

CHAPTER 163

FIRE CODE

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163.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to prescribe regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, hazardous materials, or explosion.

163.02 ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2021 EDITION. Pursuant to public notice and public hearing, there is hereby adopted by the City that certain code known as the *International Fire Code, 2021 Edition*, including Appendix B, D, E, F, G, and I, as prepared and edited by the International Code Council, Inc., and the whole thereof, save and except such portions as are hereafter deleted, modified or amended; and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out in full herein; and the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the limits of the City effective December 1, 2022. Appendix C in the *International Fire Code, 2021 Edition*, will be used as a reference guide.

163.03 INSPECTIONS. The Fire Code Official is authorized to enter and examine any building, structure, marine vessel, vehicle or premises in accordance with Section 104.3 of the *International Fire Code, 2021 Edition* for the purpose of enforcing this code. 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. 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 on unusual, detailed or complex technical issues subject to the approval of the governing body. It shall be the duty of the holder of the permit or their duly authorized agent to notify the Fire Code Official when work is ready for inspection. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to provide access to and means for inspections of such work that are required in the *International Fire Code, 2021 Edition*. It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain visible and able to be accessed for inspection purposes. Where 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 made visible and able to be accessed for inspection. Neither the Fire Code Official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to all inspection.

163.04 AMENDMENTS TO FIRE CODE. The *International Fire Code, 2021 Edition*, first printing, adopted by this chapter, is amended as follows:

1. Delete all of the permits within Section 105.5 Required operational permits

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(Ordinance No. 2213, October 2022)

except for the following:

105.5.4 Aviation Facilities

105.5.5 Carnivals and Fairs

105.5.17 Combustible dust-producing operations

105.5.16 Explosives

105.5.29 LP Gas

105.5.34 Open Burning

105.5.42 Pyrotechnic Special Effects Material

105.5.49 Tents and Membrane Structures

2. Delete the exception in Section 105.6.28 and replace with the following:

Exception: A permit is not required for individual containers with a water capacity of less than 100-gallon or multiple container systems having an aggregate quantity not exceeding 100 gallons, serving occupancies in group R-3.

3. Delete all of the permits within Section 105.7 - Required construction permits except for the following:

105.7.1 Automatic Fire-extinguishing Systems

105.7.6 Fire Alarm and Detection System and related equipment

105.7.12 Flammable and Combustible Liquids

105.7.12 LP Gas

4. Delete Section 109.4 - Violation penalties and replace it with the following:

Section 109.4 - Violation penalties. 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 documents or direction of the chief code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be punished in a manner provided in Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances.

5. Add to Section 113.2 - Schedule of permit fees. Whenever an inspection fee, re-inspection fee, or permit fee is required, the fees shall be paid as set forth in the Fire Code Table of Fees (Table 104.12 (A)) as adopted by resolution.

6. Delete from Section 202 of Definitions the following:

“Associated with Group E occupancies” and “Accessory to places of religious worship”.

7. Delete Section 307.1 - General and replace it with the following:

Section 307.1 - General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to

be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section. All recreational fires shall also be conducted as required by other governing agencies regulating emissions.

9. Delete Section 308.1.4 Exception 3 and replace it with the following:
 3. Townhouses as defined by the International Building Code.
10. Add an exception to Section 315.3.1 – Ceiling Clearance.

Exception: There are no height limitations for storage on shelves against a fixed wall in non-sprinkled areas of a building.
11. Amend Table 405.2 by deleting the word “monthly” for Group E Occupancies and replace it with the following:

Two fire drills per semester shall be conducted for a total of four fire drills through the school year.

Exception: Child Day Care Centers shall conduct monthly fire drills.
12. Delete Section 501.4 – Timing of installation and replace it with the following:

Section 501.4 – Timing of Installation. When fire apparatus access roads or water supply for fire protection is required to be installed, such protection shall be installed and made serviceable prior to occupancy except when approved alternative methods of protection are provided. Temporary street signs shall be installed at each intersection when construction of new roadways allows passage by vehicles in accordance with Section 505.2.
13. Add the following exceptions to Section 503.2.1 - Dimensions, as follows:

Exception:

 1. Private fire lanes used exclusively as fire apparatus access roads may be reduced to an unobstructed width of no less than 12 feet provided that parking/operating pad(s) with a width of not less than 20 feet and a length of not less than 30 feet are installed at the locations approved by the Code Official.
 2. For divided two-lane (one each way) public roadways the required unobstructed width may be reduced to 17 foot curb back to curb back so long as all of the following are met:
 - ❖ No median and/or island or other obstruction may extend over 150 linear feet without an approved crossover.
 - ❖ Outside curbs adjacent to the medians/islands or other obstructions must be of a drive over/roll over design.
 - ❖ Medians/islands or other obstructions may not exceed a saturation limit of 25% of the entire project distance.

14. Add Section 503.2.1.1 – Residential Drives and Lanes, as follows:

Section 503.2.1.1 – Residential Drives and Lanes. For any dwelling that is set back greater than 100 feet from the public way, the drive or lane shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 10 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet, 6 inches and shall comply with Section 503.2.3 Any drive or lane greater than 150 feet in length shall be provided with a fire apparatus turnaround as approved by the Code Official.

15. Delete Section 503.2.3 – Surface, and replace it with the following:

Section 503.2.3 - Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be hard surfaced and shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus which shall be 100 pounds per square inch. The load-bearing capacity shall be certified in a manner approved by the Code Official.

16. Add a new Section 504.4, as follows:

Section 504.4 - Identification of Interior Doors. The Code Official may require that certain interior doors be identified.

17. Delete Section 507.5.1 - Where required and replace it with the following:

Section 507.5.1 - Where Required. Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 300 feet from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the Code Official.

Exception:

1. For Group R-3, the distance requirement shall be 500 feet.
2. For buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet.

18. Delete Section 603.4.2.1.2 - Clearance to Building and replace it with the following:

Section 603.4.2.1.2 - Clearance to building. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located at least 10 feet from building or per manufacturer recommendations which must be provided.

19. Delete Section 603.4.2.1.3 - Clearance to combustible materials and replace it with the following:

Section 603.4.2.1.3 - Clearance to combustible materials. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 10 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to building.

20. Delete Section 603.4.2.1.4 - Proximity to exits and replace it with the following:
Section 603.4.2.1.4 - Proximity to exits. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or exit discharges.
21. Delete Section 604.6.1 - Activation test and replace it with the following:
Section 604.6.1 - Activation test. An activation test of the emergency lighting equipment shall be completed quarterly. The activation test shall ensure the emergency lighting activates automatically upon normal electrical disconnect and stays sufficiently illuminated for a minimum of 30 seconds.
22. Delete Table 609.3.3.1 - Commercial Cooking System Inspection Frequency and replace it with the following:
Table 609.3.3.1 - Commercial Cooking System Inspection Frequency.
 1. Low-volume cooking operations such as places of religious worship, seasonal businesses and non-residential senior centers shall be inspected by qualified persons every 12 months.
 2. All other cooking operations must be inspected by qualified persons every 6 months.
23. Delete Section 807.5.2.1 and 807.5.5.1 - Storage in corridors and lobbies and replace it with the following:
Section 807.5.2.1 and 807.5.5.1 - Storage in corridors and lobbies. Clothing and personal effects shall not be stored in corridors or lobbies.
Exception:
 1. Storage in metal lockers provided the minimum required egress width is maintained.
 2. Corridors protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
24. Add Section 901.2.2 – Qualifications, as follows:
Section 901.2.2 - Qualifications. For the installation, inspection and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems and fire alarm systems a contractor must be certified by the State Fire Marshal's Office. When required by the Code Official, the contractor must provide a copy of their certificate.
25. Delete Section 907.2.9 – Group R-2 and replace it with the following:
Section 907.2.9 – Group R-2. An automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where:
 1. Any dwelling unit is located three or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge;

2. Any dwelling unit is located more than one story below the highest level of exit discharge of exits serving the dwelling unit;
3. The building contains 12 or more dwelling units; or
4. Any dwelling unit is more than one story above any other dwelling unit in the same building.

Exceptions:

1. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all dwelling units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least 1-hour fire partitions and each dwelling unit has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.
2. A separate fire alarm system is not required in buildings that are equipped throughout with an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or Section 903.3.1.2 and which will automatically activate throughout the notification zones upon a sprinkler water flow.

For purposes of this section, area separation walls shall not define separate buildings.

26. Add Section 908.8 – Carbon monoxide alarms.

Section 908.8 – Carbon monoxide alarms. Existing buildings containing or using liquid carbon monoxide shall provide a single station audible carbon monoxide alarm for each habitable enclosed area that has components of the operating system located within the room and/or within the ceiling space of the room. Reference Section 5001.3.3.8.

27. Section 1010.1.9.3 - Locks and latches. Delete subparagraph 2.

28. Delete 1013.2 – Floor-level exit signs in Group R-1.

29. Delete Section 1015.8 – Window openings.

30. Delete Exception 2 from Section 1029.14 – Seat stability.

31. Delete Section 2311.2.3.1 - Disposal of Liquids and replace it with the following:

Section 2311.2.3.1 - Disposal of Liquids. Lubricating oil which has been drained from motor vehicles shall not be dumped into sewers, streams or on the ground, but shall be stored and handled as required for Class III-A liquids in accordance with Chapter 57 until removed from the premises.

32. Add the following exception to Section 3103.12.6.1 - Exit sign illumination, as follows:

1. Exit sign illumination is not required in a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy if it is not going to be occupied after dark.

33. Add following criteria to Section 3104.3 - Label as follows:

In lieu of a permanently affixed label on a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy, flame-resistance or fire retardant shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner.

34. Add to Section 5702 Definitions for combustible liquids the following:
Used crankcase oils shall be classified as III-A combustible liquid.
35. Delete Section 5704.1 - General and replace it with the following:
Section 5704.1 - Storage of flammable and combustible liquids in containers, cylinders and tanks shall be in accordance with this section, applicable sections of Chapter 50 and rules and regulations promulgated by the State Fire Marshal.
36. Add Footnote D to the Table 5704.3.4.1, as follows:
Footnote D. Maximum quantity of used crankcase oils shall be limited to 250 gallons. If the building is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system the quantity can be increased a maximum of 100%.
37. Amend Appendix D103 Fire Apparatus Access Roads by deleting 70 foot diameter CUL-DE-SAC and 60 foot Hammerhead in Figure D103.1 and leaving said blank.
38. Amend Appendix D103 Fire Apparatus Access Roads by changing the 96 foot diameter CUL-DE-SAC in Figure D103.1 to 88 feet in diameter.
39. Amend Appendix D103 Fire Apparatus Access Roads by changing the 120 foot Hammerhead to 90 foot Hammerhead in Figure D103.1.
40. Add to Appendix D107 One- or Two-Family Residential Developments Exception 2 the following:
The Fire Code Official shall not exceed an allowance of over 100 dwelling units in accordance with NFPA 1141 Chapter 5 Table 5.1.4.1.
41. Add to Appendix E102.1.3 for Combustible Liquids the following:
Note: Used crankcase oils shall be classified as III-A combustible liquid.

163.05 BOARD OF APPEALS.

1. General. 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, consisting of the members of the Construction Codes Review Board as established in City of Robins Code of Ordinances Section 30.05. The Fire Code Official or designated representative shall be an ex-officio member without a vote and shall act as secretary of the Board.
2. The Board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its investigations and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the Fire Code Official with a duplicate copy to the appellant, and may recommend to the City

Council such new legislation as is consistent therewith. The Board shall hold a regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless there are no appeals or business on file for a hearing.

3. Nominal appeal fee to the Board of Appeals shall be paid as set forth by resolution of the City Council. The appeal shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of the Board approval to the commencement of work and to the completion of work undertaken pursuant to the approval.