0780-02-02-.01 ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.

(1) Unless otherwise provided by applicable law or the provisions of this chapter, the required minimum standards for fire prevention, fire protection, and building construction safety in the State of Tennessee shall be those prescribed in the following publications:

(a) International Building Code (IBC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC), except for:

1. Chapter 11 Accessibility; and,
2. Chapter 34, Section 3411 Accessibility For Existing Buildings;

(b) The International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);

(c) The International Mechanical Code (IMC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);

(d) The International Plumbing Code (IPC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);

(e) The International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);

(f) The International Fire Code (IFC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);


1. Moderate-hazard factory industrial, Group F-1;
2. Low-hazard factory industrial, Group F-2;
3. Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1; and,
4. Low-hazard storage, Group S-2;
(Rule 0780-02-02-.01, continued)

(h) The International Existing Building Code (IEBC), 2012 edition, published by the International Code Council (ICC);

(i) For state buildings, educational occupancies and any other occupancy requiring an inspection by the state fire marshal for initial licensure, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2012 edition, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); except that:

1. For classrooms in existing and new educational occupancies, as defined by Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-03-.01(d), 15.2.2.2.4 excluding (1): Classroom Door Locking to Prevent Unwanted Entry, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2018 edition, published by the NFPA; or

2. For classrooms in existing and new colleges and university instructional buildings, 39.2.2.2.2 excluding (1): Classroom Door Locking to Prevent Unwanted Entry, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2018 edition, published by the NFPA.

(j) No provision of the preceding cited publications shall be adopted that conflicts with:

1. The installation and service standards of portable fire extinguishers and fixed fire extinguisher systems in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-14-.02; and,

2. The standards for engaging in the liquefied petroleum gas business in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-17-.02.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this rule shall not be construed as adopting any provision of the cited publications which establishes:

(a) An optional or recommended, rather than mandatory, standard or practice; or,

(b) Any agency, procedure, fees or penalties for administration or enforcement purposes inconsistent with the statute or rules.


0780-02-02-.02 REPEALED.


0780-02-02-.03 RETROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT. Any existing building which conformed to the standards legally effective at the time of its construction shall not be subject to the standards adopted by
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(Rule 0780-02-02-.03, continued)

reference in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-02-.01, unless the nonconformity of the building to such
standards poses a serious life safety hazard. However, any construction as defined in Tenn. Comp. R. &
Regs. 0780-02-03-.01 undertaken after the effective date of this chapter shall be in compliance with the
standards adopted by reference in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-02-.01.

filed June 12, 2001; effective August 26, 2001. Repeal and amendments filed May 6, 2016; effective
August 4, 2016.

0780-02-02-.04 CONFLICTS.

(1) In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the codes adopted by reference in Tenn.
Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-02-.01:

(a) The provisions of the International Building Code (IBC) shall prevail if such conflict or
inconsistency relates to building height, building area restrictions or construction type;

(b) The provisions of the Tennessee Public Building Accessibility Act, T.C.A. § 68-120-
201, et seq., shall prevail if such conflict or inconsistency relates to accessibility;

(c) The provisions of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2018 edition, shall prevail if such conflict
or inconsistency relates to classrooms in existing and new educational occupancies,
colleges, and university instructional buildings; and

(d) The more stringent provision shall prevail in all other cases.

(2) In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between either standard adopted by reference in
Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-02-.01 and 0780-02-01 (Electrical Installations), the
provisions of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01 (Electrical Installations) shall prevail.

(3) Nothing in this rule shall abrogate any right of appeal granted under T.C.A., Title 68,
Chapters 102 and 120.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-113(a) and (e), 68-120-101, 68-120-101(a), and 68-120-106.
Administrative History: Original rule filed July 27, 1982; effective August 26, 1982. Amendment filed
November 14, 1983; effective December 14, 1983. Amendment filed July 9, 1990; effective August 23,
Amendment filed June 18, 2008; effective September 1, 2008. Amendment filed October 2, 2008;
Emergency rules filed June 1, 2018; effective through November 28, 2018. Amendments filed August 24,
2018; effective November 22, 2018.

0780-02-02-.05 LOCAL ORDINANCES. Except as provided in T.C.A. § 68-120-101, or otherwise
approved in writing by the state fire marshal, no city, county, town, municipal corporation, metropolitan
government, or political subdivision of the state of Tennessee shall adopt or enforce any ordinance
prescribing less stringent standards of fire prevention, fire protection, or building construction safety than
those established hereunder. A city, county, town, municipal corporation, metropolitan government, or
political subdivision of the state of Tennessee that has adopted an edition of a building construction or fire
safety standard within seven (7) years of the most current published edition shall be deemed to be in
compliance with this chapter.

(Rule 0780-02-02-.05 continued)