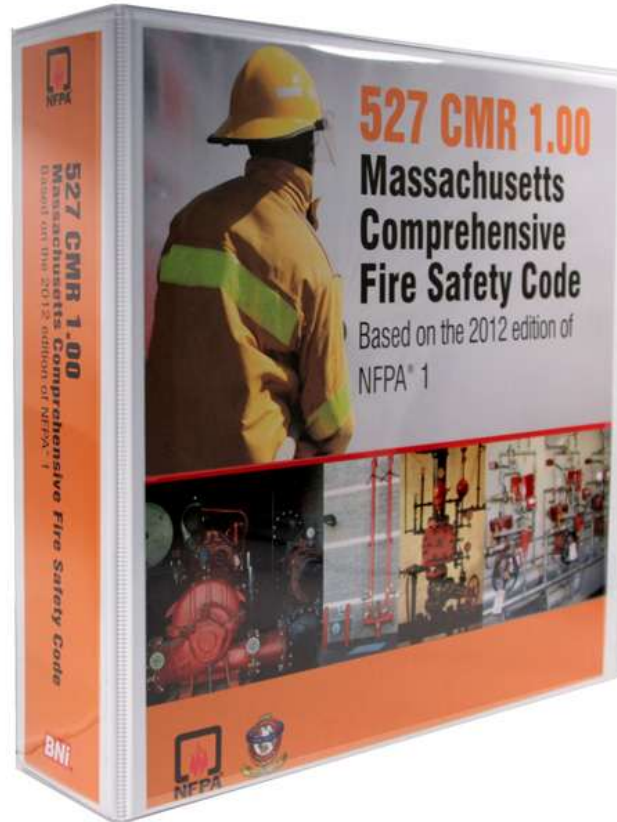




DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

Division of Fire Safety



527 CMR 1.00

Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
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Who writes the Fire Code ?

- The Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00) is promulgated by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.
- Members appointed by the Governor.
- Authorized by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 28 to promulgate a comprehensive fire safety code.



Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

- The State Fire Marshal
- Three Fire Chiefs (based on community size)
- Mass. Fire Prevention Association member
- Fire Protection Engineer
- Chemical Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Graduate Chemist
- Electrical Inspector
- Electrical Contractor
- Representative of the Blasting Industry
- Building Official
- Fire Commissioner of the City of Boston
- Representative of the Public



The History of the Fire Code in Massachusetts

- 1943- Statute authorized the “department” to make rules.
 - Passed in the wake of the Coconut Grove Fire.
 - Prior to 1943 everything was statutory.
- 1945- Board of Fire Prevention Regulations created.
 - Subject matter specified by law.
- 1982- The Board was authorized to promulgate a comprehensive fire safety code.



The History of the Fire Code in Massachusetts

- 2000's Several attempts to adopt a "model fire code"
- 2010 After review of two national model fire codes, Board votes to begin the process of adopting NFPA 1 as the Massachusetts Code.
- 2010 An Executive Director is hired to coordinate the Board's work in promulgating a fire code.
- 2014 Board votes on final promulgation of the fire code to be effective 1/1/15



Code Development Process

- Code Committees review the subject matter in the former regulations.
 - Determine if that material is covered under NFPA 1
 - Determine if the material should be introduced as an amendment.
 - Determines if the material should be deleted.
 - Reviewed by correlating committee.
 - Committee reports to the full Board.
 - Board approves or rejects.



Code Development Process

- Document available for public comment.
- Reviewed by the Building Code Coordinating Council
- Review by Local Government
- Review under Executive Order 585.
- Public Hearing
- Final Vote to Promulgate
- New Code Effective 1/1/15



Why a new code?

- Comprehensive
- Based upon a national standard
- Based upon a consensus standard
- References relevant standards.
- References current standards
- Provisions for periodic update



Why did Massachusetts Amend NFPA 1?

- Specific statutory requirements
- To avoid conflict with other codes (building, elevator, etc.)
- To cover only those subjects currently regulated (certain exceptions)
- Issues with a Massachusetts history



What Chapters were deleted from NFPA 1?

- Fire Department Service Delivery
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Airports and Heliports
- Grandstands and Bleachers
- Laboratories using Chemicals
- Manufactured homes/RVs
- Outside storage of tires
- Animal Housing Facilities
- Telecom Facilities
- Fixed guideway Transit Systems
- Solvent Extraction
- Ozone Generating Equipment



What are some of the new areas of the code?

- Comprehensive requirements related to flammable and combustible liquids.
- The regulation of underground storage tanks is limited to their location and removal
- Regulation of Hazardous Materials
- Regulation of Oxidizers, Pyrophorics, Unstable materials, water reactives , ammonium nitrate, and organic peroxides



What are some tips for using the new Code

- All of the permitting requirements are contained in Chapter 1
- Chapter 1 contains the “rules” for applying the code
- Chapter 1 contains all of the administrative provisions



Noticeable Code Changes

- Hold open clips permitted at gas stations
- Prohibition of grills on most balconies
- Permits no longer required for fire protection system systems
- Fire Departments not involved in the installation or maintenance of underground storage tanks



How do I get a copy of the new Code

- You may view a copy of NFPA 1 at the NFPA website
 - Read only, no membership required
- You may purchase a copy of NFPA 1-2012 at the NFPA website
- You may view and download a copy of the unofficial version of the Massachusetts Amendments at the DFS website
- You may purchase an Official version of the Massachusetts amendments at the Secretary of State's State Bookstore website
- You may purchase a combined version from BNI at their website



How do I get a copy of the new Code

- NFPA Website
 - www.nfpa.org
- DFS Website
 - www.mass.gov/dfs
- Secretary of State Website
 - <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>
- BNI Website
 - <http://www.bnibooks.com/product/massachusetts-comprehensive-fire-safety-code-527-cmr-1.00>



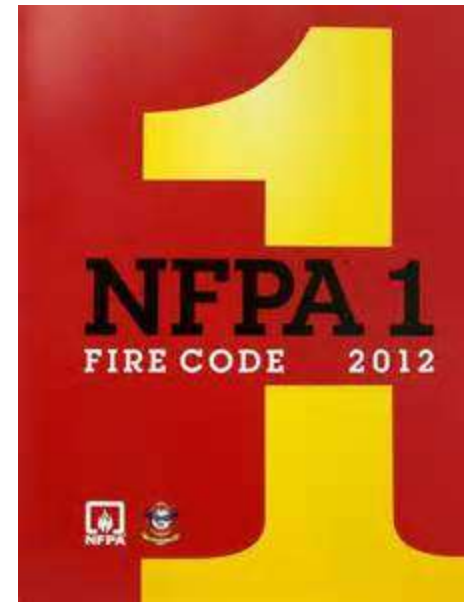
Questions???



- To report problems with the code, contact Richard Fredette
 - Richard.fredette@state.ma.us
- For official interpretations, contact Richard Fredette
 - Richard.fredette@state.ma.us
- For Compliance Assistance contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit
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 - 978-567-3711



Thank You!



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