

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Safety Code

SECTION 172-1-5 of the Fire Safety Code as prepared by the Editor of the Connecticut Law Journal for submission to the 1953 General Assembly by the Secretary of State, which Code and amendments thereto were filed with the Secretary on September 23, 1947, December 30, 1947, June 9, 1948, November 4, 1953, March 26, 1954, and July 26, 1954, and published in the said Journal on September 29, 1947, January 19, 1948, June 28, 1948, December 15, 1953, April 27, 1954, and August 10, 1954, respectively, is amended by inserting among the definitions therein, after the term "Boarding Home" and before the term "Classroom," the definition of the following term:

Child Day Care Center. The term "Child Day Care Center" shall mean a room or group of rooms or spaces within a building used as a place for the care, guidance and/or supervision of a total of five or more children not of common parentage, which term shall include all such places known as day nurseries, nursery schools, kindergarten schools, play schools and pre-schools.

The Fire Safety Code is further amended by the addition of the following regulations:

ARTICLE XI

CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS

SEC. 172-1-214. GENERAL.

The regulations contained in this article shall apply to all buildings in which are located child day care centers as defined in Section 172-1-5, except when such child day care centers are located in occupancies defined as "Boarding Home," "Place of Assembly," and "Schools" in Section 172-1-5 and regulated respectively by Article IX, Article I, Article VII, and Article VIII of the Fire Safety Code.

SEC. 172-1-215. HEATING EQUIPMENT

a. Central heating plants, steam boilers and oil-fired water heaters shall be segregated from all other occupancies by walls, ceiling and floor having a fire-resistant rating of not less than 30 minutes, which shall provide a reasonably smoke-tight enclosure. In new buildings the enclosure shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistant construction.

b. Such enclosure for heating equipment shall be provided with adequate vents direct to the outside sufficient for proper combustion and exhaust. Ventilating openings shall be provided having a total area equal to not less than twice the flue outlet of the heating plant. Such opening shall be maintained in an open position with fixed louvers.

c. Heater rooms shall contain only equipment for heating, water, and/or switchboard, and shall not be used for any other purposes.

d. Interior doors to heater rooms shall be of the same fire resistancy required for segregating partitions, and shall be

equipped with a positive self-closing device. Such doors shall have no hold-open devices, and shall be kept closed at all times.

e. Furnaces, boilers, and other fired units shall be vented to a chimney by means of a gas-tight smokepipe. The chimney shall be constructed of brick, solid block masonry reinforced concrete or stone, with suitable flue lining erected and maintained in a safe condition.

f. Oil Burners. See Section 172-1-60.

SEC. 172-1-216. INCINERATORS

Incinerators within buildings shall be loaded and fired from a vestibule or compartment segregated from the rest of the building by noncombustible construction having a fire-resistant rating of not less than two hours, having a Class B fire door equipped with a positive self-closing device and with no hold-open device. Ventilating openings shall be provided direct to the outside from such enclosures equivalent to not less than twice the area of the flue of the incinerator.

SEC. 172-1-217. SPACE HEATERS

Space heaters or above-the-floor devices for the direct heating of space in and adjacent to that in which the device is located shall not be used. (See Section 172-1-61).

SEC. 172-1-218. HAZARDOUS OCCUPANCY

No child day care center shall be located in a building containing any manufacturing, commercial occupancy, or occupancy which is not within immediate control of the management, or which contains materials and/or equipment of high hazard.

SEC. 172-1-219. USE OF COMBUSTIBLE BUILDINGS

In combustible buildings presently used as child day care centers only the first and second stories may be used as such. In combustible buildings hereafter constructed for or converted to child day care centers only the first story may be so used except that in buildings completely protected by a system of automatic sprinklers installed and maintained in accordance with proper standards the second story may be so used.

SEC. 172-1-220. EGRESS FACILITIES REQUIRED

a. In buildings used as child day care centers there shall be at least two approved means of egress from each occupied level. Each room used for child day care center activity shall have at least one doorway opening directly to the outside or to a corridor or space having access to two means of egress directly to the outside. Exits shall be located remote from each other, providing the best practical means of egress for all occupants in the event fire renders one exit impassable.

b. In all buildings at least one passageway from each occupied level shall lead directly to the outdoors or through an enclosed stairway or enclosed passageway or a combination of such stairway and passageway to the outside. Where necessary, one such stairway or passageway may be allowed to lead through an open space or lobby which has ample egress opening to the outside.

SEC. 172-1-221. EGRESS PASSAGEWAYS

a. Corridors and passageways from occupied rooms leading to egress stairways and then to the outside shall be not less than 30 inches in width.

b. Access to all interior and outside stairways to fire-escapes and other exits considered as approved means of egress shall be unobstructed and shall not be through a bathroom or a room used for any other purpose that may obstruct free passage, nor shall access be veiled from open view by ornamentation, curtains or other appurtenances.

SEC. 172-1-222. VERTICAL OPENINGS

a. In all buildings, interior stairways constituting approved egress passageways shall be enclosed and segregated from other portions of the building by materials with a fire-resistant rating of not less than 30 minutes. All other vertical openings shall be enclosed by materials with a fire-resistant rating of not less than 30 minutes.

b. No enclosure will be required for any stairway leading to a story above that is not occupied or used as a child day care center or purposes incidental thereto.

SEC. 172-1-223. STAIRWAYS

a. Stairways in approved egress passages in existing buildings shall be not less than 30 inches in width.

b. All stairways in approved egress passages shall have stair treads of not less than 8 inches in width exclusive of nosing, and risers shall not exceed 8½ inches in height.

c. All stairways in approved egress passages shall be provided with landings at least 30 inches in depth between the nosing of the top or bottom riser and the door opening.

d. No arrangement of treads known as "winders" shall be allowed in approved egress stairways.

e. All egress stairways shall have suitable handrails on both sides. Handrails shall be attached at a height between 2 feet and 2 feet 6 inches vertically above the intersection of the treads and risers at the nosing.

f. There shall be no closets or other storage areas within stair enclosures or beneath stairways used for storage of any kind.

SEC. 172-1-224. DOORS AND DOORWAYS

a. All doorways which are approved means of egress shall be at floor level.

b. All egress doors to the outside or into stairways or passageways leading to the outside shall open out in the direction of egress travel, but this regulation shall not be construed as requiring doors from children-occupied rooms to open into the corridors. There shall be no obstruction at any time to the opening or closing of egress doors.

c. All egress doors shall be at least 28 inches in width.

d. Egress doors into stair enclosures, and all doors serving stairways or other vertical openings shall be equipped with self-closing devices designed, installed and maintained to automatically close such doors when not in use. All interior egress doors providing access to stairway enclosures shall be not less than 30-minute fire-resistant. Wired glass ¼ inch thick in a single pane or smaller panes totalling not over 6 square feet may be used in such doors.

e. All egress doors shall be equipped with hardware which will insure opening of such doors by a single motion such as the turning of a knob or pressure of a latch, or shall be equipped with panic hardware which will release when pressure is applied to the releasing device in the direction of exit travel.

f. No egress door from a child-occupied room to stairway enclosures or to the outside shall be equipped with a lock, latch, bolt or other fastening device which will allow for locking such door against opening from within, or which will require a second operation or motion to open such door for egress purposes.

g. No sliding door, vertical lift door, revolving door or folding partition or gate shall be used as a closure for a required means of egress.

SEC. 172-1-225. EXIT SIGNS

a. Signs bearing the word "EXIT" shall be placed at each approved egress doorway from each story, and shall

be so installed as to be legible at all times from the direction of travel thereto. Where such doorways and signs are not readily discernible from doors of occupied rooms, an adequate number of additional signs shall be provided with the term "EXIT" and an arrow pointing in the direction of exit travel.

b. Exit signs shall bear letters at least 4½ inches in height with strokes not less than ¾ inches in width.

SEC. 172-1-226. FIRE ALARMS

a. A suitable fire alarm system shall be provided with alarm-sounding devices of such character and so located as to be audible throughout each story occupied in the building. At least one alarm sending device shall be suitably located in each story convenient for operation.

b. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be located in all kitchens and boiler rooms to operate the fire alarm system from a temperature not higher than 165 degrees Fahrenheit in kitchens and not more than 212 degrees Fahrenheit in boiler rooms.

c. A telephone or other suitable alarm sending device shall be provided as a means of communicating an alarm of fire to the Fire Department. Pay station telephones will not be approved for this purpose.

SEC. 172-1-227. FIRE-STOPPING

Exterior walls of frame construction and interior stud partitions shall be completely fire-stopped by a timber of not less than two inches in thickness or other suitable non-combustible material completely closing any possible vertical openings, open joist channels and stud spaces, at the ceiling of the basement.

SEC. 172-1-228. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

All child day care centers shall be provided with proper type fire extinguishing equipment adequate for the conditions involved and suitably located.

SEC. 172-1-229. HOUSEKEEPING

a. All child day care center buildings shall be kept clean and in tidy condition free from the accumulation of combustible debris and other waste material.

b. All corridors, passageways, stairways and fire-escapes shall be kept free and clear of all storage and/or obstructions at all times.

SEC. 172-1-230. EVACUATION

The management of each child day care center shall formulate a plan for the protection of all children in the event of fire or other emergency and their evacuation to areas of refuge outside of the building when necessary. All employees shall be instructed and kept informed respecting their duties under the plan.

Be it known that the within and foregoing rules and regulations are made and promulgated by the undersigned, pursuant to Section 3665 of the 1949 General Statutes, as an amendment to the Fire Safety Code.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 30th day of November 1954.

JOHN C. KELLY,
Commissioner of State Police.

Received and filed in triplicate, this 2nd day of December 1954, in accordance with Section 281 of the General Statutes, Revision of 1949. Charles B. Keats, Secretary of State; By: Louis J. Tapogna. Approved December 28, 1954, by William L. Beers, Attorney General.