



CODE COMPLIANCE GUIDELINE

Fire Code Modification

The City of Columbus Fire Prevention Code states the Fire Marshal may grant modifications to provisions of the Fire Code upon application by the owner or the owner's agent, provided the spirit and intent of the Fire Code are observed and public health, welfare, and safety are assured.

The City of Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau recognizes that there must be a mechanism within the code that allows the authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ's) to accept alternatives, as long as they provide an equivalent level of safety. The City of Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau does not permit waivers or variances. A waiver or variance is permission to not comply with some code requirements. A modification is an equivalency which allows the use of some other alternative to meet the level of safety intended by the code.

Sufficient technical data must be submitted to substantiate the proposed use of any alternative. The technical data shall consist of three parts. The first item must be the applicable code requirement for which an equivalency is being sought. The second item must include the reasons the code requirement cannot be met. The third item in the documentation must include a detailed analysis of how the proposed alternative meets the level of safety intended by the code. It is important that the analysis demonstrate the equivalency, not just state that it is equivalent. Incomplete requests will not be considered.

Fire protection or safety features provided in the facility, in excess of the minimum code requirements, may also affect the equivalency. It is important to consider that fire safety usually consists of a system of protection, not just a set of independent features. When considering accepting an equivalency, the Fire Marshal will take into account how the specific item being evaluated affects the entire fire safety system of the building. Such items or combination of items as additional fire walls, installation of non-required fire suppression or fire alarm systems, standpipes, additional fire hydrants and other fire protection systems will affect equivalency considerations.

If it is determined that the evidence presented is satisfactory proof of performance for the use intended, the Fire Marshal may approve the use of such alternative, subject to the requirements of the City of Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau. The Fire Marshal may require and consider a statement from a professional engineer, architect or other competent person, as to the equivalency of the proposed modification.

As required by the City of Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau, the application for modification and the final decision of the fire official shall be in writing, and will be recorded in the permanent records of the local enforcing agency. In accordance with section Columbus City Code 2502.13 the application fee for Fire Code Modifications is \$300.00. The second page of this form has an application that may be used to request a City of Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau modification. Modification requests must be addressed to Assistant Chief David K. Whiting, Fire Marshal, via (Plans Review), Fire Prevention Office, 3639 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207. Request may be submitted via hand delivery, U.S. mail, fax or e-mail. Requests submitted via fax or e-mail must have an original and signed copy received within 7 business days.



Fire Code Modification Application

Facility Name:					
Facility's Address:					
	Number	Street	City	State	Zip
Facility Owner:			Phone:		
Owner's Address:					
	Number	Street	City	State	Zip
Applicant Name:			Phone:		
Applicant's Address:					
	Number	Street	City	State	Zip
Contact Person:			Phone:		
Type of Facility:			Use Group:		
This Facility is:	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renovation	Date of Construction:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if a Modification Request to the Ohio Building Code is being submitted to the City of Columbus.					
Applicable fire code requirement for which an equivalency is be sought:					
The reasons the fire code requirements cannot be met are:					
How does the proposed alternative meet the level of safety as intended by the fire code?					

*Attached Additional Documentation as Needed

Print applicant's name

Signature of Applicant

Date