
FIRE PROTECTION

2024 Ontario Building Code Changes

These are highlights only. A digital copy of the 2024 Building Code Compendium is available on the provincial website.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST

Relates to standpipe requirements for grain handling and storage facilities as well as design of hazardous areas. Definition for Combustible Dusts added to Div. A 1.4.1.2 Dusts and particles that are ignitable and liable to produce an explosion.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

If a storey in a building or a floor area is required to have an automatic sprinkler system installed throughout, the automatic sprinkler system shall also be installed throughout all lower storeys in the building. Buildings classified as Assembly Building in conformance with 3.2.2.21, 3.2.2.22, 3.2.2.29, and 3.2.2.32 are now required to be sprinklered. Buildings classified as Group B3 any height, any area and sprinklered now added in 3.2.2.42. Buildings classified as Group D, any height, any area, is now required to be sprinklered.

FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEM

A fire alarm system shall be installed in buildings in which an automatic sprinkler system is installed, with the exception of a building containing fewer than 9 sprinklers. The actuation of each waterflow detecting device shall be separately indicated on the fire alarm system annunciator. Where a fire alarm system is installed, a manually operated fire alarm station shall be installed on the roof at each exit from a helicopter landing area. Audible signal devices in sleeping rooms in a building of residential or care occupancy shall emit a low frequency signal.

HOSE STATIONS

Hose connections shall be located in exits, in accordance with NFPA 14, and shall be provided with sufficient clearance to permit the use of a standard fire department hose key. Hose stations shall be located in the floor area within 5m (used to be 3m) of exits and at other locations to provide coverage of the entire floor area. Where a building or part thereof is used as a distillery and the building is sprinklered, a small hose (38 mm) stations are permitted to be supplied from interior sprinkler piping. Where a hose station is provided in grain handling and storage facilities in which combustible dusts are produced in quantities or concentrations that create an explosion or fire hazard, fog and fine spray nozzles shall be used instead of nozzles that discharge a solid stream of water to prevent combustible dusts from being raised into suspension.

LIGHTING AND POWER

MINIMUM LEVEL OF ILLUMINATION

The minimum level of illumination is now required for the entire length of escalators and moving walks, controls, signs displaying visual information, locations where doors are equipped with an electromagnetic lock, universal washrooms and showers.

EMERGENCY POWER

Two (2) hour emergency power now required for equipment that supplies water for fire suppression, if the supply depends solely on electrical power supplied to the building.