

FIRE INSPECTION GUIDELINES
Revised March 2008 (Adopted from 7/10/07 code changes)

Provider: _____ Date of initial licenser inspection: _____

Triggers for State Fire Marshall Inspection ___yes ___no

(\$50 certified bank check, money order or agency check payable to: State Fire Marshal)

- Mobile Homes
- Care in basement
- Wood Stoves
- Mixed Occupancy (with attached garage)
- Multi-Occupancy
- Any rental property
- Houses with paneling in them.
- Homes with the an oil furnace
- Older homes with questionable safety issues due to codes being different.
- Reasonable Cause
- At least six feet of the basement is underground (walk outs are not basements).
- Heating appliances in garages
- Welding Equipment in the garage
- Corn Stoves
- Pellet Stoves

Homes, including mobile homes, inspected by a building inspector within the last five years from date of providers request, do not need a fire marshal inspection, unless the home has been remodeled or added onto or if licenser sees any violations. (Need certificate of occupancy or other documentation of the inspection)

I. WINDOWS

- yes no na Must have a clear net opening of at least 5.0 sq. ft. or 720 sq. in.
- yes no na Must be located no more than 44" from the floor to the window opening or must have a permanent platform under the window that is as wide as the window, 8" in height, extends out 18" from wall, permanently fastened to the wall. (bed, dresser, toy box acceptable if permanently attached. Bunk beds not acceptable.)
- yes no na If built before 1989, 48" from floor is acceptable, but nothing higher than 52".
- yes no na No plastic on outside of windows.
- yes no na Inside plastic must be clear and must have a sharp object nearby to open or need tab on plastic to pull off easily.
- yes no na Clips to hold storm windows or screens on the outside of the house are not allowed.
- yes no na Window wells must have a built in ladder or hand or foot hold or more than 44" deep. The ladder cannot block the opening of window.
- yes no na Window well cover can't interfere with window opening and must push off easily.
- yes no na Windows where both halves are easily removed within 30 seconds without the use of tools are acceptable as long as they meet the clear opening requirements. (Measure window when fully opened.
- yes no na If no window well cover, must make agreement to keep window well clear and free from snow and debris.
- yes no na If sprinkler system, no egress window required.

II. FIRE EVACUATION

- yes no na Every room used for care must have a door and a second exit that is an egressable window or another door. This does not pertain to bathrooms, storage, utility or laundry areas. (May egress through one additional room.)
- yes no na Discuss that we encourage fire drills to ensure proper fire evacuation; including opening windows. (Mandatory logging for day care and adult foster care)
- yes no na Basements used only for storm drills don't need an inspection or have to meet egress codes.

III. MIXED OCCUPANCY This section does not apply

- yes no na 5/8" or 1/2" gypsum wallboard must go to the peak of the house on the garage side and must be taped and mudded.
- yes no na For living areas above the garage, sheet rock must go to the height of the garage and over the ceiling.
- yes no na Garage doors must be 1 3/8" thick if they are solid wood.
- yes no na Metal doors must have a 20 minute fire rating. Look for the label on the edge of the door. It must have a self-closing device that latches tightly (day care only).
- yes no na If there is glass in the door between the house and garage, it must be fixed wire glass.
- yes no na Stucco, cement block, and 1 3/8" thick wood is the equivalent to sheetrock for fire separation.
- yes no na In garages, furnace and water heater must be 18" above the floor.

IV. SMOKE DETECTORS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- yes no na Smoke detectors must be UL or FM listed.
- yes no na There must be one detector on each level of the home. If built after 6/29/98, must have a detector in each bedroom and one centrally located in the hallway outside the bedrooms and must be hard-wired and interconnected with battery back-up.
- yes no na Basement detector - not at top of stairway, detector in furnace room doesn't suffice.
- yes no na Heat detectors do not meet code.
- yes no na Placement of smoke detectors should be no closer than 4" (6" is preferred) to the corner of the ceiling and no further than 12" from the ceiling.
- yes no na At least one 2A10BC (5 pounds or larger) fire extinguisher, with a hose, is required in cooking area and is serviced and tagged annually.
- yes no na No detector should exceed 10 years old.
- yes no na Carbon Monoxide detectors should be within 10' of each bedroom and should not be more than 5 years old. Should be on each level that has sleeping rooms. (effective 1/1/07 for new construction and 8/1/08 for existing. Battery CO2 detectors are not allowed.)

- V. **FURNACES/WOOD BURNING STOVES** This section does not apply
- yes no na Furnaces, space heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces, and other hot surfaces must be inaccessible to children. (Blocked off or protective guard.)
- yes no na Combustibles (wood, paper, clothes, paints etc.) must be 36 inches from furnace or other heating source.
- yes no na Wood burners must be UL listed and are allowed in garages only if they are 18" above the floor.
- yes no na Unvented portable oil burning heaters (kerosene, fuel oil, etc.) are not allowed.
- yes no na Unvented fuel-fired (all types) room heaters shall not be installed in sleeping areas, bathrooms or storage rooms.
- yes no na Furnaces not vented to the outside are not acceptable.
- yes no na Bedrooms next to furnace must be sheet rocked.
- yes no na Space heaters must be UL listed, cannot be used in small spaces, must be inaccessible to children and must have tip over protection.
- yes no na We recommend annual cleaning and checking of the furnace and chimney.
- yes no na Water heater must have pressure relief valve with a pipe 12" from floor if it's in an area anywhere near children have access.

VI. **ELECTRICAL**

- yes no na Extension cords are not acceptable in place of permanent wiring. Surge protectors "*Power Taps*" are acceptable as long as they are UL listed and have a 15 amp overage protection. "*Over Current Protection*" should be identified on tag.
- yes no na No multi-plug adaptors are allowed.
- yes no na Electrical outlet covers must be installed on all exposed outlets.
- yes no na Cover plates must be installed on all electrical outlets so no wires are exposed.
- yes no na Provide a 30" access to the electrical panel.
- yes no na Empty spaces must be filled in the electrical box.
- yes no na No fuses in the 30 amp range unless used for dryer, range or air conditioner.
- yes no na No taped wiring is allowed.

VII. **DECKS** This section does not apply

- yes no na Decks more than 30" above the ground must have a railing.
- yes no na Stairways on decks more than 30" must have a railing on both sides and the risers must be enclosed.
- yes no na Maximum height of deck rails is 42" and the minimum height is 36".
- yes no na No more than 4" between rails. (Built before 1995, 6" is acceptable.)
- yes no na Decks must have a latching gate if more than 30" above the ground.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

- yes no na Stairways with two or more steps must have a handrail that is 30 - 42" in height.
- yes no na Sheetrock (1/2" or 5/8") is required under stairway if enclosed and used for storage.
- yes no na No more than 6" is allowed between guard rails.
- yes no na Must have enclosed risers on all stairs, including deck stairs.
- yes no na 8 1/4" rise on stairs with a minimum 9" tread on steps. (should fit your foot)
- yes no na Bedroom / bathroom door locks must be openable from the outside with an opening device readily available.
- yes no na Double cylinder and double key dead bolt locks are not acceptable.
- yes no na Propane tanks on BBQ grills must be kept outdoors, not in the garage.
- yes no na In an unfinished basement, provide documentation that the plastic vapor barrier is flame retardant or has class 3 flame spread rating, or cover it with sheet rock. (Applies even if not used for care.)
- yes no na Paneling must be Class C (200 or less in flame spread rating.)
(Sheetrock over paneling is fine (not vice versa) but if paneling alone on the wall - need to verify class or coat with flame retardant sealant.) (1/4" thick it is fine.)
(Native wood complies to fire code i.e. birch, oak, pine, solid wood)
- yes no na Dryers must be vented outside, in good condition & no combustibles nearby.
- yes no na Exhaust fan above stove needs to be kept free of build up.
- yes no na Closet doors must be openable from the inside.
- yes no na Battery operated radio and flashlight must be available for use during storms.
- yes no na Home address must be visible on house or in yard.
- yes no na Basements, whether used for care or not, should be inspected for the following:
 - * Furnace and water heater requirements
 - * Plastic on ceiling must be removed or be covered with sheetrock
 - * Styrofoam insulation must be removed or covered with sheetrock
 - * Plastic moisture barrier must be flame retardant.
- yes no na Mobile Homes:
 - * must have two exit doors
 - * must have stairways by doors that have handrails and guardrails
 - * smoke detectors must be hard wired with battery back-up in bedrooms and hallways.