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Memorandum Interpretative Bulletin - Industrial Occupancy Sprinkler Exemption

1 message

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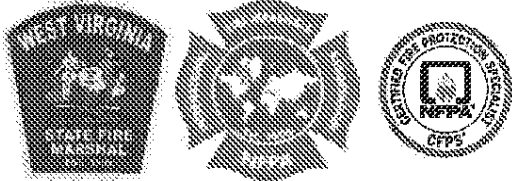
Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 2:31 PM

There was a grammatical error made in our 2024 State Fire Code that I wanted to clarify the intent of the language found in Section 2.2.a.1.

Please see the attached interpretative bulletin to clear up the confusion.

Thanks,

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Challenges build character; anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.

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Industrial Occupancy Exemption 2.2.a.1 031025.docx
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Memorandum

FROM: Kenneth E. Tyree Jr., State Fire Marshal

TO: WV SFMO Staff, Code Enforcement Officials, and Others to Whom May Be Concerned

RE: WV State Fire Code, Interpretative Bulletin, Industrial Occupancy, Automatic Sprinkler System Exemption

DATE: March 10, 2025

There have been several questions regarding whether Industrial Occupancies are to be excluded from the height and area requirements of the WV State Fire Code relative to 87csr1, Section 2.2.a.1. which states:

"Approved automatic sprinkler systems in accordance with the applicable NFPA Standard for Sprinkler Systems will be installed in all new buildings used for any occupancy except Industrial occupancies without special or high hazard use or structures with the exception of Industrial occupancies as previously described, exceeding the area limitations noted in the chart at the end of this subsection, or as required by occupancy chapters of the applicable NFPA codes and other NFPA codes. Sprinkler protection for occupancies covered by section 2 of this rule are required to provide sprinkler protection regardless of area limitations. See Table 2.2.a. below."

It was the intent when this change was made to the reference section effective May 1, 2024, to exempt all Industrial Occupancies from the requirement of having an approved Automatic Sprinkler system including exempting them from the height and area requirements found in the State Fire Code 87csr1, Section 2.2.a.

INTERPRETATION: Applications of the code relating to Industrial Occupancies shall be based on and aligned with the requirements found in NFPA 101, Chapter 40 of the Life Safety Code titled, Industrial Occupancies. Sections 40.3.2 titled Protection of Hazards does have requirements for All high hazard occupancies but would only be limited to that specific occupancy type. Section 40.3.4 titled Detection, alarm, and Communication Systems does have requirements for Fire Alarm Systems. Section 40.3.5 titled Extinguishing Requirements is marked "{Reserved}" which means there are no requirements for Automatic Sprinkler System installation.

On the next update to the State Fire Code, Section 2.2.a.1. will read:

Approved automatic sprinkler systems in accordance with the applicable NFPA Standard for Sprinkler Systems will be installed in all new buildings used for any occupancy except for Industrial occupancies except those classified as a high hazard occupancy. This exemption shall include an exemption from the height and area requirements found in Section 2.2.a. of this code as previously described, exceeding the area limitations noted in the chart at the end of this subsection, or as required by occupancy chapters of the applicable NFPA codes and other NFPA codes. Sprinkler protection for occupancies covered by section 2 of this rule are required to provide sprinkler protection regardless of area limitations. See Table 2.2.a. below."