

## **ASHE Advocacy Initiatives**

### **February Report**

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## **NFPA Cycle Activities**

### Codes Accepting NITMAM's (28 March 2023)

- NFPA 4 - Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing
- NFPA 90A/B0 - Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning/Warm Air Heating and Ventilating Systems
- NFPA 99 - Health Care Facilities Code
- NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code

### Codes Open for Public Input (2026 Edition)

- NFPA 10 - Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers (1 June 2023)
- NFPA 25 - Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (1 June 2023)
- NFPA 70 – National Electrical Code (7 Sept 2023)
- NFPA 241 - Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations (4 June 2023)

## **ASHRAE**

### ASHRAE Task Force for Building Decarbonization

- Determining and engaging with other organizations
- Providing information to policy makers
- Providing recommendations and best practices for industry stakeholders by:
- Identifying existing portfolio of technical resources
- Packaging these technical resources in a useful way
- Providing tools for energy efficiency, embodied carbon, and reducing operational carbon
- Identifying knowledge gaps and developing resources to address those gaps
- Task Force for Building Decarbonization

### Proposed ASHRAE 514 Risk Management for Building Water Systems: Physical, Chemical, and Microbial Hazards

- The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum requirements to reduce illness and injury from physical, chemical, and microbial hazards from water systems in buildings.
- 45-Day Public Review Period from February 17 to April 03, 2023

## ASHRAE / ASHE 170

- Guideline 43 - Operations Guideline for Ventilation of Health Care Facilities
- The purpose of this guideline is to provide information and guidance for the operation of ventilation systems that provide environmental control in new and existing health care facilities.
- Continues to be a work in progress
- Plan to have ready for a public review later this year

## **Guidance**

Guidance to consider; most importantly is the language cited below the fire extinguisher scenario. The language regarding existing condition and cost burden with little life safety gain can be used universally with AHJ approval.

### Fire Extinguisher Installations

NFPA 10-2010, 6.1.3.8.1 indicates extinguishers less than 40 pounds are to be installed with the top being no more than 5 ft (1.53 m) above the floor. Unfortunately, there are organizations with installations in which the extinguisher cabinets are not compliant with this requirement. However, NFPA 101-2012 does have a provision in which there can be an allowance for this scenario in existing buildings.

NFPA 101-2012, 4.6.5\* Modification of Requirements for Existing Buildings. Where it is evident that a reasonable degree of safety is provided, the requirements for existing buildings shall be permitted to be modified if their application would be impractical in the judgment of the authority having jurisdiction.

A.4.6.5 In existing buildings, it is not always practical to strictly apply the provisions of this Code. Physical limitations can cause the need for disproportionate effort or expense with little increase in life safety. In such cases, the authority having jurisdiction needs to be satisfied that reasonable life safety is ensured. In existing buildings, it is intended that any condition that represents a serious threat to life be mitigated by the application of appropriate safeguards. It is not intended to require modifications for conditions that do not represent a significant threat to life, even though such conditions are not literally in compliance with the Code. An example of what is intended by 4.6.5 would be a historic ornamental guardrail baluster with spacing that does not comply with the 4 in. (100 mm) requirement. Because reducing the spacing would have minimal impact on life safety but could damage the historic character of the guardrail, the existing spacing might be approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

**Reminder: ASHE Annual Conference is August 6-9, 2023 in San Antonio, TX**