Alberta Fire Code

PRE-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

The following is a standard guide for business owners, store managers and maintenance personnel to ensure occupant safety and compliance with the Alberta Fire Code within their establishments.

Please follow this guide carefully as these items will be reviewed for compliance during routine fire inspections conducted by Chestermere Fire Services.

Should you have any questions or concerns about meeting compliance requirements, please contact Chestermere Fire Services at (403) 272-9878

Code References

Update to Alberta Fire Code 2019 (AFC) references are from Division B unless stated otherwise.

Update to Alberta Building Code 2019 (ABC) references are from Division B unless noted otherwise.

All National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes are referenced in the Alberta Fire Code.

Maintenance records for all tests required under the AFC shall be kept on the premise for a minimum of two years for examination by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). (AFC Division C 2.2.1.2)

Fire Alarm System

- Fire alarm systems must be maintained in an operable condition at all times. (AFC 6.3.11)
- Maintenance personnel or managers should conduct a visual inspection of the fire alarm panel daily. (AFC 6.3.1.2)
- Fire alarm systems shall be maintained, inspected and tested annually by a qualified & certified fire alarm company. (AFC 6.3.1.2)
- If the fire alarm system is independent (internal with no monitoring service), permanent signage shall be posted above all manual fire alarm pull stations with directions to phone 9-1-1 in case of emergency. (AFC 2.8.2.7)
- If the fire alarm system is monitored by a certified monitoring company (required if the building has a sprinkler system); the monitoring company's certificate shall be posted within one metre of the fire alarm panel. (NFPA 72)

Sprinkler Systems

- Sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be maintained in operable conditions at all times.
- Doors to rooms containing sprinkler control valves shall include signage indicating "Sprinkler Control Room."
- All valves and components for fire sprinkler systems shall be maintained free of obstructions. (AFC 6.4.1.1)
- Storage shall not interfere with fire sprinkler head discharge; a 450mm (18inch) clearance is required from fire sprinkler head deflectors to top of storage arrangements. (NFPA 13)

Exit Lights

- All exit lights and exit signs shall be illuminated when the building is occupied. (AFC 2.7.3.1)

Fire Extinguishers

- For low-hazard areas (office and retail spaces), at least one 2A:10BC or larger fire extinguisher shall be available and to which there is a maximum travel distance of 25m.
- High-hazard areas (repair garages, parking garages) shall have fire extinguishers with minimum ratings and travel distances as per NFPA 10.
- Fire extinguishers shall be serviced and tagged annually by a certified fire extinguisher company. (AFC 6.2.1.1)
- Fire extinguishers shall be located near or in access to exits. They shall be mounted on a wall with a handle height between 900-1500mm (3-5 feet). (NFPA 10)

Emergency Lights

- Emergency lights, where required by the Alberta Building Code, shall be maintained in operable condition and tested annually by a certified company. (AFC 2.7.3.1)

Fire Separations and Smoke Control

- Any hole or damage to fire-rated construction (fire separations – i.e.: furnace rooms, electrical rooms) shall be repaired as to maintain the integrity of the fire separation.
- Mechanical penetrations through fire separations shall be caulked with ULC approved fire-stopping. (AFC 2.2.1.2)
- Fire doors forming part of a fire separation, when damaged, shall be repaired or replaced to maintain the integrity of the fire separation.
- Any replacement doors shall meet or exceed the minimum rating of the fire separation. (AFC 2.2.2.1)
- Fire doors must remain closed at all times and self-closing devices maintained to enable the door to latch properly. (AFC 2.2.2.4)

Special Fire Suppression Systems

- Special Fire Suppression Systems, i.e.: fixed kitchen suppression systems, CO2 systems, FM-200 systems, shall be tested, inspected, and maintained by a certified company in conformance with its applicable standard. (AFC 6.6.1.1)

Electrical

- All electrical wiring shall be installed and maintained as to not constitute an undue fire hazard. (AFC 2.4.7.1) This includes, but is not limited to; the use of extension cords for permanent fixtures and junction boxes to have cover plates installed.
- A one-metre clearance to combustible materials from electrical panels shall be maintained. (AFC 2.4.1.1)
- Electrical rooms shall not be used for storage.

Housekeeping and Storage

- Rooms containing any building services, i.e.: furnace, mechanical and electrical rooms, shall not be used for storage (AFC 2.4.1.1). Refer to “Sprinkler Systems” for storage clearances.
- Combustible storage shall not accumulate in exit stairwells, in a means of egress or in front of exits (2.4.1.1).

Exits

- Every exit door must open in the direction of travel, swing on a vertical axis and open easily. (ABC 3.4.6.12)
- Exit doors must be clearly visible at all times and free of storage accumulation.
- The exterior of all exit doors shall also be free of storage and accumulation of snow in the winter months.
- All locking, latching or other fastening devices on exit doors must permit the door to be readily opened from the inside requiring no keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the door opening mechanism. (ABC 3.4.6.16)

Commercial Cooking Systems

- Any kitchen activities producing grease-laden vapors shall have an exhaust and fire protection system installed (ABC 3.3.1.2). All exhaust systems for commercial cooking equipment must be inspected by a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) inspector or a building inspector.
- Commercial cooking exhaust systems must be cleaned semi-annually by a certified company. (NFPA 96)
- Filters on commercial cooking exhaust systems must be installed in the vertical position and cleaned at regular intervals (weekly). (AFC 2.6.1.9)
- A class “K” fire extinguisher shall be mounted in all kitchens, in addition to fixed kitchen fire suppression system, and be inspected annually by a certified company.

PLEASE NOTE: The above requirements are general Alberta Fire Code requirements. Depending on your type of business and occupancy classification, further requirements may apply at the time of your fire inspection.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.

CHESTERMERE FIRE SERVICES
(403) 272-9878
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For emergencies dial 9-1-1