

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office
Official Interpretation and Code Directive 2024-1

OKSFM Additional Code Reference and Use
Effective January 1, 2024

The guidelines set forth through the codes adopted by the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) and enforced by the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office (OKSFM) can help to establish the requirements for use or implementation of additional and or non-referenced code requirements as outlined in the currently adopted State codes. This directive is to help simplify and bring clarity as to what is required.

The Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office currently enforces the minimum state adopted codes as adopted and or amended by the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission, with exception to those codes required and or otherwise designated specifically by state statute or administrative rules for enforcement by the State Fire Marshal (74 O.S. § 324.11(C) and OAC 265:25-1-1).

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

In certain cases or situations, the current State adopted code(s) may be silent or not reference a requirement for building, fire, life safety, and or other code requirement(s) due to evolving technology, a lag in code cycle adoption, new industry, special facilities, hazardous projects, and or other situations or circumstances not covered by current State adopted codes.

As such, the State Fire Marshal may promulgate other nationally recognized fire safety standards and shall be deemed as prima facie evidence in compliance with the intent of this code which may include but not limited to building, fire, life safety, and or other codes and standards used for guidance in assessing and directing the remediation of said fire hazards, building, fire, and or life safety codes used both during inspections and or plan review processes. This action is taken under the authority of State adopted code (IFC 102.8).

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, that are not specifically provided for by state adopted code, shall be determined by the State Fire Marshal (IFC 102.9).

Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority of the State Fire Marshal to determine compliance with codes or standards for those activities or installations within the State Fire Marshal's jurisdiction and or responsibility. As such, the State Fire Marshal may reasonably utilize any other nationally referenced code or standard to include but not limited to current and or newer editions of the ICC and or NFPA.

It is our hope that we can work together while remaining committed to maintaining the utmost level of life safety by making Oklahoma structures as safe as possible through impartial and congruent code enforcement.

G. Keith Bryant
State Fire Marshal

