

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2007- 1192

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HOUSTON FIRE CODE RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ATRIUM BUILDINGS; CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS;

Section 1. That the City of Houston Fire Code, which was adopted by Ordinance 2003-738 and previously amended by Ordinances Nos. 2004-1015, 2005-859, 2005-1267, 2006-825, and 2006-888, is hereby amended as follows:

A. Section 101.2.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**101.2.1 Appendices.** Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted. Appendices A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J are hereby adopted and made part of this code."

B. A new Appendix I is added to read as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

Section 2. That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

Section 3. That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect January 1, 2008.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of October, 2007.

Bill White

Mayor of the City of Houston

PL

Prepared by Legal Dept. Theresa Oommen
 KO:asw 06/15/2007 Assistant City Attorney
 Requested by Phil Boriskie, Chief, Houston Fire Department
 L.D. File No. 0390700393001

AYE	NO	
✓		MAYOR WHITE
••••	••••	COUNCIL MEMBERS
✓		LAWRENCE
✓		JOHNSON
✓		CLUTTERBUCK
✓		EDWARDS
✓		WISEMAN
✓		KHAN
✓		HOLM
✓		GARCIA
✓		ALVARADO
✓		BROWN
✓		LOVELL
✓		NORIEGA
✓		GREEN
	ABSENT	BERRY
CAPTION	ADOPTED	

PUBLISHED IN DAILY COURT
 REVIEW
 DATE: OCT 30 2007

Appendix I
AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, FIRE ALARM AND
DETECTION SYSTEMS IN EXISTING NON HIGH-RISE ATRIUM
BUILDINGS

SECTION I101
GENERAL

I101.1 Purpose. The purpose of this appendix chapter is to provide a reasonable degree of safety to persons occupying existing atrium buildings by providing for the installation of automatic sprinkler systems or fire alarm and detection systems in buildings that do not already have such systems in compliance with this appendix.

I101.2 Application. This appendix chapter shall apply to existing atrium buildings within the corporate limits of the jurisdiction on January 1, 2008, and any atrium buildings annexed into the corporate limits after that date.

Exception: The provisions of this appendix shall not apply to the following:

1. Atrium buildings built in accordance with Section 1717 as added to the *City of Houston Building Code* by Ordinance 81- 879 or subsequent versions of that Section.
2. Existing high-rise buildings, as defined in Appendix J.

SECTION I102
DEFINITION

I102.1 Definition. The following term shall, for the purpose of this appendix, have the meaning ascribed in this section.

ATRIUM. An opening connecting three or more stories other than enclosed stairways, elevators, hoistways, escalators, plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning or other equipment, which is closed at the top and not defined as a mall. Stories, as used in this definition, do not include balconies within assembly groups or mezzanines that comply with Section 505 of the *Building Code*.

SECTION I103
FIRE PROTECTION AND DETECTION SYSTEMS

I103.1 Required. All existing atrium buildings shall be equipped with one of the following:

1. An automatic and manual fire alarm system in accordance with NFPA 72 and smoke detectors installed in every room exceeding 40 square feet as well as all common areas according to the compliance schedule set forth in Section I104.
2. An automatic sprinkler system with total coverage throughout the building in accordance with NFPA 13 and with the capability to alarm all occupants throughout the building using

alarm notification appliances as required by Section 907. Such sprinkler system shall be installed according to the compliance schedule set forth in Section I104.

SECTION I104 COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

I104.1 Letter of intent. On or before July 1, 2008, or within six months after the date of annexation of the building into the jurisdiction, owners of existing atrium buildings shall provide the code official with a letter expressing the owner's intent to comply with this section.

I104.2 Compliance check points. Except as provided by this section, owners of existing atrium buildings shall comply with the following schedule:

1. If the owner chooses to install an alarm system and smoke detectors in accordance with subsection 1 of Section I103.1, the total square footage of the building shall be equipped with an operational automatic and manual fire alarm system and smoke detectors on or before January 1, 2010, or within two years of annexation into the jurisdiction.
2. If the owner chooses to install a sprinkler system in accordance with subsection 2 of Section I103.1:
 - 2.1 Fifty percent of the building shall be equipped with an operational automatic sprinkler system with the capability to alarm all occupants throughout the building on or before January 1, 2013, or within five years of annexation of the building into the jurisdiction.
 - 2.2 The total square footage of the building shall be equipped with an operational automatic sprinkler system with the capability to alarm all occupants throughout the building on or before January 1, 2015, or within seven years of annexation of the building into the jurisdiction.