliance is achieved. The penalty shall be collected by civil action brought in the name of the city. The fire code official shall notify the city attorney in writing of the name of any person, firm or corporation subject to the penalty, and the city attorney shall, with the assistance of the fire code official, take appropriate action to collect the penalty. In any civil action for a penalty, the city has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation exists or existed. ((guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE], punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS], or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.))

**109.3.2 Alternative criminal penalty.** Any person who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction or installation documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor subject to the provisions of *Seattle Municipal Code* Chapters 12A.02 and 12A.04, except that absolute liability shall be imposed for such a violation or failure to comply and none of the mental states described in Section 12A.04.030 need be proved. The fire code official may request the City Attorney prosecute such violations criminally as an alternative to the civil penalties provision. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense. ((109.3.1 Abatement of violation. In addition to the imposition of the penalties herein described, the fire code official is authorized to institute appropriate action to prevent unlawful construction or to restrain, correct or abate a violation; or to prevent illegal occupancy of a structure or premises; or to stop an illegal act, conduct of business or occupancy of a structure on or about any premises.))

**109.4 Abatement of violation.** In addition to the imposition of civil and criminal penalties, the fire code official is authorized to institute appropriate action to prevent unlawful construction or installation or to restrain, correct or abate a violation; or to prevent illegal occupancy of a structure or premises; or to stop

an illegal act, conduct of business or occupancy of a structure on or about any premises.

## **SECTION 110 UNSAFE BUILDINGS, PREMISES, MOTOR VEHICLES AND MARINE VESSELS**

**110.1 General.** If (~~during the inspection of~~) a premises, a building or structure or any building system, motor vehicle or marine vessel, in whole or in part, endangers any property, the health or safety of the occupants, or the occupants of neighboring premises, buildings, motor vehicles, marine vessels, or the public or fire department personnel ((constitutes a clear and inimical threat to human life, safety or health,)) the fire code official shall issue such notice or orders to remove or remedy the conditions as shall be deemed necessary in accordance with this section, (~~and shall~~) The fire code official may refer ((the)) any unsafe premises or building to the ((building department)) Department of Planning and Development for any repairs, alterations, remodeling, removing or demolition required.

**110.1.1 Unsafe conditions.** Structures, premises or existing equipment that are or hereafter become unsafe, or deficient, because of inadequate means of egress or which constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life or the public welfare, or which involve illegal or improper occupancy or inadequate maintenance, which are otherwise dangerous to human life or public welfare, shall be deemed an unsafe condition. A vacant structure which is not secured against unauthorized entry as required by Section 311 shall be deemed unsafe.

**110.1.2 Structural hazards.** When an apparent structural hazard is caused by the faulty installation, operation or malfunction of any of the items or devices governed by this code, the fire code official (~~shall~~) is authorized to immediately notify the building code official in accordance with Section 110.1.

**110.2 Evacuation.** The fire code official or the fire department official in charge of an incident shall be authorized to order the immediate evacuation of any occupied premises, building, motor vehicle or marine vessel deemed unsafe when such premises, building, motor vehicle or marine vessel has hazardous conditions that present imminent danger to building, premises, motor vehicle or marine vessel occupants. Persons so notified shall immediately leave the structure or premises, motor vehicle or marine vessel and shall not enter or re-enter until authorized to do so by the fire code official or the fire department official in charge of the incident.

**110.3 Summary abatement.** Where conditions exist that are deemed hazardous to life and property, the fire code official or fire department official in charge of the incident is authorized to abate summarily such hazardous conditions that are in violation of this code.

**110.4 Abatement.** The owner, operator, or occupant of a building or premises deemed unsafe by the fire code official shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such unsafe conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other approved corrective action.

**SECTION 111  
STOP WORK OR USE ORDER**

**111.1 Order.** Whenever the fire code official finds any work or use regulated by this code being performed in a manner contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, the fire code official is authorized to issue a stop work or use order.

**111.2 Issuance.** A stop work or use order shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to the owner's agent, or to the person doing the work or use. Upon issuance of a stop work or use order, the cited work or use shall immediately cease. The stop work or use order shall state the reason for the order, and the conditions under which the cited work or use is authorized to resume.

**111.3 Emergencies.** Where an emergency exists, the fire code official shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work or use.

**111.4 Failure to comply.** It is a violation of this code for ((A)) any person ((who shall)) to continue any work or use after having been served with a stop work order or use order, except such work or use as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition. ((, shall be liable to a fine of not less than [AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.))