

**City of Elmhurst**  
**AMENDMENTS**  
**to the**  
**NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE, 2012 EDITION**

**GENERAL AMENDMENTS**

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**AMENDMENTS**  
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**NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE, 2012 EDITION**

**1. Applicability**

The City of Elmhurst Amendments, Zoning Ordinance, and Municipal Ordinance and all of the adopted model codes shall be applicable to the planning and construction of all projects within the City.

**2. Conflicts**

Whenever two codes are in conflict, the more stringent requirement shall govern.

EXCEPTION: The following are not required to have a fire sprinkler system installed:

1. One and two family Dwellings and townhomes or their garages.
2. Any single story building without a basement, which has 1,000 s.f. or less area within the exterior walls and is separated from all other structures by not less than ten feet.

**3. Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems in Single Family Homes and Townhouses – Not Required**

Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall not be required for one and two family dwellings or townhouses. Fire Sprinkler Systems are highly recommended but, shall be the option of the homeowner and/or builder. If the house is constructed with manufactured “I” joists, then a fire Sprinkler system shall be required.

**4. Existing Assembly Occupancies**

A fire sprinkler system shall not be required in the existing Assembly Occupancies where they previously were not required. However, when a Level 3 Alteration or improvement takes place, a fire sprinkler system shall be installed as prescribed by the IEBC and the directive of the Building Official and the Elmhurst Fire Bureau.

## 5. Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are mandatory in:

- New Day Care Homes where client sleeping occurs
- New One-and Two-family Dwellings with communicating attached garages (unless mechanically ventilated) or if the dwelling unit contains fuel-burning appliances.
- New Lodging and Rooming Houses with communicating garages (unless mechanically ventilated) or if the dwelling unit contains fuel burning appliances.
- New Hotels and Dormitories with guest rooms or guest suites with communicating attached garages (unless mechanically ventilated) or if the guest room or guest suite contains fuel-burning appliances.
- New Apartment Buildings with communicating attached garages (unless mechanically ventilated) or if the dwelling unit contains fuel-burning appliances.

Carbon monoxide detectors are already made mandatory in Illinois' residential occupancies by state statute. The Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act made CO detection required as of January 1, 2007 in every dwelling unit within 15 ft. of rooms used for sleeping. However, the requirements of the 2012 LSC for carbon monoxide detection are more stringent than the Illinois law in one important aspect: the LSC requires that CO detection be provided "on every occupiable level of a dwelling unit including basements". This is more stringent than the Illinois law which does not require CO detectors on levels of an occupancy if no sleeping is occurring on those levels.

## 6. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Detectors

Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) detectors shall be installed, as directed by the Elmhurst Fire Bureau, at all locations where liquid CO<sub>2</sub> is used. The Carbon Dioxide detectors shall be connected to the Fire Alarm system.

## 7. Tactile Signs in Some Stairways

Identifying signage (including tactile signage) is required to be provided within existing stairways that serve ≥ 5 stories. In addition to other requirements, the signage must identify the stairway, indicate the floor level, indicate the terminus of the top and bottom of the stairs, and offer information relating to the direction to the exit discharge. (ref: Stairway Identification Section 7.2.2.5.4)

**8. Tactile Signage at Exit Doors Required**

Tactile “exit” signage is required to be applied at all exit doors in new occupancies or those existing occupancies that change occupancy classification. This requirement does not apply to existing doors. (ref: Exit Door Tactile Signage 7.10.1.3)

**9. Right of AHJ to Get Technical Assistance**

The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall be permitted to require a review of submitted plans/projects by an independent third party with expertise in the matter to be reviewed at the submitter’s expense. Furthermore, the AHJ is authorized to require design submittals to bear the stamp of a registered design professional. (ref: Technical Assistance 4.6.1.4)

**10. Lockers to be Considered Interior Finish**

Lockers constructed of combustible materials shall be considered as “interior finish”. This imposes the same “flame spread” and “smoke development” criteria on lockers as would be applicable to wall and ceiling coverings. The LSC does allow the use of wooden lockers in any location where interior finish materials are required to meet a Class C classification – which is the lowest interior finish classification recognized in the Code. (ref section: 10.2.1.5 and 10.3.8)

**11. Rule Making Authority**

The Code Official shall have authority as necessary in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare, to adopt and promulgate rules, regulations and policies to interpret and implement the provisions of this code to secure the intent thereof and to designate requirements applicable because of local climatic, other unique conditions or extenuating circumstances. Such rules shall not have the effect of waiving structural or fire performance requirements specifically provided for in this code of violating accepted engineering practice involving public safety.

**12. Matters not provided for**

Any requirements that are essential for the structural, fire or sanitary safety of an existing or proposed building or structure, or for the safety of the occupants thereof, which are not specifically provided for by this code, shall be determined by the code official. The Code Official shall have the authority to enforce such requirements.

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