



LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

KRISTIN M. CROWLEY
FIRE CHIEF

March 9, 2023

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 23-025

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: 2023 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE CHANGES

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| FINAL ACTION: | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Denied | <input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

SUMMARY

The three-year code adoption cycle for the Los Angeles Fire Code (L AFC) required the process used in 2019 be replicated to create the 2023 L AFC. The new L AFC will go into effect in 2023. An ordinance was drafted by the City Attorney in coordination with the Fire Code Cadre within the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) in order to implement the changes to the California Fire Code (CFC) and maintain the amendments established for the City of Los Angeles (City).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and File

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department has budgeted for the editing, publication, and purchase of the 2023 L AFC amendment package.

DISCUSSION

The California Health and Safety Code requires that local jurisdictions adopt intended amendments within 180 days of the CFC's triennial adoption. The CFC was adopted in January 2022 and ultimately published in July 2022. This requires the City of Los Angeles to adopt amendments by the State of California.

The Board of Fire Commissioners asked for a follow-up report on the key changes that are part of an ordinance drafted for the City Council within the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Chapter 5, Article 7 in order to replace the current L AFC and to adopt the proposed 2023 L AFC amendment package which is based on the 2022 CFC and the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC) published by the International Code Council (ICC) with amendments.

CONCLUSION

The IFC model code is the base document used to develop the CFC. The adoption of the model IFC and CFC with the City's amendments will create the new 2023 LAFC. Creation of the updated LAFC will allow the City to provide consistent fire protection for the unique challenges found in Los Angeles. All proposed City amendments will be vetted through the ICC or the CFC Code development process.

The LAFC fills a critical need to provide additional public safety regulations beyond both the IFC and CFC's general fire precautions and the maintenance of fire protection systems for hazards unique to Southern California and Los Angeles.

Board Report prepared by Chad Richardson, Commander, Planning Unit, Administrative Section, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.

Attachment



Key Changes 2023 LAFC

Prepared by Chad Richardson - Captain I / Paramedic
Fire Prevention & Public Safety Bureau - Planning Unit

Agenda

Adoption Process

Code Access

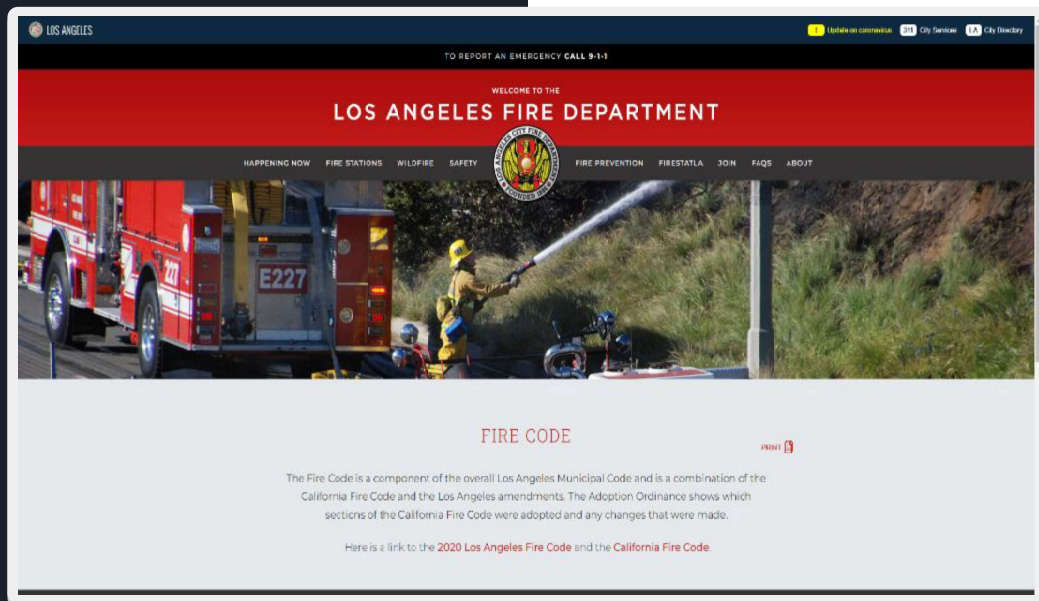
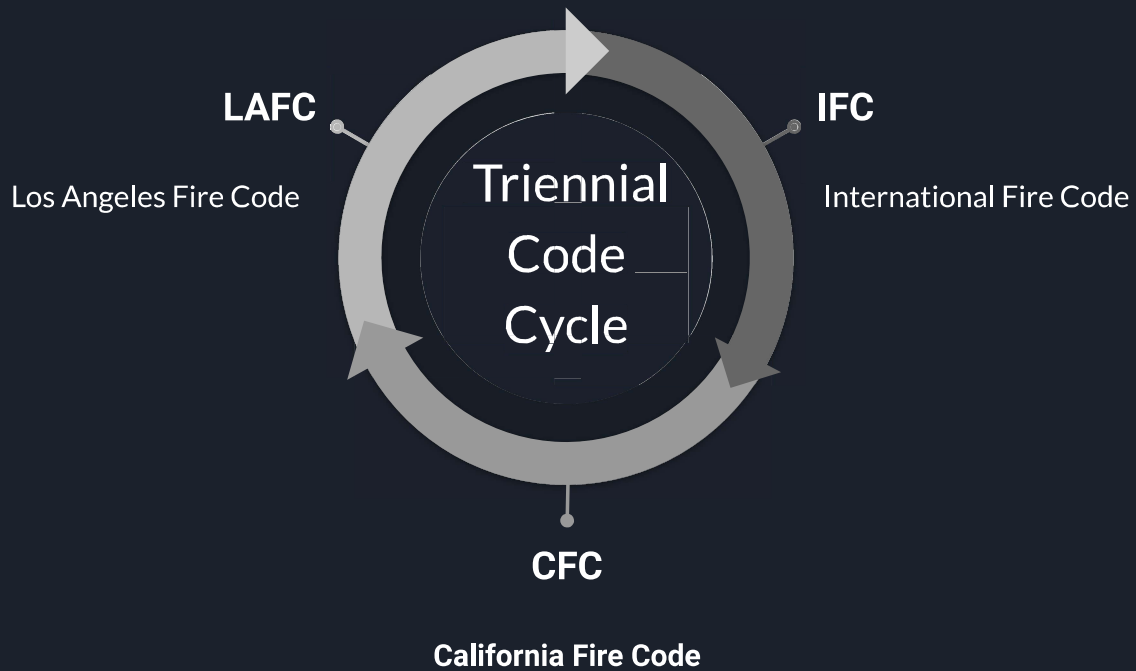
Ordinance Adoption

Markings

Matrix

Significant Changes

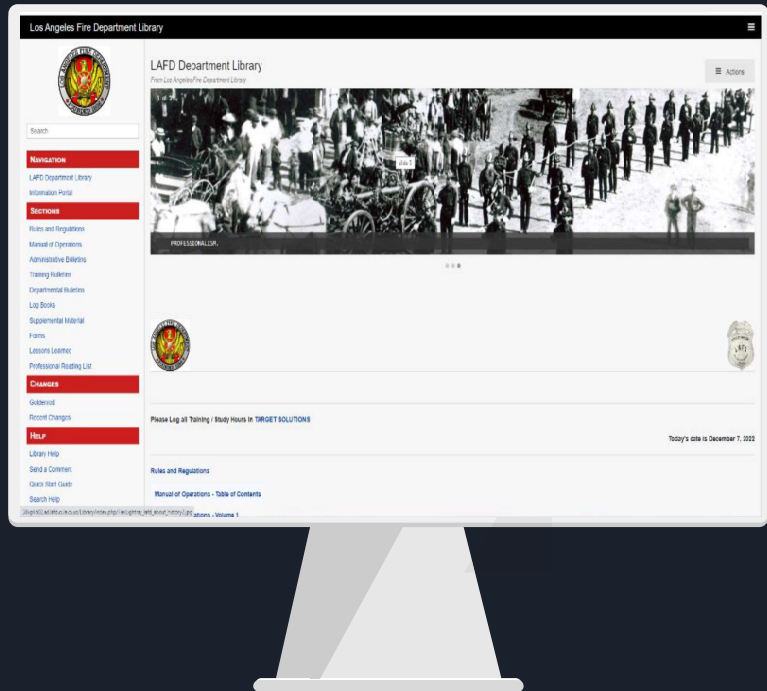
Adoption Process



LAFD.org provides public access to the current adopted LAFC and CFC.

LAFD Department Library

Contains Book 57 which is the latest LA Fire Code in a digital format for members to utilize.



City of Los Angeles Fire Code Adoption

The City of Los Angeles Fire Code is 1 large ordinance that references the California Fire Code along with ALL previously adopted ordinances related to the Fire Code that were more restrictive based on the following justification:

- Climatical
- Geological
- Topographical

Markings in Margins

Single solid vertical line in the margin indicates a change from the requirements of the 2018 IFC

Double solid vertical lines in the margin indicates a change from the requirements of the 2019 CFC CA amendments

Solid arrow indicates where text has been deleted from the requirements of the 2018 IFC

Open arrow indicates where text has been deleted from the requirements of the 2019 CFC CA amendments

Single asterisk indicates that text or a table has been relocated to somewhere else the code

Double asterisk indicates that the text or table immediately following it has been relocated from somewhere else in the code

Indicates that a City of Los Angeles amendment has been added to the 2022 CFC

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Adoption Matrix

****Sample****

CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE – MATRIX ADOPTION TABLE
CHAPTER 3 – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(Matrix Adoption Tables are nonregulatory, intended only as an aid to the code user.
See Chapter 1 for state agency authority and building applications.)

[illegible]



Significant Changes

Review of each chapter that is affected

Highlighted sections



Chapter 1 Administration

General (1.1):

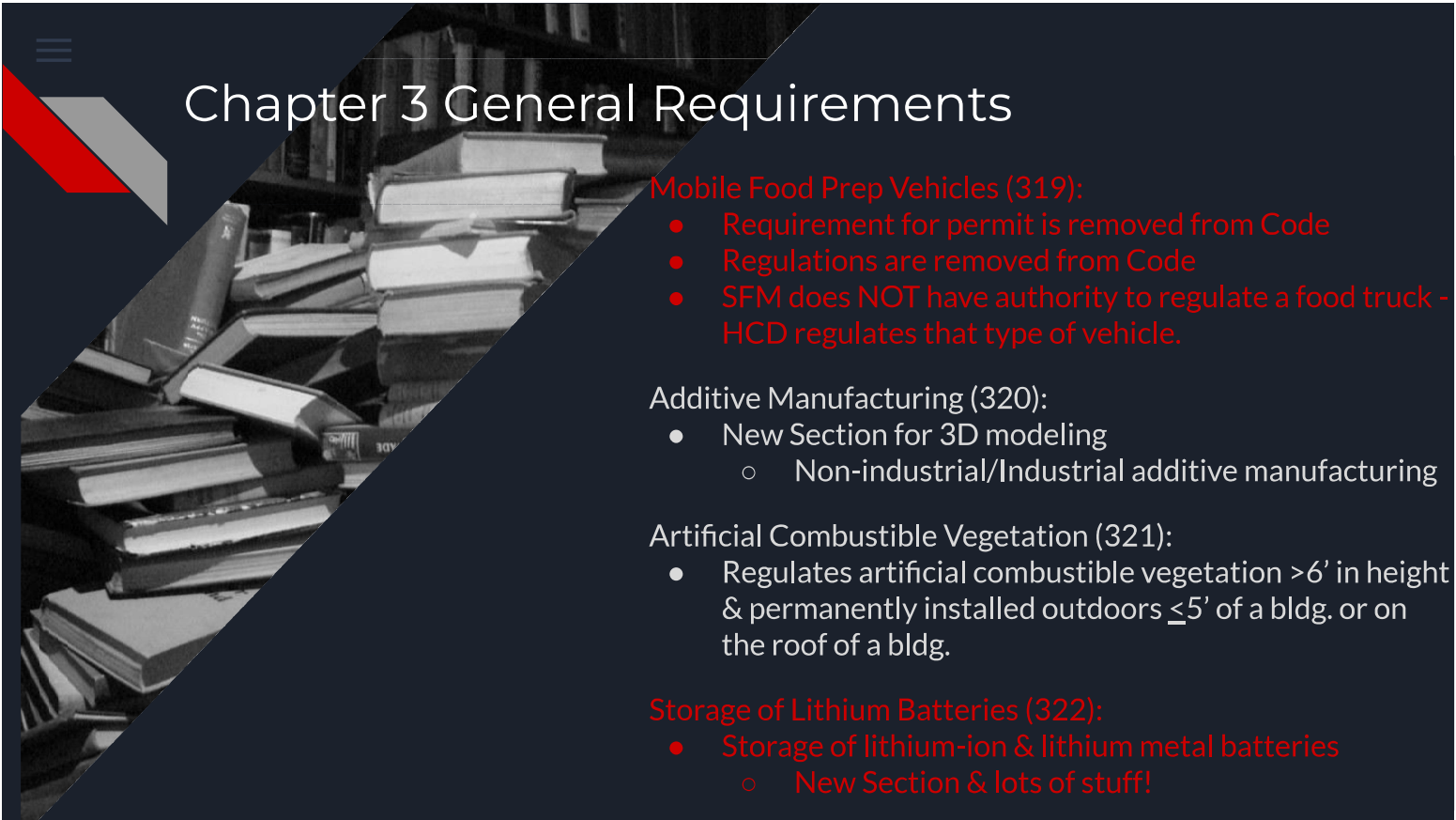
- Definition of State-occupied buildings
 - Any building, structure or area which meets the criteria of any of the following:
 - 100% state occupied
 - State leased bldg. that is a high-rise and $\geq 75\%$ of the net area floor space is occupied by state entities
 - State occupied areas in a bldg. That contains $\geq 5k$ sq. ft. of state leased Group H or Group L
- Certificate of Occupancy:
 - R-3 No longer exempted from CofO
 - AHJ can require a CofO for 1- and 2- family dwellings
 - Group R-3 to R-3.1



Chapter 2 Definitions

Definitions:

- Atrium (202)
 - Vertical space that is closed at the top, connecting 2 or more stories in Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies in 3 or more stories...
- Child Care & Day Care (202)
 - Care of children during any period of a 24-hr day where permanent sleeping accommodations are not provided
- Inflatable Amusement Device (202)
 - A device made of flexible fabric or other combustible materials that is inflated by one or more air-blowers providing internal air pressure to maintain its shape...
- PV Panel System - Ground Mounted (202)
- PV Support Structure - Elevated (202)
- Occupancy Classification (202)



Chapter 3 General Requirements

Mobile Food Prep Vehicles (319):

- Requirement for permit is removed from Code
- Regulations are removed from Code
- SFM does NOT have authority to regulate a food truck - HCD regulates that type of vehicle.

Additive Manufacturing (320):

- New Section for 3D modeling
 - Non-industrial/Industrial additive manufacturing

Artificial Combustible Vegetation (321):

- Regulates artificial combustible vegetation >6' in height & permanently installed outdoors $\leq 5'$ of a bldg. or on the roof of a bldg.

Storage of Lithium Batteries (322):

- Storage of lithium-ion & lithium metal batteries
 - New Section & lots of stuff!



Chapter 4 Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Emergency Drills (405):

- Lockdown plans are not required; but if they exist, they must be approved
- Lockdown drills cannot substitute for fire and evacuation drills
- “Staff” required to participate vs “Employees”
 - Intended to include volunteers and other workers who may not be employees



Chapter 5 Fire Service Features

Fire Command Center (508):

- Now required in Group F-1 & S-1 where building is >500k sq. ft.
- Identified:
 - “FIRE COMMAND CENTER”

Emergency Responder Communication Coverage - Signals (510):

- Adequate coverage is $\geq 95\%$ in all areas & $\geq 99\%$ in critical areas
- Equipment for in-building, 2-way emergency responder communication coverage listed to 2524 UL
- Donor antennas on the bldg must be:
 - Permanently affixed to building or
 - Mounted on a movable sled so they can be properly repositioned
 - Sign is required



Chapter 6 Building Services & Systems

Electrical Working Space (603):

- Working space of $\geq 3'$ is increased based on voltage

Storage in Elevator Spaces (604):

- Specifically prohibited in:
 - Elevator lobbies where hoistway opening protection is required
 - Elevator machine rooms
 - Elevator cars

Storage & Furniture in Elevator Lobbies (604):

- Specifically prohibited in:
 - Fire service access elevators
 - Occupant evacuation elevators

Fuel Oil Storage Tanks (605):

- Quantity Limits broken down

Clothes Dryer Exhaust Ducts (610):

- New Section dealing with dryer fires



Chapter 7 Fire & Smoke Protection Features

Fire-resistance-rated Construction (701):


- CFC requires maintenance of fire-resistance rating of Type IVA & IVB construction
- CBC now includes:
 - IVA/IVB/IVC construction

Penetration and Voids (703 & 704):

- Through-penetrations & membrane-penetrations of fire-resistance-rated assemblies must be maintained
- Repair must meet or exceed the code requirement applicable at the time of construction

Sprayed Fire-Resistant Materials (708):

- Intumescent fire-resistant materials & spray applied fire-resistant materials must be visually inspected & maintained (*701 requires annual*)



Chapter 8 Interior Finish, Decorative Materials & Furnishings

Natural Cut Trees (806):

- Natural cut trees must be treated & maintained in a flame-retardant condition

Play Structures (808):

- New play structures >10' in height or 150 sq. ft. must comply with CBC (§424)



Chapter 9 Fire Protection & Life Safety Systems

Automatic Sprinkler Systems (903):

- Upholstered Furniture & Mattresses
- Group S-2 Parking Garage
- Mechanical-access Parking Garage
- Required Exterior Entrance Covers
- NFPA 13R Sprinkler Systems
 - 4 stories above grade plane
 - No longer count floors above pedestal
 - Floor level $\leq 30'$ above LLFDVA
 - Floor level $\leq 30'$ below LLFDVA
- Means of Egress Balconies

Standpipe Systems (905):

- Standpipes in Parking Garages
 - Class I is allowed in all parking garages regardless whether or not it is sprinklered



Chapter 9 Fire Protection & Life Safety Systems *Cont'd*

Fire Alarm and Detection Systems (907):

- Automatic smoke detection system required throughout Group I-4
- Manual Fire Alarm System required in Group S-public and self-storage facilities ≥ 3 stories
- Audible notification appliances increased from 95dBA to 105dBA
- Sleeping rooms in Group R-1 & R-2 shall be provided with a notification signal with a 520 Hz low-frequency signal
- Emergency voice/alarm communications systems can be powered with standby power
- Fire alarm systems in Group R-2 shall be designed for future visible notification
- Monitoring of fire alarm systems must be in accordance with NFPA 72 (now 2022)



Chapter 9 Fire Protection & Life Safety Systems *Cont'd*

Emergency Alarm Systems (908):

- Must be different from the fire alarm signal

Smoke Control Systems (909):

- Transition from normal ventilation to smoke control mode is not instantaneous

Smoke & Heat Removal (910):

- Smoke/heat vents are required to be operable by an automatic & manual method

Fire Pumps (913):

- Two revisions to clarify the need for a listed fire pump and compliance with NFPA 20
- Option of protection with ≥ 2 " of concrete added