



Common Sense Initiative

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Business Impact Analysis

Agency, Board, or Commission Name: Ohio Dept. of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

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Regulation/Package Title (a general description of the rules' substantive content):

2025 Ohio Fire Code

Rule Number(s): Rescind all rules in OAC 1301:7-7; adopt new rules 1301:7-7-01 through and including 1301:7-7-80

Date of Submission for CSI Review: March 10, 2025

Public Comment Period End Date: March 24, 2025

Rule Type/Number of Rules:

New/ X rules

Amended/ rules (FYR?)

No Change/ rules (FYR?)

Rescinded/ X rules (FYR? Y)

The Common Sense Initiative is established in R.C. 107.61 to eliminate excessive and duplicative rules and regulations that stand in the way of job creation. Under the Common Sense Initiative, agencies must balance the critical objectives of regulations that have an adverse impact on business with the costs of compliance by the regulated parties. Agencies should promote transparency, responsiveness, predictability, and flexibility while developing regulations that are fair and easy to follow. Agencies should prioritize compliance over punishment, and to that end, should utilize plain language in the development of regulations.

Reason for Submission

1. R.C. 106.03 and 106.031 require agencies, when reviewing a rule, to determine whether the rule has an adverse impact on businesses as defined by R.C. 107.52. If the agency

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determines that it does, it must complete a business impact analysis and submit the rule for CSI review.

Which adverse impact(s) to businesses has the agency determined the rule(s) create?

The rule(s):

- a. ☒ Requires a license, permit, or any other prior authorization to engage in or operate a line of business.
- b. ☒ Imposes a criminal penalty, a civil penalty, or another sanction, or creates a cause of action for failure to comply with its terms.
- c. ☒ Requires specific expenditures or the report of information as a condition of compliance.
- d. ☐ Is likely to directly reduce the revenue or increase the expenses of the lines of business to which it will apply or applies.

Regulatory Intent

2. Please briefly describe the draft regulation in plain language.

Please include the key provisions of the regulation as well as any proposed amendments.

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 1301:7-7 constitutes the Ohio Fire Code (OFC), which addresses matters of fire safety for all premises and structures in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) has been in the process of updating the OFC to bring the regulations in line with emerging and ever evolving national standards, as well as to coordinate the regulations with changes made in Ohio law and the Ohio Building Code (OBC).

The overall content and topics of the proposed rules are not changing in this update cycle. The International Fire Code (IFC), as promulgated by the International Code Council (ICC), has long served as the baseline standard for fire safety regulations adopted in Ohio. The last iteration of the OFC was based on the 2015 version of the IFC. The instant filing will update the OFC to the 2021 version of the IFC (with one exception – the OFC will use the 2024 IFC version of Chapter 12). The OFC will also incorporate changes from the 2018 IFC that remain in the 2021 IFC.

The manner of how the IFC text is incorporated into the OFC, and thus the format of the OFC, however, is being vastly amended. In prior iterations of the OFC, the SFM adopted IFC language into the OFC and the IFC language became a part of the OAC. To align the OFC with recent Ohio initiatives to decrease the size of the OAC and to eliminate the number of regulatory restrictions in the OAC, the OFC will now incorporate the IFC language by reference instead of the previously used direct incorporation process. Therefore, the proposed OFC will generally follow the ICC's 2021 IFC format, will incorporate the 2021 IFC language by reference and will note any changes to be made to that text. Only the Ohio-specific language (including prior Ohio specific amendments made in coordination with industry groups which will be carried forward) will be contained in the versions of the rules submitted to CSI and

JCARR for review with notations regarding where the language should be placed in context of the IFC language that is being incorporated by reference.

In addition to incorporating changes and updates made from the 2015 to the 2021 version of the IFC, formatting changes will be made to Ohio-specific language throughout all rules to eliminate prior Ohio-specific citation and reference formatting. This will ensure that the language incorporated by reference and the Ohio-specific amendments will have the same formatting structure and numbering system. All other portions of the national rules not edited (as noted in the documents to be filed) will mirror the 2021 version (unless otherwise noted) of the IFC language without change.

Non-substantive edits, clarifications and formatting corrections have been made throughout the rules. In addition, and in keeping with past OFC updates, references in the IFC to other ICC promulgated codes will be deleted and references to Ohio specific codes, where available, will be referenced instead. For example, references to the *International Building Code* will be replaced with references to the *Ohio Building Code*.

An overview of the basic requirements of each rule to be contained in the OFC (as promulgated in the IFC and incorporated into the OFC) are noted below. Also noted below is a summary of any IFC language and Ohio-specific language that has substantively changed from the prior iteration of the code.

1301:7-7-01 will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 1 but, as with prior iterations of the OFC and carry prior Ohio modifications forward, will be heavily amended to conform to Ohio law and legislative directives in Ohio regarding enforcement of the OFC. Chapter 1 provides the scoping and applicability provisions for the OFC and establishes rules for the administration and enforcement of authorities granted to the SFM and fire code officials in the Ohio Revised Code. (R.C.). The rule outlines permitting authority, inspection authority, and enforcement authority and procedures; the chapter also contains hotel and SRO facility licensing requirements and procedures; finally, the rule contains special provisions regarding loan and grant applications, administrative hearing procedures, Type-A and B daycare homes, and fire department recognition awards. **Substantive amendments to the IFC language** to be incorporated include the following: general applicability provisions were amended (102.1.1); change of use or occupancy provisions were amended (102.3.3); discretion was removed from the fire code official regarding approval of alternative material and construction method approvals (104.10); **new operational permits** were **added** for additive manufacturing (105.5.1), aerosol cooking spray and plastic aerosol 3 products (105.5.2), carbon dioxide used in carbon dioxide enrichments systems in excess of specified amounts (105.5.9, Table 105.5.9), energy storage systems (105.5.14), mobile food preparation vehicles (105.5.32), outdoor assembly events (105.5.38), and plant extraction systems (105.5.40); operational permit requirement were **deleted** for carbon dioxide systems used for beverage dispensing applications unless in excess of specified amounts (105.6.4, 105.5.9, Table 105.5.9); operational permit for flammable and combustible liquids was clarified and amended (105.5.18); **construction permit** for battery systems **deleted** (105.7.2); construction permits were **added** for energy storage systems (105.6.5), fuel cell power systems (105.6.9), gas detection systems (105.6.10), high piled combustible storage (105.6.13), motor vehicle repair rooms and booths (105.6.16), plant extraction systems

(105.6.17) and special event structures (105.6.21); language was added (and Ohio specific amendments made) to provide local fire code officials authority to disconnect utility services in specified circumstances (110.1); a provision was added to provide fire code official authority to evacuate occupied structures in certain circumstances (and further Ohio specific amendments made to conform to Ohio law) (114.2); language was added regarding the restoration of buildings with unsafe conditions (and Ohio specific qualifications made) (114.6). **Substantive Ohio-specific amendments** include the following: language was added to incorporate all Chapters of the 2021 IFC by reference except 2021 IFC Chapter 12 and to incorporate 2024 IFC Chapter 12 (101.1.1); the scoping statement of the chapter was clarified (101.2); activities, locations and persons subject to the OFC were clarified to reflect current law and general practice (101.2.2); language exempting the organization and structure of local fire departments and structures and premises subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the public utilities commission from the OFC were clarified (101.2.2.1); language was added to clarify Ohio law regarding the OFC's independent enforcement authority and its applicability regardless of applicability of other codes (101.2.3); language was added regarding the applicability of the OFC's substantive safety provisions (101.2.4); language was added stating that the new iteration of the OFC will supersede any prior iterations of the OFC and any political subdivision fire regulations in conflict with the OFC (101.2.5); OFC applicability provisions were clarified (102.1.1); provisions regarding the OFC's **application to agricultural uses and locations** were amended to clarify application in conformance with Ohio law (102.1.2); language was added to clarify the applicability of OFC construction and design provisions (102.1.4); language was added to clarify the intent of construction, design, maintenance and operational provisions (102.1.5 et. seq.); minimum conditions of occupancy were amended (102.3.1); change of use or occupancy provisions were amended (102.3.3); language was added to clarify references to other Ohio codes within the OFC (102.7.1); language was added regarding **application of local fire codes** within political subdivisions to clarify the effect of such codes on the OFC and its application (103.1); language regarding plan review processes and timeframes was amend for clarity (104.2.1.2 and 104.2.1.3); fire reporting requirements were amended to update the manner of submission and to allow more sufficient time for reports to be submitted (104.6.3.1); variance language was modified to reflect SFM authority to issue variances to the OFC in time of public need (104.9.5); fire investigation findings language was amended (104.11); definition of 'major fire' was amended (104.11.2); notification requirements regarding major fires was amended (104.11.3); language was added to provide local fire code official's authority to disconnect utility services in specified circumstances (104.12.5); permitting requirements clarified (105.1.1); operational permit requirements for explosives amended to conform to Ohio law (105.5.16); **operational permit requirement for the storage of lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries was added** (105.5.53); provisions regarding the maintenance of safeguards were amended (109.1); citation service provisions were amended to delete prior language and add reference to applicable R.C. provisions (112.3.5); civil penalty provisions amended to add reference to applicable R.C. provisions (112.4 et. seq.); language added regarding *de minimus* hazards in unsafe buildings (114.1.1.4); pointer language (to R.C. and OFC) regarding enforcement action authority was added (114.3); **renewal fees for hotels** amended to conform to changes in Ohio law (121.7.3.2); **language**

added regarding of non-payment of fees (121.7.3.8); compliance provisions amended to require hotel/SRO construction, modification, and repair to be in conformance with applicable laws and regulations (121.7.5.1.6, 121.7.5.1.7, and 121.7.5.1.9); “Ohio Safe Stay Hotel” language deleted (118.8 et. seq.); small government fire department services revolving loan program language amended for clarity and new language added to allow for **electronic applications** (122 et. seq.); prior language regarding licensure and certification actions was deleted and pointer to R.C. Chapter 119 was inserted (125 et. seq.).

1301:7-7-02: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 2 which provides definitions for terms used throughout the OFC. **Substantive amendments to the IFC language** to be incorporated include the following: the **addition or amendment of the following terms**: 3D printer, Access(to), Active RF-emitting device, Additive manufacturing and related sub-definitions, Aerosol / Aerosol product, Aerosol container, Aerosol cooking spray products, Ambulatory care facility, Battery system - stationary storage, Battery types and related sub-definitions, Capacitor energy storage system, Carbon monoxide alarms, Carbon monoxide detector, Change of occupancy, Chemical fume hood, Combustible liquid, Common path of egress travel, Critical areas, Current tap, Delivered audio quality, Discharge site, Display site, Dust collection system., Dwelling, Energy storage management system, energy storage system (and for specific types), Energy storage cabinet, Energy storage system commissioning, Energy storage system decommissioning, fireworks display, Flammable liquid, Fuel cell power system, stationary (and sub-definitions), Glove box, Grade floor opening, Higher education laboratory, Historic buildings, Integrated testing (fire protection and life safety system), Laboratory suite, Life safety systems, Low energy power operated door, Membrane-penetration firestop system, Mobile food preparation vehicles (further amended with Ohio-specific language), occupancy classification definitions, Open-air assembly seating, Opening protective, Outdoor assembly event, Passive RF emitting device, Portable generator, Quantity distance, Radio frequency, Ready access (to), Relocatable power tap, Safety data sheet, Site safety plan, Sleeping unit, Smoke partition, Smoke-protected assembly seating, Special expert, Spray room, Subordinate (fire protection and life safety system), Tank, motor vehicle fuel, Temporary special event structure, tent, Through-penetration firestop system, Umbrella structure; and the **deletion** of the following terms: Continuous gas detection system and Temporary stage canopy. **Substantive Ohio-specific amendments** include the following: the **addition or amendment** of the following terms: Construction documents (pursuant to petition), **Fire lane**, **Flame effect**, **Flame effects exhibition**, Jurisdiction, **Licensed exhibitor of flame effects**, Occupancy classification definitions (international language further amended in conformance with updates to the OBC), **Pyrotechnic effect simulation equipment**, State fire marshal, Temporary residence; and the **deletion** of the following terms: mobile food unit (see new IFC term ‘Mobile food preparation vehicles’).

1301:7-7-03: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 3 which governs the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire and general requirements for fire safety. **Substantive amendments to IFC language** to be incorporated include the following: language regarding spaces under grandstands was amended (304.13.1); exceptions regarding dumpsters and containers with a certain capacity

were amended and expanded (304.3.3); language was added regarding the use of powered industrial trucks in hazardous areas (309.2); provisions regarding prohibited smoking areas were amended (310.2 et. seq.); ash tray provisions were amended (310.6); provisions regarding fire protection in vacant buildings was amended to add a new exception (311.2.2); language regarding the indoor display of vehicles was amended (314.4); exception added to general storage requirements (315.1); ceiling requirements regarding storage were amended to add exceptions (315.3.1); storage building egress requirements were amended (315.3.2); outdoor pallet storage requirements were revised (315.7 et. seq.); new language was added regarding **mobile food preparation vehicles***; new provisions added for additive manufacturing (3D printing) (320); new provisions added regarding artificial combustible vegetation (321). **Substantive Ohio-specific amendments** include the following: **sky lantern provisions amended to prohibit use** (38.1.6.3); prior OFC section regarding “mobile food trucks” was deleted (prior section 320) and Ohio specific amendments were made to the incorporated IFC ‘**mobile food preparation vehicle**’ language regarding fire protection for new and existing cooking equipment (319.4.1), fire extinguishers (319.4.2.1), maximum quantity amounts for LP-gas systems (319.8.1), protection for LP-gas containers (319.8.1 – 319.8.2.3), provisions regarding LP-gas piping and connectors (319.8.6), carbon monoxide detection (319.11), egress (319.12), smoking (319.13 et. seq.), emergency shutoff controls (319.14 et seq.), separation distances (319.15), generators (319.16.) and electrical wiring (319.17); **new provisions added regarding lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries and micromobility devices** (323).

***Note:** The prior version of the IFC adopted in Ohio did not contain language regarding mobile food trucks but the SFM did include language regarding them in the prior iteration of the OFC. The 2021 version of the IFC does contain language regarding what they term “mobile food preparation vehicles.” Much of the IFC language mirrors that which Ohio included in the 2017 OFC. However, there are some differences. The currently proposed draft of the OFC incorporates the IFC language and further amends it to include some of the prior Ohio-specific language that was contained in the 2017 OFC and which has been accepted and implemented by the mobile food preparation vehicle industry.

1301:7-7-04: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 4 which governs the reporting of emergencies, coordination with emergency response forces, emergency plans, and procedures for managing or responding to emergencies. **Substantive amendments to the IFC language** to be incorporated include the following: language regarding emergency evacuation drills moved from throughout the rule (under each occupancy classification) to section 405 and that section further amended; staff training provisions regarding ambulatory care facilities amended (403.3.1.2); Group F occupancy fire safety and evacuation plan language amended (403.5); Group I-1 occupancy fire safety and evacuation plan language amended (403.7.1.1, generally) as well as related staff training requirements (403.7.1.2), resident training requirements (403.7.1.3) and drill frequency requirements (403.7.1.4); Group I-2 occupancy fire safety and evacuation plan language amended (403.7.2.1 and 403.7.2.2, generally) as well as related staff training requirements (403.7.2.3; requirements added regarding fire loss prevention in operating rooms; Group I-3 fire safety and evacuation plan language moved and expounded (403.7.3 et. seq.); Group R-4 occupancy fire safety and

evacuation plan language amended (403.9.3 et. seq.); language added to require fire safety and evacuation plans for building with high-piled storage (403.10.5); public safety plan requirements for gatherings amended (403.11.2); **language regarding crowd managers revised** (403.11.3 et seq.); lockdown plan language revised (403.2.3 et. seq.); emergency fire and evacuation drill language revised (405.1); **occupant participation in emergency fire and evacuation drills added** (405.2 and frequency provisions revised (405.3, Table 405.3); drill time requirements amended (405.5). **Substantive Ohio-specific amendments** include the following: **tornado drill frequency requirements amended** (408.2.4).

1301:7-7-05: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 5 which governs fire service features for buildings, structures and premises. Substantive amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: fire safety plan requirement added (501.3.1); locations where fire command centers are required were expanded (508.1); fire command center size requirements were amended (508.1.3); fire command center identification requirements were added (508.1.7); emergency responder radio coverage (now emergency responder communication coverage / in-building, two-way emergency responder communication) provisions amended (510 et. seq.). Substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments include the following: **fire apparatus access road surface material** provisions amended to require approval by the fire code official (in response to petition) (503.2.3); language added to require fire code official approval of fire hydrant color (507.5.7).

1301:7-7-06: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 6 which sets forth requirements applying to the installation, operation and maintenance of electrical systems and equipment and wiring, information technology server rooms, elevator systems, emergency operation and recall, fuel-fired appliances, heating systems, chimneys and fuel oil storage, commercial kitchen equipment systems, commercial cooking oil storage, mechanical refrigeration systems, hyperbaric facilities, and clothes dryer exhaust systems. Substantive amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: Chapter 6 was reorganized and prior language contained in this chapter was deleted and moved to new Chapter 12, including language regarding emergency and standby power systems and stationary storage battery systems. (See Chapter 12 submission for changes to such language). Substantive amendments to the remaining language include the following: permit language was deleted and hazard abatement language inserted (601.2); language was added regarding the correction of unsafe conditions (601.2.1); general provisions regarding electrical equipment and wiring and associated hazards amended and reference to the National Electric Code (NFPA 70) added (603.1 et. seq.); abatement requirement for unsafe conditions or electrical hazards was added (603.2 et. seq.); working space clearances modified (603.4); relocatable power taps and current taps language added (603.5 et. seq.); requirements for attachment of temporary wiring to structures were amended (603.8 et. seq.); provisions regarding portable electric space heaters were amended (603.9); language added regarding the use of electric space heaters in I-2 occupancies (603.9.5); provision added to prohibit storage in elevator cars or elevator machine rooms (604.7); language regarding fuel-fired appliances was amended (605.1 and 605.1.1); chimney and vent requirements were updated (605.3); new references to national standards added regarding fuel oil storage outside (605.4.1 et. seq.) and inside (605.4.2 et seq.); quantity limits regarding fuel oil tank storage were amended

(605.4.2.2); language added regarding separation for rooms containing fuel oil tanks (605.4.2.6); spill containment requirement added for specified tanks (605.4.2.7); exceptions to portable unvented heater requirements amended (605.5); listing and approval requirements for portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances updated to reference national safety standard (605.5.2.2.1); new exceptions added to where **type 1 hoods are required** over commercial cooking equipment (606.2); commercial cooking oil storage provisions amended (607 et seq.); mechanical refrigeration requirements amended (608 et. seq.) including refrigerant detection provisions (608.9 et. seq.) and the addition of special requirements for Group A2L refrigerant machinery rooms (608.18 et. seq.); and new requirements for clothes dryer exhaust systems were added (610). Substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments include the following: exceptions regarding application and use of relocatable power taps deleted to keep consistency with long established Ohio rules (603.5.2); Ohio specific language regarding quantity limits regarding fuel oil tank storage deleted in coordination with the OBC (605.4.2.2).

1301:7-7-07: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 7 which specifies requirements for the inspection and maintenance of materials, systems and assemblies used for structural fire resistance, fire-resistance rated construction separation of adjacent spaces and construction installed to resist the passage of smoke to safeguard against the spread of fire and smoke within a building and the spread of fire to or from buildings. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: provisions moved and amended regarding maintaining fire-resistance ratings and characteristics for various protection features including fire-resistance-rated construction, smoke barriers, smoke partitions, and materials used to repair or protect breaches (701.2, 701.3, 701.4, 701.5, respectively; see also deleted language in 703.1); provisions added regarding an owner's responsibility to maintain an inventory of fire-resistant-rated materials (701.6); language added regarding penetrations and the repair thereof (703.1 and 703.2); language regarding opening protectives deleted (703.2 et. seq.); prohibition against hanging goods/materials from specified ceiling systems deleted (703.3); inspection and testing requirement for vertical sliding and rolling fire doors deleted (703.4); language regarding joints and voids heavily amended (704 et. seq.); language added regarding door and window openings (705 et. seq.); language added regarding duct and air transfer openings (706 et. seq.); language added regarding concealed spaces (707 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio** specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-08: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 8 which governs interior finish, interior trim, furniture, furnishings, decorative materials and decorative vegetation in buildings. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: updated referenced standards and testing methodology (803.1 et. seq.); occupancy related interior finish requirements updated (803.3, Table 803.3); fire retardant coating requirements were amended (803.4); criteria for textile wall coverings were amended (803.5 et. seq.); provisions added regarding textile ceiling coverings (803.6); prior language regarding expanded vinyl wall or ceiling coverings amended to reflect and point to other changes in the rule (803.7); language added regarding expanded vinyl ceiling coverings (803.8); language regarding facings and wood veneers moved and amended (803.12); language added regarding specified laminated products (803.13); **testing exemptions** added for materials of

a certain thickness and for heavy timber (803.14 and 803.15, respectively); provisions regarding interior trim and testing methods for such amended (804.1 et. seq.); language added to require testing as specified for fire-retardant treatments for natural cut trees (806.1.4); prohibition against using wiring and lighting on metal artificial trees deleted (806.4); new occupancies added to location where combustible decorative material provisions apply; new exception also added (807.2); provisions regarding artificial vegetation moved and expanded (806.2 and 807.4 et. seq.); provisions regarding wastebaskets and linen containers amended to include Group B ambulatory care facilities, to add an exception and to add provisions regarding capacity density and the recycling of clean waste containers (808.1 et. seq.); new provisions regarding certain play structures added (808.5); referenced standards updated throughout the chapter. No substantive **Ohio** specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-09: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 9 which specifies where fire protection and life safety systems are required and sets forth the design, installation, inspection, operation, testing and maintenance requirements of all fire protection and life safety systems. Substantive amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: terminology updated throughout the chapter; pump and riser room requirements amended (901.4.7 et. seq.); inspection, testing and maintenance provisions for fire protection and life safety systems amended to add provisions relating to integrated testing (901.6.2) for high-rise buildings (901.6.2.1) and smoke control systems (901.6.2.2); exception added to fire watch requirements for out of service systems (901.7); provisions regarding where automatic sprinkler systems are required were reorganized (903.2 et. seq.), language regarding spaces under grandstands or bleachers was added (903.2.1.5.1), language was added requiring **automatic sprinklers** in educational occupancies with an occupant load of 300 or more (903.2.3), in certain fire areas for the manufacture of distilled spirits (903.2.4.2) and for certain upholstered furniture and mattress manufacturers (903.2.4.3); sprinkler system requirements for Group R-4, Condition 2 have been amended (903.2.8.3); language was added requiring automatic sprinklers in S-1 fire areas of certain distilled spirits and wines storage areas (903.2.9.3); provisions regarding mechanical access in enclosed parking garages have been added (903.2.10.2); provisions regarding automatic sprinklers in basements have been amended (903.2.11.1.3); **exemption to sprinkler requirement in open parking structures was deleted (903.2.11.3)**; provisions regarding application of NFPA 13R sprinkler systems have been revised (903.3.1.2 et seq.) with provisions added regarding attic protection (903.3.1.2.3); quick-response and residential sprinkler requirements in specified spaces with certain gas fired appliances has been added (903.3.2); supervision and alarm provision exceptions have been amended (903.4); exceptions to monitoring provisions have been amended (903.4.1); fire extinguishing system actuation provisions have been amended (904.3.2); commercial cooking system provisions have been amended to add a new standard reference and to add automatic water mist systems (904.13); language regarding portable fire extinguishers for commercial cooking equipment have been deleted (904.12.5); provisions regarding domestic cooking facilities has been extensively amended (904.14 et. seq.); standpipe height requirements have been amended (905.3.1); new exception added regarding Class I standpipe locations (905.4); new provision added regarding locking standpipe outlet caps (905.11); provisions regarding where potable fire extinguishers are required have been amended to add new exceptions (906.1); requirements

for fire extinguishers for cooking equipment have been amended (906.4); fire alarm shop drawing requirements have been delete and reference to national standard (NFPA) added (907.1.2); alarm and detection system requirements amended for Group A occupancies (907.2.1), Group B occupancies (907.2.2), and Group E occupancies (907.2.3); R-4 fire alarm systems and smoke alarm provisions redacted and Group S provisions added (907.2.10 et. seq.); requirements regarding fire department communication systems have been amended (907.2.13.2 and 907.2.13.3); language regarding detection systems for energy storage systems amended (907.2.23); notification requirements/initiating device language has been amended (907.4); occupant notification provisions have been revised (907.5 et. seq.), including new provisions regarding audible signal frequency requirements in Group R-1 and R-2 sleeping rooms (907.5.2.1.3 et seq.) and a new exception to visible alarm notification appliance requirements (907.5.2.3), and new provisions requiring future capability requirements (907.5.2.3.3, et. seq.); fire alarm system monitoring requirements have been amended (907.6.6); smoke alarm sensitivity test method provisions have been deleted (907.8.4 et. seq.); smoke alarm maintenance provisions have been added (907.10); Group H occupancy detection and notification provisions have been amended (908 et. seq.); requirements regarding system response time have been amended (909.17); new provisions have been added regarding smokeproof enclosures (909.20 et. seq.); provisions have been added regarding smoke and heat vent operation (910.3.4); provisions have been added regarding fusible link temperature ratings (910.3.5); maintenance and testing requirements for smoke and heat vents and mechanical smoke removal systems have been amended (910.5 et. seq.); explosion control requirements have been amended (911.1 and Table 911.1); provision has been added regarding deflagration venting (911.4); language regarding the location of fire department connections has been amended (912.2.1); exception added regarding fire pump installation standards (913.1); methods for protection of cables providing survivability of circuits supplying fire pumps have been amended (913.2.2); **prior exemption from automatic sprinkler system requirements for open parking garages has been deleted** (914.3.1); locations requiring fire pumps have been amended (914.3.1.2); carbon monoxide detection requirements have been amended (915 et. seq.); new provisions added regarding gas detection systems (916 et. seq.); new provisions added regarding mass notification systems (917 et. seq.). Substantive **Ohio** specific amendments to the chapter include the following: supervision and alarm provision exceptions have been amended (903.4); signage requirement for fire alarm systems has been added (904.3.5.1); commercial cooking system provisions have been amended to add an inspection and maintenance requirement (904.13); provisions regarding where portable fire extinguishers are required have been further amended with Ohio specific language regarding Group S storage areas (906.1); an exception has been added to **emergency voice/alarm communication system messaging** to allow other high priority emergency messages to take precedence over fire alarm messaging in certain buildings when specified conditions are met (907.5.2.2.3); provisions have been added to require transmission of information from monitoring companies/supervisory stations to dispatch centers (907.6.6.1.1); language has been added to prohibit the **alteration of communication methods from a monitoring company/supervisory station to a dispatch center** without written approval from the authority having jurisdiction (907.7.4); language regarding the **location of fire department**

connections has been amended (912.2); language added to fire protection and fire-fighting equipment certification to **allow for licensure of individuals with similar licensing credentials in other states** (918.4.1.1); company affiliation provisions amended (918.4.5); language added to provisions requiring fire protection and fire-fighting equipment installers and servicers to have **electronic licensure information** available (rather than prior requirement requiring paper certification to be on their person) (918.4.7); provisions regarding application content updated (918.4.10); language added to authorize the state fire marshal to allow an **extension of time for filing licensure applications for medical reasons** (918.4.13); application content provisions amended to include renewal applications and company branches (918.5.1); provisions added to require notification in the event of a company name change (918.5.1.1); provisions added to address electronic mailing address changes (918.6); and a provision added to address **non-payment of application fees** (918.7.3).

1301:7-7-10: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 10 which controls the design, construction and arrangement of means of egress components required to provide safe and appropriate means of egress for building occupants from all portions of buildings. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: new exception added to chapter scope for specified dwellings (1001.1); new language was added regarding multiple-function occupant loads (1004.3); new language was added regarding occupant load factors for concentrated business use areas (1004.8); exceptions added to exit and certain travel distance requirements (1006.2.1, Table 1006.2.1); provisions added regarding egress travel distances for protected Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies (1006.2.2.6); exceptions added to egress travel pathway provisions (1006.3.2); egress illumination levels for exit stairways and their required landings set forth (1008.2.1); provisions added to require egress illumination for exit discharges (1008.2.1); requirement for accessible means of egress in existing buildings deleted (1009.1); stairway provisions have been amended (1009.3 et. seq.) including stairway width (1009.3.2) and refuge areas (1009.3.3); exception added to requirement that areas of refuge have direct access to stairways (1009.6.2); new language added to delete fire-resistance rating and opening protectives requirements in certain exterior walls; (1009.7.2); new exemption for Group I-2 and I-3 facilities from two-way communication system requirements (1009.8); exceptions regarding door sizes for doors in a means of egress are amended (1010.1.1); language regarding projections into required clear openings amended (1010.1.1.1); allowable egress door types amended (1010.1.2); provisions regarding door opening force were amended (1010.1.3); provision added regarding latches for manual horizontal sliding doors (1010.1.3.2); floor elevation requirements amended (1010.1.4); door unlatching requirements clarified (1010.2.1); locations where locks and latches are permitted to prevent door operations were expanded (1010.2.4); provisions regarding latching doors amended (1010.2.6); opening requirements for interior stairway means of egress doors were amended (1010.2.7); new provisions added regarding locking arrangements in educational occupancies (1010.2.8); panic and fire exit hardware requirements amended (1010.2.9); exit requirements for refrigeration machinery rooms added (1010.2.9.1); language amended to require panic or fire exit hardware for exits and exit access doors serving electrical equipment rooms (1010.2.9.2); provisions regarding locking systems where electrical systems that monitor or record egress activity are

incorporated (1010.2.10); delayed egress locking requirements for courtrooms were amended (1010.2.13); new reference to national standard for low-energy power-operated sliding doors and low energy power-operated folding doors (1010.3.2); exceptions to prohibition on placing turnstile and like devices in a required means of egress expanded (1010.5 et. seq.); stairway landing requirements were amended and exceptions added (1011.6); new exception added to stairway construction requirements (1011.7); new exceptions added to handrail requirements (1011.11); provision added to require stairway access to roofs and penthouses containing elevator equipment (1011.12.1); ship ladder requirements amended (1011.15); requirements for permanent ladders amended (1011.16); headroom requirements for egress ramps were amended (1012.5.2); referenced standard for raised character and braille exit signs amended (1013.4); new exception added to requirements regarding where guards are required (1015.2); height requirements for guards (and exceptions thereto) were amended (1015.3); exception to guard requirements for mechanical equipment, systems and devices was amended (1015.6); exception to guard requirements for roof access was amended (1015.7); provisions regarding exit access through enclosed elevator lobbies were amended (1016.2); travel distance maximums added for I-4 occupancies and amended for R-3 and R-4 occupancies (Table 1017.2); exit access travel distance measurements amended (1017.3); new language added regarding atriums (1017.3.2 et. seq.); exit access stairways and ramps for I-2 and I-3 occupancies amended (1019.3); dead-end corridor length for specified I-2 occupancies was amended (1020.5); corridor air movement requirements were amended (1020.6); new exception added regarding separation requirements for interior exit stairways and ramps that extend to an exit discharge or public way components are pressurized (1023.3.1); new exceptions were added regarding penetrations into or through interior exit stairways or ramps (1023.5); provisions regarding stairway identification signs were amended (1023.9); requirements were added for tactile floor-level signs (1023.11); penetration requirements into or through exit passageways were amended (1024.6); requirements regarding exit passageway exterior walls were added (1024.8); new exception added to requirement regarding markings for obstacles in egress pathways (1025.2.5); refuge area and refuge area capacity requirements amended (1026.4 and 1026.4.1, respectively); separation distance requirements for exterior exit stairways and ramps amended for those serving Group R-3 occupancies (1027.5); exterior exit stairway and ramp protection requirements amended for those serving Group R-3 occupancies (1027.6); provisions regarding egress courts were amended (1029 et. seq.); provisions regarding spaces under grandstands and bleachers were amended (1030.1.1.1); smoke protected assembly seating requirements amended, exception deleted (1030.6.2); sprinkler requirements for certain areas in specified buildings amended (1030.6.2.3); new provisions added requiring automatic sprinklers in certain building containing open-air assembly seating (1030.6.3.1); travel distance requirements were amended (1030.7); stepped aisle and vomitory requirements were amended (1030.11); handrail requirements were amended (1030.16); discontinuous handrail requirements were amended (1030.16.1); requirements regarding emergency escape and rescue openings were amended (1031 et. seq.); means of egress security device provisions were amended (1032.2.21); security and construction provisions regarding fire escapes were amended (1032.2.1.1); provisions were added regarding locking arrangements in educational occupancies (1032.2.2); inspection and

testing provisions regarding emergency lighting equipment were added (1032.10 et. seq.). Substantive **Ohio** specific amendments to the chapter include the following: Table 1020.2 was amended to conform with the layout of a like table in the building code; a fire escape maintenance requirement was added (1032.2.1.1).

1301:7-7-11: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 11 which governs construction requirements for buildings constructed prior to the adoption of the rule. **Prior Ohio language** that limits application of the rule to only apply where existing conditions constitute a distinct hazard to the life of building occupants or to property will be carried forward as will prior exemptions from the distinct hazard requirement (1101.1). Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: a new exception is added to allow for the elimination of fire protection systems or a reduction in the level of fire safety where a change of fire-resistance rating has been approved in accordance with referenced standard (1103.1, Table 1103.1); existing R-3 occupancies exempted from certain provisions (in-building, two-way emergency response communication coverage – 1103.2), existing elevator requirements – 1103.3); requirement for automatic sprinkler systems amended for specified existing occupancies (1103.5 et. seq.); requirement for manual fire alarm system in existing R-1 hotel and motel facilities amended and new exceptions added (1103.7.5.1); requirement for manual fire alarms systems in existing Group R-4 occupancies deleted (1103.7.7); requirements for carbon monoxide detection were amended (1103.9); existing Group R-4 occupancies deleted from emergency power illumination requirements (1104.5); size of door openings amended (1104.7 et. seq.); dead end corridor requirements were amended (1104.18, Table 1104.18); minimum aisle widths amended for certain conditions (1104.23); requirement added for corridor walls to be maintained as fire-resistance-rated assemblies where required when the building was constructed (1105.5.2); provision added to require manual release for hold-open devices on doors where self- or automatic-closing doors are required (1105.5.4.2.4); means of egress provisions amended (1105.6); provisions added regarding existing Group 1-2 occupancies (applicability of provisions – 1105.2, doors – 1105.6.3) and amended (automatic sprinkler systems – 1105.9). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the chapter include the following: language added to qualify the requirement for automatic sprinkler systems in existing group I-2 occupancies (1103.5.3); the addition of language requiring **signage**, as set forth in the provision, to identify existing photovoltaic power systems (1103.11 et. seq.) regardless of whether a distinct hazard is present (1101.1, Exception 3).

1301:7-7-12: will incorporate by reference **2024** IFC Chapter 12 which sets forth fire safety provisions regarding the installation, operation, maintenance, repair retrofitting, testing, commissioning and decommission of energy systems used for generating or storing energy. Chapter 12 was a new chapter added to the IFC in 2021 to address energy systems. Because this technology is so rapidly evolving, the SFM opted to adopt the 2024 version of this chapter in an effort to utilize the most recent national standards. The **IFC** language contains general scoping provisions (1201 et. seq.) and provisions regarding emergency and standby power systems (1203 et. seq.), portable generators (1204 et. seq.), solar photovoltaic power systems (1205 et. seq.), stationary fuel cell power systems (1206 et. seq.) and electrical energy storage systems (1207 et. seq.). Substantive **Ohio** amendments to the chapter include:

the addition of language requiring signage for structures and premises that are equipped with photovoltaic power systems and maintenance thereof (1205.1.1 and 1205.1.1.1, respectively); the addition of language regarding fire code official approval of roof access points (1205.2).

1301:7-7-13 – 1301:7-7-19: are reserved for future use.

1301:7-7-20: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 20 which sets forth fire safety regulations at airports, heliports, helistops and aircraft hangars. No substantive **IFC** changes were made to the chapter. **Ohio** specific amendments to the chapter include the following: clarifying language added regarding the application of national standard (2006.2).

1301:7-7-21: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 21 which sets forth fire safety regulations at dry cleaning plants and governs their operation with respect to fire safety. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-22: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 22 which sets forth fire safety requirements for equipment, processes and operations involving dust explosion hazards and use or handling of combustible dust. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: exceptions to the application of the chapter were added (2201.1); extensive language was added to address explosion prevention (2203 et. seq.); provisions were added to set forth screening test requirements when such tests are required by the building code (2204 et. seq.); references added for additional referenced standards regarding explosion protection (2205 et. seq., and Table 2205.1). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-23: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 23 which sets forth fire safety regulations at automotive motor fuel-dispensing facilities, marine motor fuel-dispensing facilities, fleet vehicle motor fuel-dispensing facilities, service stations at bulk plants, aircraft motor-vehicle fuel-dispensing facilities and repair garages. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: dispensing device location provisions were amended (2303.1); emergency disconnect switch height requirements were added (2303.2.1); video monitoring systems are permitted to supplement attendant direct line of sight where approved (2304.2.4); distance measurement requirements for delivery tank locations are clarified (2305.1.1); additional impact protection is authorized (2306.7.3.1); new reference to international standard is added for CNG facilities (2308.1); new requirements are added for residential fueling appliances (2308.2.3); new requirements are added for vehicle fueling appliances (2308.2.4); approval requirements for equipment used for hydrogen have been modified (2309.2.2, 2309.4; see also amendment of requirements regarding hydrogen in section 2309.6 et. seq.); language added regarding LPG powered vehicles (2311.5); language added regarding LNG and CNG powered vehicles (2311.6, et. seq., Table 2311.6.2); fire extinguisher requirement added (2311.7); requirements for repair garages for vehicles fueled by lighter than air fuels moved and amended (2311.8 et. seq.); exhaust ventilation system requirements have been amended (2311.8.8); gas detection system requirements have been amended (2311.8.9 et. seq.); requirements have been added for classified electrical areas (2311.8.10). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the chapter include the following: vaping is prohibited by persons dispensing gasoline and other flammable or

combustible liquids, which actually clarifies that already existing R.C. provisions prohibit this activity (2304.2.6); provisions regarding R.C. required warning signs has been clarified and vaping has been added, and the signage installation date has been extended (2305.6), storage methods for Class I, II and IIIA flammable or combustible liquids have been amended (2306.2 et seq.), manifolding is prohibited for certain specified tanks (2306.7.4.1), fire code official review and approval of tank content is deleted from the national language (2306.8.3).

1301:7-7-24: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 24 which governs operations and safety at locations where flammable finishes are applied and where specified floor surfacing or finishing operations are conducted. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: separation requirements for electrical wiring and equipment adjacent to spray booths have been amended (2403.2.1.3); fire barrier wall / horizontal assembly requirements have been added for specified spray-finishing operations (2404.2); aggregate area of spray booths has been amended (2404.3.3.6). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-25: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 25 which sets forth safety regulations and standards for ripening processes where ethylene gas is introduced into a room to promote the ripening of fruits, vegetables and other crops. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-26: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 26 which governs fumigation and insecticidal fogging operations within buildings, structures and spaces. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-27: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 27 which sets forth fire safety regulations for semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas classified as Group H-5 occupancies. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: amended quantity limits for hazardous materials in a single fabrication area (Table 2704.2.2.1). No substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-28: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 28 which sets forth fire safety regulations for the storage, manufacturing and processing of solid biomass feedstock, timber, lumber, plywood, nonmetallic pallets, veneers and agro-industrial byproducts. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: pile size for the storage and processing of specified commodities are amended (3808.3); increase of pile size for the storage and processing of specified commodities is permissible where a fire protection plan is approved, specifications for plan are amended (3808.3.1); pile separation distances are amended (2808.4); new section added to address outdoor pallet storage at pallet manufacturing and recycling facilities (2810 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-29: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 29 which sets forth regulations for organic coating manufacturing processes other than processes manufacturing nonflammable or water-thinned coatings and operations applying coating materials. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-30: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 30 which governs the installation and operation of industrial ovens and furnaces. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: new exceptions were added to automatic fire extinguishing systems requirements for specified ovens (3006.1). No substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-31: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 31 which sets forth fire safety regulations and equipment requirements for tents, temporary special event structures and membrane structures. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: terminology changes were made throughout the chapter and section references were updated to reflect other changes in the chapter; edits were made to the scoping statement to reflect changes made in the chapter (3101.1); language was added to address special amusement areas (3103.3.1); requirements for construction documents were amended (3103.6); language was added regarding tents and membrane structures greater than 7,500 square feet (3103.9.2) and those with an occupant load greater than 1,000 (3103.9.3); testing and certification provisions for flame propagation performance were amended (3104.2); labeling requirements were updated (3104.3); a requirement for the provision of portable fire extinguishers was added (3105.9); new section was added address outdoor assembly events (3106 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-32: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 32 which sets forth fire safety regulations for high piled combustible storage. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: new language regarding storage layout plan requirements were added (3201.3.2), specifications regarding fire safety and evacuation plans were amended (3201.4), new language was added regarding quantities of Group A plastics permissible in mixed commodities (Section 3203.9) and earlier sections were amended accordingly to delete relevant provisions therein and send the reader to the new section (see Sections 3203.2 – 3203.5 and 3203.9), examples of each commodity class were deleted from individual provisions (see Sections 3203.2 – 3203.7.3) and were inserted in a new table (Table 3203.8; see also Section 3203.8), new language was added to address commodity classification depending on the type of pallet used for storage (3203.10 et. seq.), new language added to require annual evaluation of storage layout plans (3205.1), new exception added to required aisle widths where certain specified conditions exist (3205.5), maximum pile dimensions increased (Table 3206.2; see also Section 3206.3 et. seq.), requirements for fire department access doors were amended (3206.7 et. seq.), aisle dimensions in sprinklered buildings amended to add new exception (3206.10.1.1), pointer to building code added for storage rack design and installation requirements (3208.1.1), flue space requirements (for rack storage) were amended (Table 3208.3; see also Section 3208.3), automatic shutdown requirements were amended (3209.4 et. seq.), reference to applicable NFPA standard added regarding alternative fire protection for specified automatic fire-extinguishing systems (3210.1.1). No substantive **Ohio**-specific amendments were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-33: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 33 which prescribes minimum safeguards for structures in the course of construction, alteration and demolition operations to provide reasonable safety to life and property from fire during such operations. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the follows: language regarding

an owner's responsibility for fire protection was moved and amended (see Sections 3303 et. seq. and Section 3308 et seq.), fire watch requirements were amended (3305.5 et. seq.), new provisions were added to prohibit cooking except in designated areas (3305.8), new separation distance language was added regarding separation between construction areas and occupied areas of a building (3305.9), reference added for portable generators (3309.1), provisions regarding emergency telephones and related signage have been amended (3310); egress requirements were amended (3312 et. seq.), requirements for the provision of water supply for fire protection during construction have been heavily amended (3313 et., seq.). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the rule include the following: new IFC provisions regarding 'violations' were amended to specify enforcement pursuant to relevant Ohio law (3303.3.1).

1301:7-7-34: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 34 which prescribes fire safety regulations for tire rebuilding plants, and tire storage and tire byproduct facilities. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-35: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 35 which prescribes fire safety regulations for welding, cutting, open torches and other hot work operations and equipment. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-36: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 36 which prescribes fire safety regulations for marina facilities. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-37: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 37 which prescribes fire safety regulations for equipment, processes and operations involving combustible fibers. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-38: will incorporate 2021 IFC's **NEW** Chapter 38 which prescribes fire safety regulations for higher education laboratories that choose to exceed the maximum allowable quantities of hazardous materials in control areas as established elsewhere in the code. The new **IFC** language to be incorporated adds regulations for these higher education laboratories as follows: general safety provisions (3803), suite construction (3804), nonsprinklered laboratories (3805), and existing sprinklered laboratories (3806). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-39: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 39 which prescribes fire safety regulations for plant processing and extraction facilities. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: application of the rule to existing facilities is clarified (3901.2); extraction equipment listing requirements are amended and reference to applicable NFPA standard is added (3904.2.1), approval requirement for extraction equipment is added (3904.2.2); language regarding gas detection systems is deleted and the reader is sent to Section 916 (3905.1); interlock requirement is deleted (3905.1.5). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-40: will incorporate 2021 IFC's **NEW** Chapter 40 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage of distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks. The new **IFC** language to be incorporated adds regulations for distilleries as follows: precautions against fire (4003), storage (4004), fire protection (4005), and signage (4006). In addition, **Ohio**-specific amendments are being made to the IFC language being incorporated in coordination

with requests from industry representatives as follows: an exception from spill control requirements is being added to allow businesses storing limited quantities to not have to install costly spill control (4003.1); containment volume requirements have been added (4003.1.1); an exception is being added to allow the storage of combustible materials in smaller locations without otherwise required costly separation (4004.4); language is being added to allow otherwise prohibited public access to distillery locations in certain circumstances to permit tours of such facilities (4007 et. seq.) (see also coordinated pointer language in Sections 5704.1 and 5704.1.2).

1301:7-7-41 – 1301:7-7-49: are reserved for future use.

1301:7-7-50: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 50 which prescribes general fire safety regulations for the prevention, control and mitigation of dangerous conditions related to the storage, dispensing, use and handling of hazardous materials. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: scoping provisions amended to add exceptions to chapter application (5001.1); design and construction provisions for piping, tubing, valves and fittings conveying hazardous material were amended (5003.2.2.1); language added regarding locations with respiratory therapy (5003.7.4); provisions regarding required detached buildings were amended (Table 5003.8.2); exception was added to control area provisions for higher education laboratories (which are now governed by new Chapter 38) (5003.8.3); provisions regarding the maximum number of control areas per story were amended (5003.8.3.3); provisions regarding Group M display and Group M and Group S storage areas containing hazardous materials were amended (5003.8.3.5 et. seq.); reference to compressed gases added to incompatible materials separation provisions (5003.9.8); provisions amended regarding maximum allowable quantities per control area for certain products in specified locations (Table 5003.11.1); outdoor control area requirements amended (5003.12); exception added to ventilation requirements (5004.3); provisions regarding applications exempt from standby or emergency power requirements amended (5004.7.1); outdoor storage location provision added (5004.14); emergency isolation provision added (5005.1.12). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the rule include the following: scoping provisions have been amended to clarify chapter application and Chapter 56 application to the storage, use, handling, sale and display of fireworks (5001.1); allowable quantities per control area for A2L refrigerants modified (per Petition)(Tables 5003.1.1(1) and 5003.1.1(3)).

1301:7-7-51: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 51 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the manufacturing, storage and display of aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products and the manufacturing of such products in certain circumstances. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: amendments were made to the scoping provisions of the chapter to clarify that the chapter applies to aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products (5101.1); accordingly additional updates were made throughout the rule to include aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products in already existing provisions or to add provisions regarding such products – including packaging requirements (5103.2.1 – 5103.2.3) and storage requirements (5104.1.2, 5104.2.2, 5104.3.3, 5104.8 et. seq., 5106.2.2); language was added to define plastic aerosol X products and to prohibit their storage, use

and handling (5104.1.3 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio** specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-52: is reserved for future use.

1301:7-7-53: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 53 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage, use and handling of compressed gases in compressed gas containers, cylinders, tanks and systems. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: clarifications were made to the scoping provisions (5301.1); language regarding medical gas systems/medical gases were amended and training requirement was added (5306.1 and 5306.1.1, respectively); provisions requiring one hour interior separation rooms were amended (5306.2.2); requirements for gas cabinets were amended (5306.2.3); requirements for carbon dioxide systems were moved (from 5307) and amended (5307.3 et. seq.); ventilation requirements for specified gases were amended (5307.2 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio** specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-54: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 54 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of corrosive materials. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-55: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 55 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage, use and handling of cryogenic fluids. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-56: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 56 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the possession, manufacture, storage, handling, sale and use of explosives, explosive materials, matters described in section 3743.80 of the Revised Code and small arms ammunition. It also addresses the possession, manufacture, storage, handling, sale and use of fireworks, including consumer fireworks and fountain devices, and the operation of flame effects. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: quantity-distance tables were updated (Tables 5601.8.1(1), 5601.8.1(2), and 5601.8.1(3)); record keeping and reporting provisions amended (5003 et. seq.); provisions regarding storage quantities per control area were amended to apply to consumer fireworks (Table 5604.3); provisions regarding certain separation distances amended to apply to consumer fireworks (Table 5604.5.2(3)); signage requirements for specified magazines amended (5604.6.5); commercial reloading added to provisions / section application (5601.1); provisions added regarding commercial reloading (5606.6 et. seq.). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the rule include the following: updates made throughout the rule to reference fountain device provisions in the last update of the chapter; updates made throughout the rule to correct citations and references to national standards in accordance with Ohio law; exception added to prohibition against the residential storage of explosives and fireworks for consumer fireworks stored in accordance with Section 5626 (5601.2.2); reference added to seizure provisions to allow for seizure and disposal of explosives and explosives materials by peace officers (5601.7 and 5601.7.2, respectively); record keeping and reporting provisions updated (5003 et. seq.) including accident and incident notification provisions (5603.4); grounding requirement added (per Petition) for outdoor magazines (5604.6.6); fireworks exhibition safety requirements amended to add prohibition against action by

unauthorized persons except in conformance with Ohio law (5608.10.8); flame effects permit language amended (5611.3); **flame effects use plan provisions updated** to clarify existing law (5611.5); **flame effects and flame effect exhibitor terminology** updated for consistency throughout the rule; language added to allow required continuing education courses to be hosted in virtual/on-line formats (5612.3.5); fireworks acquisition provisions amended to prohibit specified activities without required licenses and/or permits (5614.1.3.1 and 5614.1.3.3); provision added to allow licensed exhibitors to acquire, possess and store fireworks in accordance with consumer fireworks provisions (5614.1.3.5.3); language added to permit the use of pyrotechnic effect simulation equipment (5614.1.4.3); prohibition added against use of fireworks by a licensee in a manner not in conformance with Ohio law (5614.4); license fee payment methods updated (5615.1 et. seq.); provisions added to address **reciprocal license applications** pursuant to R.C. Chapter 4796 (5619.2.2); pyrotechnic effect simulation equipment added to Type 1 licensure provisions (5619.4.1.1.3); **Type III licensure provisions amended to update terminology and application for flame effects exhibitors** (5619.4.1.3); exhibitor license application processing, denial and revocation provisions amended (5619.4.3 et. seq.); provision added to require notification to the state fire marshal by a licensee for certain conduct and negative licensing actions that may occur in another jurisdiction (5619.4.4); qualification proficiency requirements for exhibitors amended to include a timeframe (5619.6.1) and to clarify application of proficiency requirements to **flame effect performers** (5619.6.3) as well as examination requirements (5619.8); provision added to allow fire officials to participate in the exhibitor licensing examination process for training purposes (5619.8.4); provisions amended to clarify application of OFC to the construction of fireworks related facilities (5620.1 et seq.); provisions added regarding occupancy of licensed fireworks related premises (5620.8 et. seq.); certification requirement added for waiver application (5623.1) and documentation requirements clarified (5623.1.9); provisions regarding the public exhibition of consumer fireworks amended to exclude ‘for profit’ exhibitions (5626.3.3); provisions amended to add pointer to zoning regulations with respect to possession, storage and handling of consumer fireworks (5626.4.1); provision added to prohibit the storage of consumer fireworks for extended periods of time without a permit (5626.4.4); prohibited conduct provisions amended to prohibit the use of consumer fireworks in a manner that violates applicable laws (5626.5.6); separation distances for consumer fireworks amended (5626.5.7.2); definition of “store”, as applicable to fountain device retailers, was amended (5627.2.2); general provisions regarding fountain device retailer sales locations amended to require ownership (5627.6); provision added to allow qualified employees to train other employees (5627.8.1); fountain device display separation distances decreased (5627.9.1). In addition, provisions regarding licensure were updated to delete references to ‘felony’ convictions and insert language regarding ‘disqualifying offenses’ in conformance with updated Ohio law in R.C. section 9.79; provisions regarding licensure disqualification were also updated to include references to convictions in other countries. See sections 5601.2.6, 5615.6, 5615.7, 5616.2.7, 5618.2, 5619.4.3.1, 5619.7.1, 5619.10.1.2, 5619.10.3.4, 5624.1.5, and 5627.4.3.

1301:7-7-57: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 57 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the prevention, control and mitigation of dangerous conditions related to the storage, use, dispensing, mixing and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.

Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: provisions regarding non-applicability of the chapter were clarified and amended to include pesticides and agricultural products used in certain applications (5701.2); piping standards amended to reference national standards (Table 5703.6.2); language added to require leak detection panel status annunciation at an approved on-site location (5704.2.11.4.2.1); language regarding the location of bulk and process transfers was amended (5706.5.1.1); new provisions added regarding on-demand mobile fueling operations (5707 et. seq.). **Ohio**-specific amendments to the rule include the following: provisions regarding non-applicability of the chapter were clarified to ensure proper application to distilleries and to clarify exclusion of underground storage tank systems (5701.2); pointer language added to new language in chapter 40 that will allow public tours at distillery locations under certain circumstances (5704.1.1 and 5704.1.2); prior Ohio-specific language regarding alcohol based hand rubs was deleted as national language captures necessary requirements (5705.5); on-demand mobile fueling approval and permit requirements were amended in accordance with other OFC provisions (5707.1.1).

1301:7-7-58: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 58 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of flammable gases and flammable cryogenic fluids. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: NFPA standards were updated (5801.1) and gas detection system requirements were updated (5808.5 et. seq.). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-59: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 59 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of flammable solids. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-60: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 60 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of highly toxic and toxic materials. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: no substantive edits were made, but some language was reorganized and clarified in keeping with edits made regarding gas detection systems elsewhere in the code (6004.2.2.7, 6004.2.2.10 et. seq., and 6005.3.2). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-61: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 61 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage, handling and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas (LP-gas) and the installation of LP-gas equipment pertinent to systems for such uses. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: permissible occupancy groups for research and experimentation were amended (6103.2.1.4); language was added regarding minimum separation distances between LP-gas containers and public ways (Table 6104.3, fn g); provisions regarding the disposition of out of service containers were amended (6110.1 and 6110.2). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-62: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 62 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of organic peroxides. Amendments to the **IFC** language to be incorporated include the following: gas detection systems were deleted from the systems that require standby power where protecting Class I and unclassified detonable

organic peroxides (6204.1.11). No substantive **Ohio**-specific changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-63: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 63 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of oxidizing materials. The **IFC** reorganized the chapter slightly: language regarding Class 3 liquid and solid oxidizers was moved (from Section 6303.1.1.2 to Section 6303.1.5); Section and Table 6303.1.4 was amended to add storage configuration language for Class 2 and 3 oxidizers (to the previously existing storage configuration language for Class 1) (see also Tables 6304.1.5(1) and 6304.1.5(2) where like language was deleted). No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-64: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 64 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of pyrophoric materials. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-65: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 65 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and handling of plastic substances, materials or compounds with cellulose nitrate (pyroxylin) as a base, by whatever name known, in the form of blocks, sheets, tubes or fabricated shapes. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-66: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 66 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of unstable (reactive) materials. No substantive changes were made to the chapter.

1301:7-7-67: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 67 which prescribes fire safety regulations for the storage and use of water-reactive solids and liquids. No substantive changes were made to the rule.

1301:7-7-68 – 1301:7-7-79 are reserved for future use.

1301:7-7-80: will incorporate by reference 2021 IFC Chapter 80 which lists the standards that are referenced in various provisions throughout the OFC. The referenced standards have been updated in accordance with the adoption of the 2021 IFC and Ohio legislative directives, and pursuant to coordination efforts between the OFC and the OBC.

3. Please list the Ohio statute(s) that authorize the agency, board or commission to adopt the rule(s) and the statute(s) that amplify that authority.

Authorize: R.C. §§ 3701.82(E), 3721.032, 3721.07(D), 3731.02(A) & (E), 3731.041 (A) & (C), 3737.17(D), 3737.22(A), 3737.65(A), 3737.73(A) & (F), 3737.82, 3737.83(A)-(F), 3737.832(B), 3737.842(A), 3737.85, 3737.86, 3739.13, 3741.14(B), 3743.02(B)(3), 3743.04(H) & (K), 3743.05, 3743.15(B)(3), 3743.17(E) & (H), 3743.18(A), 3743.25(A) & (B), 3743.28(A), 3743.40(F), 3743.451(A), 3743.53(A), (B) & (E), 3743.54(G), 3743.56, 3743.58, and 3743.70.

Amplify: R.C. §§ 3731.03, 3731.041(C), 3731.06, 3743.03, 3743.04(B), (C)(3), (F), (I)(1)(d), (J)(1)(a), 3743.16, 3743.17(B), (C)(2), (E), (F)(1)(d), (G)(1)(a), & (J), 3743.18(B), and 3743.25(C), 3743.26, 3743.28(A), 3743.451(B), 3743.52, 3743.54(C), 3743.541, 3743.75, and 5104.05(A)(2) & (B)(1).

4. **Does the regulation implement a federal requirement? Is the proposed regulation being adopted or amended to enable the state to obtain or maintain approval to administer and enforce a federal law or to participate in a federal program?**

If yes, please briefly explain the source and substance of the federal requirement.

No.

5. **If the regulation implements a federal requirement, but includes provisions not specifically required by the federal government, please explain the rationale for exceeding the federal requirement.**

N/A.

6. **What is the public purpose for this regulation (i.e., why does the Agency feel that there needs to be any regulation in this area at all)?**

The purpose of the OFC is to provide minimum standards for safeguarding life and property from fire and explosion in this state. Longstanding policy and legislative directives have dictated that the SFM enact a fire code to address matters of fire safety throughout the state. Pursuant to R.C. § 3737.82 the SFM shall adopt a state fire code consisting of “rules relating to all aspects of fire safety.” The rules must include rules relating to the movable contents of any building, or class of buildings, the transportation, storage, location, and use of flammable or explosive materials, the procedures to be employed by persons in the event of fire, the installation and location of fire protection equipment, and other similar matters. Further associated rule requirements are derived from R.C. §§ 3737.17(D), 3737.22(A), 3737.65(A), 3737.73(A) & (F), 3737.82, 3737.83(A)-(F), 3737.832(B), 3737.842(A), 3737.85, 3737.86, 3701.82(E), 3721.032, 3721.07(D), 3739.13, 3741.14(B), and 5104.04(A) & (B). R.C. § 3737.83 also lists general topics that must be included in the OFC (for example, minimum standards of performance for fire protection equipment and fire-fighting equipment; minimum standards of training, qualification and certification for those engaged in the business of installing, testing, repairing, or maintaining fire protection equipment, minimum standards of flammability for consumer goods, minimum standards for fire prevention and fire safety in child day-care centers and in type A family day-care homes, minimum standards for fire prevention and safety in certain residential facilities, etc.).

Additionally, R.C. § 3731.02 requires the SFM to make rules establishing requirements for hotel licensure and inspection. R.C. §§ 3743.02(B), 3743.04(F) & (H), 3743.05, 3743.15(B), 3743.17(E), (I) & (K), 3743.18, 3743.25(A) & (B), 3743.28, 3743.40(F), 3743.541, 3743.53(A), (B) & (E), 3743.54(G), 3743.56, 3743.58, and 3743.70 state that the SFM shall adopt rules regarding the classification, manufacture, storage, sales, shipping, and exhibition of fireworks, as well as rules regarding consumer discharge and fountain device retailers.

The OFC provisions are being updated as a part of the 5-year rule review process. The update is necessary to bring the regulations in line with emerging and ever evolving national

standards, as well as to coordinate the regulations with changes made in Ohio law and in the latest updates to the OBC.

7. How will the Agency measure the success of this regulation in terms of outputs and/or outcomes?

In addition to regulations regarding matters of fire safety, the OFC contains enforcement mechanisms. The promulgated rules can be enforced by local fire code officials and certified safety inspectors from local departments as well as the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau. Inspections will determine compliance with the imposed regulations. Where deficiencies are found, and education is not successful in obtaining compliance, citations and penalties can be imposed to ensure compliance will be attained. This enforcement process and the infrequency in which serious enforcement is actually necessary coupled with ongoing input from stakeholder groups provides the SFM with a constant measurement paradigm regarding the success of the regulations.

8. Are any of the proposed rules contained in this rule package being submitted pursuant to R.C. 101.352, 101.353, 106.032, 121.93, or 121.931?

If yes, please specify the rule number(s), the specific R.C. section requiring this submission, and a detailed explanation.

No.

Development of the Regulation

9. Please list the stakeholders included by the Agency in the development or initial review of the draft regulation.

If applicable, please include the date and medium by which the stakeholders were initially contacted.

In addition, to a list of fire chiefs throughout the state, the SFM maintains a list of individuals and entities that the SFM has identified as having an interest in the provisions of the OFC as well as any other interested party that has requested to be on the SMF stakeholder list. The SFM's stakeholder list includes individuals and entities from the petroleum and fuel and gas industries, the hotel industry, convenience store operators and grocer's associations, the fire service and building industry, planning commissions and associations, the fireworks industry, the healthcare industry, educational departments and associations, mobile food truck operators and related associations and numerous governmental agencies from the federal, state and local levels. All of these were included in the development of the rules. In fact, mobile food truck contacts were provided a copy of rules affecting their industry and changes were made in consultation with them prior to the kickoff of the rule update.

The SFM began the OFC revision process in April 2024 by sending an email to all stakeholders that the SFM was beginning the rule revision process. The SFM announced that it would begin the process by having an open "kickoff" meeting on April 15, 2024, for all interested parties to discuss the SFM's rule revision process. During the kickoff meeting, the

SFM and SFM staff discussed the rule package, the update process, timeframes and significant changes that would be proposed for inclusion in the OFC. At that time, the SFM also published and posted to its website a first draft of the “proposed 2025 Ohio Fire Code” (then optimistically called the “2024 OFC”). This draft was a redlined version of the proposed OFC with all editing mark-ups. The SFM also published and posted a list of significant changes that were proposed as well as a draft of the rule documents that will now be filed which incorporate IFC language by reference and then direct where in that language amendments will be made (referred to as the “incorporated by reference” or “IBR” version of each rule).

In addition to the email announcement regarding the meeting, pertinent information was posted on the SFM’s website and other social media accounts. A video recording of the kickoff meeting was also subsequently posted on the SFM’s website.

All interested parties were encouraged to submit “Petitions” for revisions to the OFC. Petitions were formally accepted from April 15 to May 13, 2025 (although some petitions were received after this date). Petitions were received from various industry groups including: fire service members, equipment manufacturers and servicers, fire related professional associations, representatives from national standard writing organizations, fuel industry members, architects, the national electrical manufacturers association, municipal corporations, the modern American safety training group, various individuals, HVAC and refrigeration industry members, electric vehicle and electric vehicle charging station related industry members, the Ohio Distillers Guild, building industry members, and fireworks industry members.

Subsequent to the Petition Period, the SFM published a compendium report of all Petitions received (called a “Report on Petitions” or ROC) and opened a Comment Period which was open from July 3, 2024, to July 25, 2024. An email notification was sent to SFM stakeholders announcing publication of the ROC and a revised draft of the OFC (incorporating changes made pursuant to Petitions received) and announcing the opening of the “Comment Period”. During this period the SFM permitted any interested party to submit ‘comments’ regarding any Petition that had previously been filed and the action the SFM took regarding each Petition. As with the Petition Period, some Comments were received after the posted deadline. In addition, some Comments were actually ‘petitions’ in substance. However, each one was addressed. Comments were received from various entities including: fire service members, fireworks/flame effects industry members, municipal corporations, the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, electric vehicle and electric vehicle charging station industry members and related groups, the national electrical manufacturers association, the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and the Ohio Energy and Convenience Association, fuel marketing, truck stop and convenience store associations, the Ohio Environmental Council, and the Ohio Distillers Guild.

In addition, during the ‘comment period’ the SFM identified stakeholder groups that would likely be significantly impacted by new and/or updated provisions that were being proposed for inclusion in the rules. The primary stakeholder groups identified were members of distillery related fields, electric vehicle related fields including Drive Ohio and the Ohio insurance industry, and the Ohio Farm Bureau. The SFM had multiple meetings and communications with these groups. The SFM also contacted the Ohio Hotel and Lodging Association to discuss rule changes affecting their membership.

See also response to question 10.

10. What input was provided by the stakeholders, and how did that input affect the draft regulation being proposed by the Agency?

The SFM received 94 petitions (but 15 were subsequently withdrawn by the Petitioner). The remaining 79 Petitions – proposing amendments to 19 different OFC chapters – were duly considered by the SFM and nearly half of the Petitions (36 of them) were approved in some manner and further changes to the draft OFC were made.

On July 3, 2024, the SFM published the ROP which catalogued and outlined all of the petitions. The ROP contained all proposed changes, specified the action taken on each Petition (i.e., whether it was approved, denied, modified in some manner, or withdrawn), and provided a justification or rationale for each action taken. In conjunction with the ROP, the SMF also published a revised draft of the 2025 OFC, which again was a redlined version of the proposed OFC with all editing mark-ups (changes made pursuant to Petitions and/or during the Petition Period were specifically denoted in the revised draft of the rules).

At that same time, the SFM opened a “Comment Period” during which any interested party could again submit changes to the SFM, this time in the form of a ‘comment’ regarding any revision to the OFC proposed during the Petition Period. Notification regarding the publication of the ROP, the revised draft 2025 OFC and the ‘call for comments’ was again sent to all SFM stakeholders via e-mail; information was also posted on the SFM’s website and social media accounts.

Comments were received from July 3, 2024, through July 25, 2024 (although some comments were received after this date). After stakeholders had the opportunity to review all of the IFC changes in the context of the OFC together with the inclusion of all language generated by Petitions, stakeholders submitted 33 comments (however, 2 of these had no substantive changes and 3 were submitted by the SFM) regarding the draft 2025 OFC. Of the 31 substantive Comments submitted, the SFM granted (or granted in part) 26 of them.

After the conclusion of the Comment Period (and in conjunction with the instant filing), the SFM published a “Report on Comments” (ROC) which catalogued and outlined all of the Comments received. The ROC contained all proposed changes, specified the action taken on

each Comment (i.e., whether it was approved, denied, modified in some manner, or withdrawn), and provided a justification or rationale for each action taken. In conjunction with the ROC, the SMF also published another revised draft of the 2025 OFC, which again was a redlined version of the proposed OFC with all editing mark-ups (changes made pursuant to Comments and/or during the Comment Period were specifically denoted in the revised draft of the rules).

During the Comment Period the SFM also contacted various industry groups directly as indicated above.

The Ohio Distillers Guild (Guild) filed Petitions for changes to the draft OFC; some of their Petitions were approved and some were denied. However, the SFM contacted the Guild prior to the publication of the ROP to inform the Guild that the SFM had rejected some of their Petitions but wanted to continue conversations with them during the Comment Period about the concepts proposed to gain a better understanding of their needs and industry practices. The SFM held two formal meetings with several representatives from the Guild, the first on July 25, 2024 (in person) and the second on August 19, 2024 (via Teams). After these discussions and other email and phone call communications (including calls on October 1 and 29, 2024), the Guild submitted four Comments. All of these Comments were approved (one with modifications) and the draft rules proposed for inclusion in the OFC were amended accordingly.

The SFM also held two meetings with representatives from electric vehicle-related fields. The first meeting was a Teams meeting with representatives from Tesla, held on July 25, 2024. A second Teams meeting was held on August 21, 2024, and included representatives from Tesla, Charge Point and several other industry representatives as well as industry lobbyist and Common Sense Initiative representatives. The SFM also had conversations with representatives from Drive Ohio on August 22, 2024, and September 4, 2024, both via Teams), the International Code Council (November 8, 2024, via Teams), and the Ohio insurance industry (also via Teams). Drive Ohio representatives indicated that proposed property line separation distances for electric vehicle charging stations might be an issue for their program; the SFM informed the group that that provision was going to be deleted from the proposed rules. The group did not express concern regarding other changes and actually expressed approval for other related provisions such as emergency disconnection and impact protection – indicating that such was needed. However, subsequent to further evaluation and review of all Petitions, Comments, and feedback submitted to the SFM, the SFM determined to delete all previously proposed provisions related to EV charging.

The SFM also held discussions with the Ohio Farm Bureau (Bureau) to address concerns raised in a Comment submitted by them. The SFM drafted clarifying language to code sections the Bureau had issues with (after publication of the rule draft at the end of the Petition Period)

as well as an explanation for / substantiation of the SFM's actions. That language was forwarded to the Bureau for review. Thereafter, the SFM and the Bureau met via Teams on October 29, 2024, to further discuss the rules. Some issues were resolved by the clarifying language submitted to the Bureau prior to the meeting. Further amendments were made to the OFC language regarding other issues; the SFM also contacted the Ohio Board of Building Standards (BBS) to coordinate these amendments in like OBC language. Another draft of the language was submitted to the Bureau prior to the rules being submitted in the instant CSI package. The Bureau did not relay any further concerns.

The SFM also contacted the Ohio Hotel and Lodging Association (on December 3, 2024, via phone) to review the few changes to the rules that would affect the hotel industry. No further amendments to the relevant provisions were proposed. In addition, as stated above, the SFM also contact representatives from the mobile food truck industry; initial language affecting the industry – including in particular provisions regarding hood suppression systems – was amended in consultation with the industry representatives prior to the publication of the first draft of the 2025 OFC. The group expressed approval of the language as amended and did not file any edits or changes to the rules as later published.

For a detailed review of all Petitions and Comments received, the actions taken by the SFM regarding each and the SFM's justification therefore, please see the attached ROP and ROC. An overview of the Petitions and Comments is as follows:

Petitions and Comments that were **approved** for inclusion in the 2025 OFC were:

- Petitions 1, 2, and 3, incorporating the IFC and making formatting edits, typographical corrections and other non-substantive changes throughout the OFC;
- Petition 4, regarding exhibitor of fireworks licenses;
- Petition 5 (as modified), regarding changes in use or occupancy;
- Petition 6 (as modified), regarding alternative methods and materials;
- Petition 7, regarding signage for visual alarms that do not have a corresponding fire alarm system;
- Petition 11, regarding ceiling clearances for storage along walls;
- Petition 15 (approved in part), regarding the appearance of non-required fire protection-related equipment;
- Petition 20, regarding an exception to sprinkler system supervision and alarm provisions;
- Petitions 34 and 59 (in concept/as modified), regarding documents to be submitted to fire code officials during the plan review process;

- Petition 43 (as modified), to amend manner of reference to national standard;
- Petition 44, to prohibit vaping during fuel dispensing operations;
- Petition 47 (as modified), regarding the incorporation of 2024 IFC language relating to energy storage systems;
- Petition 48, regarding a clarification to origin and cause language;
- Petition 49 (as modified), regarding tornado drills;
- Petition 52 (as modified) and Comment 118 (in part), regarding fire apparatus access roads/fire lanes (and other amendments made in Chapter 5);
- Petition 56 (in part and as modified), requesting to add provisions regarding electric vehicle charging stations, and Petition 70 (in concept and modified), regarding terminology related to electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS); Comments 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, seeking deletion of all or specified portions of EV related rules; in addition Comments 110, 114, 120, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126 and 127 were all approved in part and to the extent they proposed deletion of EV related provisions (to the extent they proposed medication of EV related provisions, they were denied);

Please note: changes regarding EVCS's originally proposed by stakeholders and approved pursuant to Petitions 56 and 70 and included in the first revised draft of the 2025 OFC are deleted from the second revised draft 2025 OFC published at the conclusion of the Comment Period due to the approval of the Comments listed above.

- Petition 60, regarding the location of fire department connections;
- Petitions 62 and 63, regarding A2L refrigerants;
- Petition 66 (as modified), requesting a cross reference to a new chapter;
- Petition 72 (as modified), regarding timeframes for the submission of fire reports;
- Petition 73 (in concept), regarding OFC application in municipal corporations;
- Petition 77, regarding portable fire extinguishers;
- Petitions 81, 90, and 92 (as modified) and Comments 128, 129, 130 (as amended) and 131, regarding distillery operations;
- Petition 91, regarding commercial cooking systems;
- Petitions 94 (as modified), 96 (as modified), and 97 regarding fountain device retailers licensure paperwork requirements, staff training requirements, and the reduction of display separation distances;

- Petition 99, to allow certain emergency messaging in schools to override fire alarm messaging in specified circumstances;
- Petition 100, to require grounding for outdoor magazines;
- Comments 107 and 108 (and further amendments made), regarding edition of referenced standards pertaining to flame effects / fire performers;
- Comment 116 (in part and further amendments made), regarding OFC application to agricultural properties, the occupancy classification of greenhouses, sky lanterns, and Chapter 56 application;
- Comment 132, to clarify fireworks related licensure requirements to include reference to disqualifying offenses in other countries;
- Comment 133, to add an exception for smaller businesses from emergency responder radio coverage requirements.

Petitions and Comments that were **not approved** for inclusion in the 2025 OFC were:

- Petitions 9 and 46, requesting a requirement that costly failure modes and analysis reports for energy storage systems be provided (retroactively and moving forward);
- Petition 13, requesting fire apparatus access road load requirements;
- Petitions 14 and 57, regarding emergency responder radio coverage;
- Petition 16, requesting to prohibit natural decorative vegetation in certain occupancy groups;
- Petitions 17 and 18, requesting placarding at apartment and hotel units/rooms that are built to accommodate persons with disabilities;
- Petition 21, requesting changes to the OBC and OFC to mandate permitting requirements for private fire service mains;
- Petition 22, seeking a new certification requirement for individuals installing, servicing, testing, and repairing fire doors and opening protectives;
- Petition 33, requesting a mandate for hotel guests to vacate a room after certain timeframes;
- Petition 35, requesting impact protection for purposes of life safety and/or property protection;
- Petition 36, requesting that all fire department connections be on the same side of the road as the supplying hydrant;

- Petition 45, regarding the number of fire doors required;
- Petition 50, to allow portable fuel containers to be filled on trailers or marine vessels on trailers;
- Petition 51, to require an increase in aisle widths in certain occupancies;
- Petition 53, requesting amendments to an appendix (Appendix D) not incorporated into the OFC;
- Petition 54, regarding fire alarm control panel provisions more appropriately addressed in the OBC;
- Petition 55, regarding elevator dimensions which are more appropriately addressed in the OBC;
- Petition 58, requesting to broaden the definition of ‘fire lane’;
- Petition 61, regarding the illumination of low-level exit signs;
- Petition 64, to require a 24-hour notification to the fire department for non-emergency related work vehicles prior to blocking fire department egress from their bays;
- Petition 67, to increase maximum allowable quantities in certain occupancy classifications without complying with additional occupancy standards;
- Petitions 68 and 69, to exempt some businesses with laboratories to operate outside of rule requirements relating to such laboratories;
- Petition 71, to add a definition of the court created term “distinct hazard”;
- Petitions 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, and 89 regarding distillery operations;
- Petition 82, regarding relocatable power taps;
- Petition 93, requesting the deletion of provisions requiring sprinkler systems in certain parking garages;
- Petition 95, to delete certain signage requirements for fountain device retailers;
- Petition 98, regarding fire report requirements;
- Comment 101, requiring annual replacement of fusible links (regardless of wear);
- Comment 112, to amend the definition of ‘jurisdiction’;
- Comment 115 (but further revisions made), regarding what construction related documents are to be provided to the fire code official during the plan review process;

- Comment 117, regarding the location of fire department connections;
- Comment 119, regarding wood pallet separation requirements.

11. What scientific data was used to develop the rule or the measurable outcomes of the rule? How does this data support the regulation being proposed?

Many of the changes incorporated into the new OFC are based on changes made in the IFC. Like the BBS does with the Building Code, the SFM relies on the expertise of the ICC which promulgates the IFC, the 2021 version of which served as a baseline for the proposed rules. The ICC updates the IFC (and its other international standards) every three years through a petitioning, public hearing, and membership voting process. Proposals and submissions on the national level are routinely substantiated with argument and scientific data when appropriate. The submissions are open for public comment by all industry leaders and interested parties. Reports are published on all submissions and their supporting documentation. Further review and comments are made prior to voting and adoption.

After the ICC publishes the IFC, the SFM's internal work group reviews the changes. As the changes are made on an international level and are available for all interested parties, they are also often reviewed by SFM stakeholders as well. The SFM incorporates relevant portions of the IFC (excluding or amending portions when necessary to conform to Ohio law, to continue previously coordinated work with the BBS, or to carry forward provisions previously amended subsequent to stakeholder input). The last major revision of the OFC occurred in 2017 and utilized the 2015 IFC. The instant revision uses the 2021 IFC as a baseline (and for 1 chapter the 2024 IFC) and picks up revisions made at the international level in their 2018 update as well. The SFM also spent much time regarding technical or substantial revisions (like distilleries and electric vehicles) reviewing pending international regulations and the regulations of other states and discussing provisions with industry members. See also response to Question 10.

12. What alternative regulations (or specific provisions within the regulation) did the Agency consider, and why did it determine that these alternatives were not appropriate? If none, why didn't the Agency consider regulatory alternatives? *Alternative regulations may include performance-based regulations, which define the required outcome, but do not dictate the process the regulated stakeholders must use to comply.*

The SFM is charged with the duty of promulgating an Ohio fire code. In order to accomplish this directive, the SFM can either write the entire code internally or look to national and international standards as a baseline. The SFM, as stated above, has opted to use the IFC as a baseline. Other recognized standards that the SFM could have used are NFPA 101 and/or NFPA 5000 (promulgated by the National Fire Protection Association). The SFM did not institute these standards as its baseline due in large part to the significant costs of

implementation involved with them. Also, the BBS uses the International Building Code as a baseline for the OBC. Using the companion IFC as a baseline for the OFC helps maintain uniformity between the two codes and maintains an efficiency of training, enforcement, and future code development.

Regarding specific topics and regulations that were proposed and considered in this update, please see Question 10. Also, please see the ROP and ROC for specifics on other regulations that were proposed for consideration and the rationale regarding why the SFM either included or modified the proposed regulations or excluded them from the rules.

13. What measures did the Agency take to ensure that this regulation does not duplicate an existing Ohio regulation?

The Ohio General Assembly mandates that the SFM adopt the OFC and, in doing so, provides the SFM with the exclusive authority to promulgate the OFC and regulations regarding all aspects of the minimum standards of fire safety throughout the state. Even with this broad mandate, the SFM, through its extensive rule development processes, including the discretionary petition and comment process the SFM undertakes before entering the CSI phase, works with all OFC stakeholders and continuously reviews the OFC to ensure it: 1) does not go beyond the scope of the intent and authority established by the General Assembly for the OFC; and 2) does not improperly duplicate any other regulations of similar or higher precedence and authority. The SFM also has exclusive licensing authority, which includes the ability to promulgate rules regarding hotel licensure and sanitary standards and regulations regarding the manufacture, sale, possession, exhibition, and shipping of fireworks. The SFM has not promulgated any other provisions regarding these matters.

In addition, to the extent certain rules contained in the OFC and OBC address the same regulatory space, the SFM and BBS make every effort on an ongoing basis to ensure that relevant construction provisions contained in the two codes work in tandem through active communication between the entities, educational and outreach efforts, and synchronized code development processes. For example, the OBC primarily focuses on rules regarding the safe construction of a building for its intended purpose, while the OFC primarily addresses how the building will be safely operated once it is occupied. However, some safety measures (like the installation of a fire protection system) must be addressed at the design and construction phase in both codes (as the OFC's construction provisions apply to a broader scope of projects than the OBC and the OFC's enforcement provisions require such types of rules be specified in the OFC even if the OBC chooses to also address the same regulatory area). Therefore, the SFM and BBS diligently work, as noted above, to coordinate the two codes for this area of mutual interest.

14. Please describe the Agency’s plan for implementation of the regulation, including any measures to ensure that the regulation is applied consistently and predictably for the regulated community.

It is anticipated that the 2025 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) will go into effect in the summer of 2025. The OFC will be published by the ICC in book format and made available to the general public in spring/summer 2025. However, upon its approval by CSI and JCARR and subsequent to its final filing, ‘clean’ and ‘red-lined’ versions of the 2025 OFC will be available on the SFM’s website until hard copy books are published. A ‘significant changes document’ will also be published and posted on the SFM’s website. In addition, the rules will be housed – in full text – on an Ohio-specific page on the ICC’s website.

As in years past when a new iteration of the OFC goes into effect, the SFM may host regional meetings at various locations throughout the state to offer tutorials and informational sessions regarding the significant changes to the code. If so, the training sessions will include both general sessions for all interested parties and, as needed, focused sessions for larger stakeholder groups affected by more significant changes and may include sessions with hotel industry members, fire protection equipment installers, Ohio Farm Bureau members, and fire code officials. These meetings will be coordinated with leading industry groups.

The SFM is also contemplating publishing a commentary and on-line training modules regarding significant changes made to the OFC for the use of generally interested parties, code enforcement officers, and for those seeking continuing education requirements. In addition, SFM staff is always available to provide clarification when necessary and to host other training sessions on an as requested or as needed basis for specific topics. Finally, the SFM often issues ‘guidance documents’ (or “Technical Bulletins”) which clarify or amplify OFC provisions, offer interpretations of provisions, and/or provide guidance on the application or enforcement of certain provisions.

Adverse Impact to Business

15. Provide a summary of the estimated cost of compliance with the rule(s). Specifically, please do the following:

a. Identify the scope of the impacted business community, and

The OFC affects a broad range of business communities including the hotel industry, the fireworks industry, motor fuel-dispensing facilities, aviation facilities, drycleaning facilities, combustible dust producing operations, tire storage, welding and hot work, lumber yards and general businesses and many others. Please see response to question 2 for a detailed description of all OFC chapters and the business entities they address.

b. Quantify and identify the nature of all adverse impact (e.g., fees, fines, employer time for compliance, etc.).

The adverse impact can be quantified in terms of dollars, hours to comply, or other factors; and may be estimated for the entire regulated population or for a representative business. Please include the source for your information/estimated impact.

The basic provisions of the OFC account for industry wide standards that have been in place for many years; the bulk of the provisions are not changing. Although changes were made throughout the rules contained in the OFC, the vast majority of the rules are not expected to have a cost impact because, again, they have been in place many years. Many of the proposed rule modifications merely restructure prior rules or clarify prior OFC or R.C. requirements. However, there have, of course, been some amendments that are anticipated to have a cost impact. Due to the myriad ways a structure can be built and equipment configured and vast size differentials, it is difficult to calculate a definitive anticipated cost that a provision will have. Nonetheless, estimated costs or cost variables are provided where possible. A breakdown by rule of all substantive changes that have been identified as having an adverse impact is as follows:

1301:7-7-01 (Administration): Although Chapter 1 does contain provisions regarding civil penalties for OFC violations (112.4 et. seq.), SFM permit and inspection fees (115 et. seq.) and hotel licensure fees (121.7.3 et. seq.), those provisions have been in effect for many years and are not changing except for hotel fees which, as noted below in response to question 16, are decreasing. The majority of the changes made in Chapter 1 will not have an adverse impact on businesses in terms of cost differentials as they are formatting changes and clarifications regarding OFC application.

Language being amended that is anticipated to have some cost impact is as follows: Provisions regarding required fire reports have been amended to require the use of SFM mandated reporting procedures, which may include the use of certain software (however, the software used by the SFM is free of charge to fire departments (104.6.3.1). * The definition of “major fire” has been amended to include fires or explosions at educational occupancies and places of worship. This may add to the number of reports a jurisdiction must make of such incidents to the SFM’s Fire and Explosions Investigative Bureau; however, such should be negligible in employee time and resource usage as such reports are made via phone calls to a dispatching center (104.11.2 – 104.11.4). * New operational permits have been added for additive manufacturing (105.5.1), energy storage systems (105.5.14); mobile food preparation vehicles (105.5.32); outdoor assembly events (105.5.38); plant extraction systems (105.5.40); and lithium-ion and lithium metal battery storage (105.5.53). In addition, new construction permits have been added for fuel cell power systems (105.6.9); gas detection systems (105.6.10); high piled combustible storage (105.6.13), motor vehicle repair rooms and booths (105.6.16), plant extraction systems (105.6.17) and special event structures (105.6.21). However, these permits are all

discretionary permits and are not mandated by the OFC. Local jurisdictions are given the authority to institute permitting programs at their discretion for any or all of the listed permits. Therefore, businesses will only incur permit fees if they choose to do business in a jurisdiction that has chosen to institute a permitting program for permits related to their business. Fees for such will also be governed locally. * New language has been added regarding *de minimus* violations and require a fire code official to take action regarding such violations (114.1.1.4). This may result in time expenditures for local jurisdictions to write and execute notices of such violations. For businesses that receive such notices, no further expenditure is anticipated except for compliance with the OFC provision that is being violated – which is already required. However, if the entity fails to correct the violation, the next measure of recourse by the fire code official would be to issue a citation and possibly a civil penalty – again, if the business chooses not to comply with the orders of the fire code official. * Language has been added stating that if a hotel licensure applicant does not submit valid payment with their application, the application will be denied (121.7.3.8; see also 121.7.5.1.9). This may result in the applicant having to file a reactivation application for licensure which incurs a fee of \$300, plus the renewal fee (see below for discussion of reduction of renewal fees). If the reactivation is not submitted in a timely manner, the application will be treated as a ‘new’ application and fees will be applied accordingly (new application fees are higher than renewal fees; see Section 121.7.3.1). However, none of these fees will be applicable unless the applicant themselves does not timely submit their application with valid payment. Pursuant to the R.C., all hotels must renew their licenses by December 31 or each year. All applicants are given an additional 2 months during which ‘reactivation’ fees would apply. Not until March 1, well after the statutory December 31 deadline, would ‘new application’ fees be applied to the facility. The rule provisions regarding late applications, reactivation and the ultimate application of ‘new’ licensure application fees to tardy applications are not new.

1301:7-7-03 (General Requirements): Prior code language provided that spaces underneath grandstands could not be used for any purpose except for egress (304.1.3.1) but new language has been added to this section to allow other uses (i.e., storage) if the area is protected by either an automatic sprinkler system or fire barriers and horizontal assemblies. Such is not mandatory, but if a business opted to use such space, they would incur the cost of suppression or barriers; actual cost would depend on whether the business chooses to supply protection (through suppression or separation) and the size of the area to be protected. * New language was added to require powered industrial trucks used in specified (hazardous) areas to be listed and labeled for such use; businesses not using rated equipment may incur the cost of replacing equipment the actual cost of which will depend on the type of truck (which can range from a few thousand to several thousand dollars) and the number of trucks that may need to be replaced (309.2). * Language has been added to state that in I-2 occupancies ashtray type containers meeting certain requirements must be provided; the provision of receptacles is not a new requirement; however, the specific

criteria for the receptacles in Group I-2 occupancies are new and may result in costs for I-2 occupancies if/when receptacles are replaced; the actual cost of compliance would be the cost of a receptacle meeting the criteria (which range in price around \$200.00 to \$300.00) multiplied by the number of receptacles needed at a particular business. (310.6). * New provisions were added addressing outdoor pallet storage (315.7 et. seq.). Businesses engaged in such storage may need additional storage space to accommodate the new pile height and separation distance requirements. * National language regarding mobile food preparation vehicles requires automatic suppression. However, the SFM amended the language so that it will apply only to new units manufactured after a date well beyond the effective date of the 2025 OFC) and to existing units altered after that same extended date (319.4.1). This will incur additional upstart costs and/or renovation costs for mobile food vendors that do not have hood suppression systems. Such systems range in price depending on the system and the size of cooking apparatus they are protecting, but generally cost between \$1,500 and \$5,000. This is, however, why the SFM – in coordination with industry representatives – chose to extend the date by which vendors must comply – to allow any vehicles in production and any pending (or impending) renovations to be completed before the provision takes effect. * New national language sets forth provisions regarding additive manufacturing (3D printing) operations (320 et. seq.). In addition to general compliance costs – having listed equipment, etc.) a permit requirement was added. The OFC does not contain mandatory permits but does authorize local jurisdictions to institute permitting programs for specified activities. Any businesses that choose to conduct an additive manufacturing operation in a location that does require a permit will incur the cost of such permit, which varies pursuant to local regulations. * New language was added regarding lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries and micromobility devices (323 et. seq.). The section does not apply to new or refurbished batteries installed or packed for use in the equipment they are designed to power, to lithium-ion batteries that are not rated more than 300 watt-hours or to lithium metal batteries that do not contain more than 25 grams of lithium metal. Thus, the rule does not apply to general use by the public (for example, charging the battery that came with a cell phone or scooter). For charging, storage and uses the section will apply to, there are requirements that will incur costs for those engaged in the activity: there is a permit requirement for quantities of more than 15 cubic feet which could incur costs if a permit is required in the jurisdiction where the activity is occurring – as determined by the local jurisdiction. The provisions also require a fire safety plan which could take two to four hours to develop and coordinate with the local authority having jurisdiction. Indoor storage of quantities in excess of 15 cubic feet will require specified storage containers (prices vary greatly depending on size, but can range in size from fairly small, to 55-gallon drums, to a shipping container (which could cost from \$10, to \$45, to \$1,500, respectively) or, if an entity chooses not to utilize the specified storage containers, a technical report and opinion demonstrating the safety of the storage mechanism that will be used is required. They will, of course, incur the cost of the report, which could incur a cost of around \$120. Other requirements for storage include separation for battery storage located in a building with other uses, fire protection and alarm systems, and explosion control where recommended by the technical report. These requirements do not apply for partially charged batteries – those that are not and will not exceed 30%

charging. Outdoor storage requirements are an alternative to the indoor requirements and require separation distances, storage area size limitations, and fire detection. The amount of investment an affected business will incur in complying with these provisions will depend on the quantity of product that is stored, whether the building is also used for other purposes, whether the storage is indoor or outdoor storage – all options controlled by the business itself.

1301:7-7-04 (Emergency Planning and Preparedness): Fire safety provisions have been added to require staff training in the use of portable fire extinguishers in certain occupancies including Group B occupancies (403.3.1.2), Group I occupancies (403.7.1.2), Group I-3 occupancies (403.7.3.3), and Group R-4 occupancies (403.9.3.2). Although such training is relatively simple, there will be a cost incurred in terms of staff time taken away from other tasks as well as – if opted for by the entity – the costs of using a paid individual for such training (although the requirements do not delineate who has to conduct the training). * Staff training requirements have been added to require that staff at Group I-2 occupancies be trained in their responsibilities and duties during fire and evacuation processes (403.7.2.3) which will result in time being taken away from other tasks. * Fire safety and evacuation plans are now required for buildings with high-piled storage (403.10.5) which will require an expenditure for plan development and implementation; costs will vary depending on whether the plan and training is generated / taught by in-house personnel (which they usually are, and should take around 2 hours to complete, and no more than six. * Provisions requiring crowd managers have been amended to require such individuals at events with over 500 people (prior language required crown managers for events over 1,000 people); in addition, the number of crowd managers required was changed (403.11.3.1). These changes could result in increased costs for an event depending on the number of attendees and the number of crown managers that will be required. The cost would be the hourly rate charged by the crowd manager(s) (usually around \$25/hour). * Finally, “tornado season” has been broadened to include the month of March (408.2.4). This change will require an additional tornado drill for schools – which will incur costs for conducting the drills in personnel planning and time taken from other tasks. However, schools generally participate in a statewide tornado drill conducted in March by the Ohio emergency management agency; if schools do participate in that drill, no additional drill is required under the fire code provision for the month of March.

1301:7-7-05 (Fire Service Features): Provisions have been added to require the development, implementation and maintenance of site safety plans by business owners (501.3.1). The cost of development of such plans will depend on the nature of the operation and the extent of variables that need to be covered in the plans. However, it will take resources and manpower to develop such plans (usually 2 – 4 hours). * Fire command centers are now required in F-1 and S-1 occupancies that are larger than 500,000 square feet. The cost anticipated for such installations is likely substantial, but unknown due to the many variables that can go into such – like the size of the facility and the equipment opted for which will be absorbed into building/construction costs. There is also a signage requirement for such centers (508.1.7), but such cost should be nominal. * Requirements for emergency responder radio coverage systems have been enhanced to include, among

other things, increased acceptance testing criteria (510.5.4), which may result in an increase in the testing required for system operability. However, the cost of such tests is not easily quantifiable as it will depend on the size of the structure, the configuration of the system and the amount of testing that needs to be conducted to attain acceptability.

1301:7-7-06 (Building Services and Systems): Provisions have been added detailing specifications for refrigerant detection and ventilation systems for Group A2L refrigerant machinery rooms (608.18) (which should cost around \$500).

1301:7-7-07 (Fire and Smoke Protection Features): New national code provisions state that building owners are required to maintain an inventory of all fire-resistance-rated construction (701.6). This may result in a cost for creation of such inventory, including man hours to complete – which will depend on the size of the facility and the amount of such construction in the building. However, such initial inventory should be fairly readily available from construction documents which are already required to be produced and monthly site inspection which should take roughly 1 hour to complete, dependent up on site size and configuration. * New provisions also require the expenditure of man hours to inspect and maintain door and window openings (705 et. seq.), duct and air transfer openings (706 et. seq.), concealed spaces (707 et. seq.) and spray fire-resistant materials and intumescent fire-resistant materials (708 et. seq.) which will result in man-hour expenditures. Signs may also be required for fire doors; the cost for such will be nominal (705.2.2).

1301:7-7-09 (Fire Protection Systems): New national provisions require markings, lighting and environmental controls for fire pump and riser rooms (901.4.7); costs for these provisions should be nominal as such are generally already provided for. * New national provisions require testing for integrated systems (901.6.2 et. seq.). Acceptance testing for fire protection and life safety systems is already required, however; so, there should not be a significant cost increase. Periodic testing of the systems – to check for integration – could be costly but is only required once every 10 years (and will be able to be conducted in conjunction with other annual testing of each system that is already required). * New provisions have been added to require automatic sprinkler systems for specified enclosed areas under grandstands (903.2.1.5.1); costs for such will depend on the size of the area. New provisions have been added to require automatic sprinkler systems at Group F-1 areas used for the manufacture of distilled spirits (903.2.4.4), the manufacture of upholstered furniture or mattresses (903.2.4.3), the display and sale of upholstered furniture or mattresses exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. (903.2.7.2), the bulk storage of distilled spirits or wines (903.2.9.3), specified storage of upholstered furniture and mattresses (903.2.9.4), and certain open parking garages and mechanical-access enclosed parking garages (903.2.10 et. seq.); an exception from sprinkler requirements for building over 55 ft. in height has been deleted (903.2.11.3); requirements for specified sprinkler installation/type have been amended to delete some previously addressed occupancy groups and to amend conditions for section applicability (903.3.1.2); new condition added to where sprinkler protection on balconies, decks, and ground floor patios is required (903.3.1.2.1); new provisions expand balcony and corridor locations required to have protection (903.3.1.2.2); provisions requiring protection for attics have been relocated and expanded (903.3.1.2.3); new

location added where quick-response or residential automatic sprinklers must be installed (903.3.2); exception has been deleted for monitoring for sprinkler alarms systems (903.4.1); * signage requirement has been added for alarms that do not have corresponding alarm systems to indicate action needs to be taken to call the fire department (904.3.5.1); occupant load calculations for the installation of a manual fire alarm system that triggers an occupant notification system have been amended (907.2.1); new section has been added requiring manual fire alarm systems in Group S occupancies (907.2.10); provisions regarding occupant notification systems have been expanded (907.5 et. seq.); new provisions have been added regarding future capability wiring (907.5.2.3.3.1); provisions have been added to require smoke alarm testing, maintenance and replacement as specified (907.10); new provisions have been added regarding the construction and configuration of smokeproof enclosures (if required by other code provisions) (909.20 et. seq.); inspection and testing requirement has been added for smoke and heat vents (910.5.1); exception to sprinkler requirement for parking garages has been deleted (914.3.1); fire pump water supply provisions regarding Type IVA and IVB construction have been amended and may result in an increased number of required connections for some buildings of such construction types (914.3.1.2); new provisions have been added regarding the construction, configuration, and permitting of gas detection systems (required elsewhere in the code) (916.1 et. seq.); new provisions have been added requiring a mass notification risk analysis and a mass notification system in certain circumstances for specified college or university campuses (917.1); the costs of these systems and testing requirements will vary greatly depending on the type and size of the building, but should be absorbed and a part of initial construction costs. * New name change notification requirement and fee of \$25 has been added for licensees (918.5.1.1).

1301:7-7-10 (Means of Egress): Refrigeration machinery rooms are required to have panic hardware which can cost between several hundred and a few thousand dollars (1006.2.2.2). * Provisions regarding egress illumination have been amended to increase the level of illumination for specified areas from 1 footcandle to 10 footcandles (1008.2.1) which cost approximately \$100 more for purchase, but would only be required upon replacement (or initial construction). * Size of areas of refuge have been increased to accommodate scooter users which may increase construction costs (1009.6.3). * Specified refrigeration rooms are now required to have two exit or exit access doorways with panic hardware which may affect construction costs (1010.2.9.1). * Certain doors serving specified locations are required to have panic hardware which can cost between several hundred and a few thousand dollars (1010.2.9.2). * Provisions regarding guards for roof hatch openings have been amended to extend the guard (1015.7) which could incur personnel time expenditure (minimal) and material costs. * Tactile floor-level signs are required in specified locations. Costs per sign should be nominal (\$30-\$50) but would be multiplied depending on the number of signs that must be installed (1023.11) if/when needed. * New language has been added to require automatic sprinklers in enclosed areas with walls and ceilings in buildings and structures containing open-air assembly seating (1030.6.3.1); costs will vary depending on size and system configuration. * An additional handrail is required for certain stepped aisles (1030.16) which range in cost from \$150 to \$300 depending on length). * Emergency escape and rescue opening requirements have been amended (1031.2). * New

requirement added to require fire escapes to either be maintained or removed (1032.2.1.1) will incur either maintenance or removal costs. * Maintenance and testing requirements have been added for emergency lighting equipment which will result in manpower expenditures as to test (visually look at the equipment) to ensure proper operation (1032.10 et. seq.).

1301:7-7-11 (Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings): Amendments were made to Chapter 11 to add requirements for existing buildings; however, except in limited circumstances these requirements do not apply to existing buildings in Ohio absent a showing of a distinct hazard. These include: the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in specified existing occupancies (1103.5); door size requirements (1104.7); and egress requirements for Group I-2 occupancies have been amended (1105.6). The cost of compliance with these provisions will depends on the size and configuration of the building and the system. * New provisions have been added to require identification of existing structures that have solar photovoltaic power systems if required by the fire code official (regardless of a showing of a distinct hazard and would result in the cost of a sign (which should be minimal) and sign installation (1103.11; 1101.1).

1301:7-7-12 (Energy Systems): In the 2018 IFC, the ICC added new Chapter 12 to the code. However, a large portion of the language contained in the new Chapter 12 was relocated to the new chapter from Chapter 6. Updates to the IFC version were made in 2021 and again in 2024. Because this area (energy storage systems) is a rapidly growing technology, the SFM has determined to incorporate the 2024 IFC version of Chapter 12.

Language that has been added to or amended in Chapter 12 through the 2024 version (not including language that previously existed in in OFC Chapter 6) that may have an impact on businesses is as follows: Generator fuel supply lines must be protected (1203.1.2), but should be completed upon installation. * Gas detection systems must now have emergency power (1203.2.6), which is absorbed into initial costs and setup. * Provisions have been added to require emergency and standby power systems in Group I-2 occupancies to be maintained (1203.4.1) and to inspected and tested under load (1203.5.1) in accordance with other provisions resulting in potential maintenance costs and inspection and testing time and potential cost. * General provisions have been added regarding portable generators (1204 et. seq.) including a provision requiring a portable 2-A:20-B:C fire extinguisher to be in the vicinity of the generator (1204.10); such extinguishers generally cost around \$143 (if purchased new, rather than utilizing an existing extinguisher on the premises or if not provided by the generator supplier upon purchase of the generator). * provisions regarding solar photovoltaic systems have been expounded to address hazards, including provisions to require not less than two pathways (1205.2.1.1), setback for certain arrays (1205.2.1.2 and 1205.2.1.3), marking requirements have been added for BIPV systems (1205.2.3), pathway requirements have been added to address / allow for interior pathways as well as perimeter pathways (1205.3.1, 1205.3.2, new provisions have been added regarding rapid shutdown (however, the provisions apply if such is installed for an array – they do not require it (1205.4 et. seq.)); the costs for the new requirements will depend on the system, configuration and size. * New provisions relating to stationary fuel cell power systems have been added (1206 et. seq.) requiring permits (which would incur a permit cost as set

by the local authority having jurisdiction if the jurisdiction has a permitting program – 1206.2), separation from certain occupancies which may incur the cost of materials depending on the type of separation already required in the building (1206.6.2), gas detection systems (1206.6.3) (which will be included in installation costs), vehicle impact protection which will incur the cost of such protection which can be bollards, curbs, or other elements acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction (1206.7) and therefore vary greatly in price depending on the type of protection the business chooses, ventilation and exhaust systems (1206.11) and fire protection systems (1206.12), the cost of which will all depend on the materials opted for and the size and configuration of the system and building and will be a part of the construction costs. * New provisions have been added regarding specified energy storage systems (1207 et. seq.) and require permits filed with construction documents as specified (which would incur a permit cost as set by the local authority having jurisdiction if the jurisdiction has a permitting program – 1207.1.4, 1207.1.5; 1207.10.3, 1207.10.4), fire remediation (1207.1.8 et. seq.), electrical disconnects for specified ESS systems (1207.4.1), signage (1207.4.8), fire detection systems (1207.5.4; 1207.11.6), fire suppression systems (1207.5.5, 1207.9.4), exhaust ventilation (1207.6.1 et. seq.; 1207.11.8), spill control (1207.6.2 et. seq.), explosion control (1207.6.3), fire resistance-rated construction (1207.7.4), fencing for exterior installations (1207.10.7.6), and impact protection (1207.4.5; 1207.11.7 et. seq.). These will incur a cost – generally borne in construction costs – which is dependent on the configuration and size of the building and system and what type of system is opted for. Signage costs should be minimal.

1301:7-7-22 (Combustible Dust Producing Operations): New provisions have been added requiring signage and markings for dust-producing and dust-handling equipment (2203.2 et. seq.); costs should be minimal for such. * Provisions have been added to require bonding and grounding (2203.4.2) which is minimal material costs and personnel cost in a time expenditure of less than 1 hour; signage requirement added for hot work (2203.4.3), but costs for sign should be minimal. * Inspection and maintenance requirements have been amended for fuel-fired process equipment (2203.4.9.4) and dust producing equipment (2203.6) and may occur additional personnel hours to complete. * New requirement for an emergency response plan has been added which will require personnel hours to develop which should take no more than 2 – 4 hours to develop and obtain approval of the authority having jurisdiction (2203.7). * Annual training regarding the emergency response plan is also required (2203.8) which will also incur personnel hours. * The fire code official is authorized (but not required) to require a dust hazard analysis (2205.1.1) which are generally done in house and take a few hours per machine to develop.

1301:7-7-23 (Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages): Signage requirements for warning signs that must be placed (per the R.C.) at gasoline pumps have been amended; however, ‘substantially similar’ signs will not have to be replaced; the anticipated impact on businesses would be the cost of the sign (which is minimal), if needed, and employee time to install (2305.6). * New provision added to require documented procedures for defueling or discharging operations related to certain hydrogen motor fuel dispensing and generation systems as well as schematic design documents; if these do not already exist, associated costs incurred by a business would be related to development of such documents

and associated training costs (2309.6 et. seq.). * New provision has been added to require LNG vehicle fuel system pressure to be measured and recorded prior to entry to a repair facility which will result in costs associated with a gauge (\$5) as well as employee time to verify and record, which should be minimal (2311.6.1). * New provision has been added to require CNG vehicle fuel system pressure and ambient air temperature to be measured and recorded prior to entry to a repair facility which will result in costs associated with a gauge and thermometer (usually a digital thermometer gun which most facilities already have; new thermometers generally cost around \$20 or less and the guns generally cost around \$55; there will also be an employee time expenditure to verify and record, which should be minimal (2311.6.2). * New provision requires fire extinguishers for CNG and LNG repair garages (2311.7) which would require an expenditure for the cost of an extinguisher (if they do not already have one – which they should) for such businesses ranging in price from \$50 - \$75. * New provisions have been added for repair garages for vehicles fueled by lighter-than air fuels to require 1-hour fire barriers of horizontal assemblies (2311.8.3), specified thicknesses for repair facilities with single-skin and double-skin sheet metal assemblies which may incur a cost depending on the type of material to be used (2311.8.4.1) and will be a part of construction, spray curtains (2311.8.5) (which will be a part of construction costs as per the building code), extended fire protection coverage if such coverage is installed (2311.8.6), and portable fire extinguishers (2311.8.7) ranging in price from \$50 - \$75 (if such is not already in the facility – which it should be – or if they choose to obtain another extinguisher specifically for that area. * A new provision has been added to require a classified electrical room in specified areas (2311.8.10) (which will be absorbed in construction costs).

1301:7-7-28 (Lumber Yards and Agro-Industrial, Solid Biomass and Woodworking Facilities): New requirements have been added limiting pile sizes (2808.3 et. seq.) and pile separation distances (2808.4) which may require personnel time for compliance / reconfiguration. * New provisions have been added requiring a site plan, a fire prevention plan, a fire safety and evacuation plan, and a security management plan for the outside storage of wood and wood composite pallets at certain locations (2810 et. seq.) which result in costs associated with developing such plan and implementing training regarding the plans – both monetarily and personnel-wise.

1301:7-7-31 (Tents and Other Membrane Structures): An automatic sprinkler requirement has been added for tents/membrane structures at special amusement building (3103.3.1). * New provisions have been added regarding outdoor assembly events to authorize permitting and to require fire code official approval, specified egress, limited occupant loads, egress maintenance, public safety plans, weather monitoring, crowd managers and portable fire extinguishers (3106 et. seq.) all of which will result in personnel and time expenditures.

1301:7-7-32 (High-Piled Combustible Storage): A storage layout floor plan requirement has been added (3201.3.2) which will take personnel time to develop. * Annual evaluation requirement has been added for storage layout plans (3205.1) which will require personnel time annually for evaluation and implementation of any changes that may be warranted. *

Fire department access door provisions have been amended to require signage (3206.7.4), the cost of which should be minimal.

1301:7-7-33 (Fire Safety During Construction and Demolition): Provisions have been amended regarding an owners responsibility to develop a program and maintenance schedule with regard to a site safety plan (3303.1 et. seq.) to have a site safety director (3303.2), which may result in an overhead increase, and to conduct daily fire safety inspections (3303.3) which will incur a personnel time expenditure which will vary depending on the size of the area to be inspected. * New provisions were added to require fire watches during construction and records documenting such (3505.5 et. seq.) (which will vary depending on the hourly wage of the person conducting the watch – generally supplied by the general contractor – and will become a part of the construction costs). * A signage requirement was added for cooking locations (3305.8), the cost of which should be minimal. * Provisions have been added to require separation between construction areas and occupied portions of buildings (3305.9) (absorbed as a part of construction). * Water flow requirements for water available to a construction site have been amended to require specific amounts of water flow in specified conditions (3313 et. seq.) which will be dependent upon many variables – size of construction, type of construction, exits, and stairwells, etc. – again all a part of the construction costs.

1301:7-7-38 (Higher Education Laboratories): This new IFC chapter addresses general safety requirements in higher education laboratories; however, the new provisions will allow such facilities to exceed otherwise set maximum allow hazardous material quantities if specified safety measures are instituted. Facilities are not required to comply with the provisions unless they choose to exceed the established maximums.

1301:7-7-40 (Distilled Spirits): This new IFC chapter requires certain safeguards and equipment for the storage of distilled spirits and wines including: spill control – cost for such would depend on the size of the facility (4003.1) (but see Ohio-specific exceptions that have been added to this requirement denoted below); ventilation – the cost of which would depend on the size of the facility (4003.2); no smoking signs (4003.3.1) – the cost of which should be minimal (ranging in price from \$10 to \$30); portable fire extinguishers, which range in price from \$50 to \$75 depending on the type of extinguisher purchased (4005.2) and hazard identification signage which would range in price from \$20 to \$50 depending on what type of sign is needed (4006.1).

1301:7-7-51 (Aerosols): Provisions have been added to limit the amount of aerosol cooking spray products that can be stored without protection which of course would incur a cost for entities opting to exceed the limit that do not already have protection (5104.3.3). The cost of the protection system would vary depending on the size of the building, configuration of the system and building, and the type of system installed.

1301:7-7-53 (Compressed Gases): Provisions have been added to require training of personnel who handle medical gases and associated equipment (5306.1.1), which will incur personnel time and training personnel costs. * New provisions have been added to require a 1-hour interior room separating medical gases from the remainder of the building as specified (5306.2.2) (which will incurred during construction). * Requirements have been

added regarding carbon dioxide enrichment systems including requirements for documentation, gas detection systems, ventilation and signage (5307.4 et. seq.) – absorbed during construction (which may incur a cost of \$175 per detector and \$170 per fan needed at the facility).

1301:7-7-56 (Explosives and Fireworks): New provision requires fireworks incidents to be reported to the fire code official, which is anticipated to incur a small amount of employee time (5603.4). * Signage requirements for specified magazines have been amended and may incur a cost for signs which should be minimal (5604.6.5). * A grounding requirement has been added for outdoor magazines (5601.6.5.2) (which will incur a minimal time expenditure for personnel). * New provisions have been added regarding commercial reloading (5606.6 et. seq.) which require general housekeeping / safety measures, which should not incur a cost, as well as specific electrical requirements and workspace separation, which will be absorbed into building construction costs, and static controls and approved waste receptacles which generally cost several hundred dollars. * Provisions have been amended to clarify that permitting requirements apply to flame effects exhibitions which will incur a permit fee of an amount set by the local jurisdiction that has chosen to have a permitting program (5611.3). [Note: prior OFC provisions required a flame effects permit; however, the SFM was made aware that the provision was not clear and was not being uniformly applied throughout the state. So, although some may incur the cost of a permit where they did not before, this is an application clarification; the requirement should have always been applied to flame effects exhibitions. See also Section 5611.5, regarding flame effect use plans, which is also being clarified for the same reason; costs for use plans generally incur a personnel time expenditure of no more than an hour or so. * Language is being amended to clarify that all persons that present, operate or use flame effects in any manner must be licensed; the license fee is \$50 and is preceded by an examination fee of \$44 (5611.5, 5611.9 and 5619.4.1.3) [Note: The SFM has also been made aware that licensing requirements for flame effects exhibitors were not being uniformly applied; the amendments are being made to alleviate confusion regarding licensure requirements. However, the amendment will likely cause certain individuals who were erroneously operating without a license to incur a license if they choose to continue to engage in the work they were previously doing.]. * New notification provisions have been added requiring licensees to notify the SFM of certain activity or conduct which will incur a time expenditure (5619.4.4).

1301:7-7-57 (Flammable and Combustible Liquids): Provisions have been added to address on-demand mobile fueling operations (5707 et. seq.) and require permits which will incur a cost in jurisdictions that have implemented a permitting program at a cost set by that jurisdiction (5707.1.1), safety and emergency response plans which will incur a personnel time expenditure of a few hours to develop the plan (5707.3.1), training records which should have minimal monetary cost but will incur a personnel time expenditure (5707.3.2), a site plan where required by the fire code official which will incur a personnel time expenditure of a few hours to develop the plan (5707.3.3), listed equipment with breakaway devices which range in cost from \$100 to several hundred dollars (5707.5.2); listed shutoff valves which cost around \$125 maximum (5707.5.3); fire extinguishers with

a minimum rating of 4-A:80-B:C which cost around \$175 (5707.5.4); a five gallon spill kit which generally cost around \$100 (5707.5.5); drip control (drip pans or absorbents pillows) which range in cost from \$50 to \$100 (5707.6.2); and safety cones which generally cost around \$10 each or \$50 for a set of 5 (5707.6.3).

16. Are there any proposed changes to the rules that will reduce a regulatory burden imposed on the business community? Please identify. (*Reductions in regulatory burden may include streamlining reporting processes, simplifying rules to improve readability, eliminating requirements, reducing compliance time or fees, or other related factors*).

1301:7-7-01 (Administration): Amendments in Chapter 1 that are anticipated to reduce regulatory burdens are: Fire incident reporting requirements have been amended to increase the time within which departments have to file such reports; this should reduce the regulatory burden on departments to the extent of personnel time management (they will have more time to get to the task and will be able to do monthly reports as opposed to reports based on the date of each individual incident) as well as the potential avoidance of any overtime type pay to comply (104.6.3.1). * Operational permits have been deleted for carbon dioxide systems used for beverage dispensing applications (105.6.4). However, permitting requirements are discretionary for local jurisdictions which are authorized by the OFC to have permitting programs for the types of permits listed, but are not required to. Therefore, any cost savings associated with permitting, such as fees and time for filling out and submitting permit applications, will only apply in jurisdictions that required such permitting in the past. * Renewal fees for hotels and SROs have been decreased pursuant to changes in Ohio law. Under the prior provisions the lowest possible fee was \$110; the rules stated that fees would be the greater of \$110 or \$10 per room and depended on the size of the facility. Pursuant to the new provisions the maximum fee that any hotel will pay is \$100; smaller hotels will pay a renewal fee as low as \$25. Thus, all hotel and SRO facilities will realize a cost savings on licensure fees (121.7.3.2).

1301:7-7-03 (General Requirements): Prior OFC provisions did not allow fire protection systems to be placed out of service except in limited circumstances (311.2.2). A new exception has been added to allow systems to be placed out of service in certain seasonally occupied buildings, upon approval. This could potentially save building owners / seasonal business the costs of maintenance of such systems during those periods when their buildings are not occupied. * Ceiling clearances have been amended to allow more storage in certain areas (315.3.1). This could lead to storage cost savings as businesses will be able to store more material in certain locations and may not have to incur the cost of additional storage locations. * New national language regarding mobile food preparation vehicles states that the maximum aggregate capacity of LP-gas containers that can be on/in the vehicle cannot exceed 200 pounds propane capacity 9319.8.1). However, this quantity is extremely low and would not suffice for many larger operations. The SFM changed this maximum quantity to 200 gallons aggregate water capacity, which will increase the amount of propane the vehicles can have on board. This will result in increased revenue as it will allow vendors to operate for longer periods of time without having to shut down and/or go acquire (or separately transport) the fuel necessary for their cooking operations. [**Note:** this is an Ohio savings

versus the national language; the 200-gallon aggregate water capacity was in effect in Ohio in the prior iteration of the OFC and is being carried forward.]

1301:7-7-04 (Emergency Planning and Preparedness): Prior code provisions required that ambulatory care facility staff undergo training regarding their duties and responsibilities during fire safety and evacuation drills not less than every two months; that timeframe has been extended to intervals not exceeding three months (403.3.1.2). This extension of the training frequency will reduce regulatory burdens and save man hours with respect to the amount of time required to review the plans, duties and responsibilities (which generally takes a couple of hours to complete). See also staff at Group I-1 occupancies (402.7.1.2).

1301:7-7-05 (Fire Service Features): Emergency responder radio coverage system language has been amended and the calculations used to determine adequate coverage have essentially been decreased and/or made easier to determine (510.4.1.1). Instead of an arbitrary dBm measurement a quality measurement (DAQ) is being used; so as long as actual communication can in fact be heard and understood by emergency responders the dBm level will not have to be reached. This will result in cost savings for businesses where the equipment has to be installed. In addition, the SFM deleted the necessity of emergency responder radio coverage systems at smaller facilities (under 12,000 square feet) which will save smaller businesses a substantial amount in construction costs (potentially \$10,000 to \$15,000).

1301:7-7-06 (Building Services and Systems): New exceptions have been added to provisions requiring the installation of a Type I hood system over commercial cooking appliances (606.2). This will result in a cost savings for businesses addressed in the new exceptions in the amount of the cost of the system and its installation which can be up to several thousand dollars.

1301:7-7-09 (Fire Protection Systems): A new exception to provisions requiring a fire watch in certain circumstances has been added (901.47) thus saving the cost of the hourly wage of the person conducting the fire watch. * A new exception from sprinkler requirements has been added for floors classified as open parking garages in ambulatory care facilities (903.2.2). * New exceptions have been added to the requirement for electrical supervision for certain equipment (903.4) which save the cost (minimal) of a tie-in during installation). * New exception has been added to where Class I standpipe hose connections are required (905.4) (which will save between \$10,000 to \$12,000 depending on the size of the building). * New exceptions from the list of locations where portable fire extinguishers are required have been added (906.1) which will save around \$50 - \$75 per extinguisher. * A new exception has been added to provisions for Group E occupancies requiring notification system connection to building fire alarm systems (907.2.3) which will be a notable savings during system installation. * Ohio has added language allowing certain messaging to take precedence over fire alarm messaging in specified circumstances (thus alleviating the necessity for other systems which could be a savings of \$28,000 to \$40,000) (907.5.2.2.3). * Language regarding emergency voice/alarm communication caption capabilities have been

amended to not apply to smaller venues (907.5.2.2.4) which will be a small savings for affected businesses. * New exception has been added to requirements for visible alarm notification appliances (907.5.2.3) which will be a savings around \$215 per appliance. * New alternative method has been added regarding requirements for fire pumps (913.1) the savings for which will be dependent upon the method used. * New alternative methods for protecting cables used for survivability of circuits have been added as well as a new exception for section applicability to certain cables (913.2.2) which will allow each business to choose the option best fitting their needs and building. * Provisions have been added regarding reciprocal licensing to make it easier for applicants with relevant qualifications and licenses in other states to apply for similar licenses in Ohio (918.4.1.1). * Provisions have been added to allow for a medical extension of time for license applicants to file renewal applications which, when applicable, may save the applicant otherwise applicable late or 'new' application fees (918.4.13).

1301:7-7-10 (Means of Egress): new exception added to exempt certain dwellings and townhomes from the provision of Chapter 10 (1001.1). * Unoccupied mechanical rooms and penthouses are exempted from limitation regarding common path of egress travel distances (1006.2.1). * Provisions regarding egress travel paths have been amended to allow such to pass through more than one adjacent story in certain occupancies which may save in construction costs (1006.3.2). * Exceptions have been added to the requirement for illumination along paths of exit discharge (1008.2.3). * New exception added to the requirement for areas of refuge to have direct access to a stairway or an elevator (1009.6.2). * New exception added to requirements for specified exterior walls to have a specific fire-resistance rating and opening protectives (1009.7.2). * New exception added to provisions outlining where two-way communication systems have to be located (1009.8). * Door opening widths have been amended and exceptions added and clarified (1010.1.1). * Security access turnstiles can now be considered as a component of the means of egress if they meet delineated requirements which may save costs associated with constructing other egress paths (1010.5.2). * A new exception to handrail requirements has been added which will save the costs of the handrail where applicable (1011.11). * A new exception has been added to guard requirements (1015.2). * An exception to requirements for spaces under grandstands and bleachers has been added (1030.1.1.1). All of these costs will be absorbed in the cost of construction and will save several thousands of dollars (collectively) for the general contractor and building owner in overall project costs.

1301:7-7-11 (Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings): Exceptions added to provisions requiring manual fire alarm systems in Group R-1 hotels (1103.7.5.1) will result in a costs savings of \$13,000 – \$17,000 for affected businesses. * Requirement for a manual fire alarm system in Group R-4 occupancies has been deleted (1103.7.7) resulting in a potential cost saving of \$5,000 – \$10,000. * Requirement for egress illumination in Group R-4 occupancies has been deleted (1104.5) which will save around \$200, depending on the specific equipment and the number of devices needed. * New exceptions have been added regarding minimum door size requirements (1104.7) which will result in construction cost savings for affected businesses. * New exception added to minimum aisle width requirements (1104.23) which will result in savings during the construction process and overall

construction costs. * Exception has been added to sprinkler requirements in Group I-2 floors classified as an open parking garage (1105.9) which will result in substantial savings (several thousands of dollars) for affected businesses.

1301:7-7-12 (Energy Systems): Permissible methods of protecting required critical circuits have been expanded which will allow a business to choose the most practical and economical option available (1203.3). * Monthly activation testing for emergency lighting equipment has been deleted (prior 604.6.1) which will save personnel time in conducting the testing. New exception added to application of solar photovoltaic system requirements for Group R-3 buildings (1205.2.1) the savings for which will be dependent upon the array layout, size and configuration. * Exemptions to listing requirements have been added (1207.3.1) which will result in a savings that is absorbed in overall construction costs.

1301:7-7-23 (Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages): Permissible methods of storage for specified flammable or combustible liquids at motor fuel-dispensing facilities have been amended to add additional options which will allow businesses to choose the most economical option for their facility (2306.2). * New exceptions have been added exempting specified repair garages for vehicles fueled by lighter-than air fuels from certain provisions (2311.8) thus saving such businesses costs of certain construction requirements, clear space requirements, and, inter alia, fire protection requirements.

1301:7-7-30 (Industrial Ovens): New exceptions have been added from the requirements for approved automatic fire-extinguishing systems for industrial ovens (3006.1) which will result in a cost savings between \$3,000 - \$5,000.

1301:7-7-32 (High-Piled Combustible Storage): An exception has been added regarding aisle maintenance provisions allowing for more storage in specified locations (3205.5). * Exceptions have been added regarding where fire department access doors are required (3206.7.1) which will result in a savings in construction costs. * Automated rack storage provisions have been amended to address not only manually activated switches but also automatic shutdown which will allow affected businesses to choose the option best – and most economical – for them (3209.4 et. seq.).

1301:7-7-40 (Distilled Spirits): Ohio specific amendments have been made to new IFC Chapter 40, regarding distillery operations, in coordination with industry representatives and are anticipated to reduce costs for certain businesses. These include: an exception to spill control requirements has been added where other safeguards are in place (4003.1) thus eliminating the costs of installing a spill control system which can be significant. * A containment volume for required spill control has been added to limit the amount of spill control otherwise required (4003.1.1) which could be significant. * An exception has been added to allow some mixed commodity storage in smaller bulk beverage storage areas which will help smaller businesses avoid construction costs for separation that would otherwise be required (4004.4) which will be a notable savings. * Language has been added to permit public access as specified to certain storage locations – thus permitting tours to occur – which will allow distillery operations to engage in another revenue stream if they choose (4007 et. seq.). All of these cost savings will vary depending on the size and layout of the facility as

well as the number of tours that may occur, should the business choose to engage in such activity.

1301:7-7-50 (Hazardous Materials - General Provisions): New exceptions to chapter applicability have been added (5001.1). * A2L refrigerant MAQs per control area have been increased (Tables 5003.1.1(1) and 5003.1.1(3)) which will save the cost of separation and or additional storage areas. * New exemption has been added to detached building requirements for pyrophoric gases in certain instances (5003.8.2; Table 5003.8.2) which will save the costs association with the construction of a separate building. * MAQs for toxics and oxidizers in Group M or S occupancies have been increased (5003.11.1, Table 5003.11.1) thus allowing additional product to be on premises at one time.

1301:7-7-51 (Aerosols): New provisions have been added to allow aerosol cooking spray products to be stored in general purpose warehouses which will result in significantly lower construction costs for such warehouses (5104.8 et. seq.).

1301:7-7-53 (Compressed Gases): Provisions regarding carbon dioxide systems used in beverage dispensing applications have been deleted which will save system costs and installation costs (5307 et. seq.) (roughly \$800 to \$900 for the system and installation cost).

1301:7-7-56 (Explosives and Fireworks): Pursuant to legislative changes, provisions throughout the rule have been amended to change language that stated that felony convictions were a bar to certain fireworks related licenses to now reference ‘disqualifying offenses’ as a bar, which may allow some individuals who were previously statutorily barred from licensure to obtain a license (5601.2.6; 5615.6; 5615.7; 5616.2.7; 5618.2’ 5619.4.3.1; 5619.7.1; 5619.10.1.2; 5619.10.3.4; 5624.1.5; 5627.4.3). For example in the prior code (and pursuant to Ohio law) a felony conviction was a bar to licensure in perpetuity; now, however a felony conviction will be analyzed in accordance with R.C. 9.79 which will potentially allow persons previously convicted of a felony, and thus barred from licensure, to obtain a license and engage in work. * Provision has been added to authorize virtual continuing education classes, which is anticipated to decrease costs for both the SFM (in hosting in person classes) and individuals who are required to attend the classes (in travel time and costs, lodging costs, and potentially in course fee costs as well) (5612.3.5). * Provision has been added to allow trained fountain device retailer employees to train other employees thus saving costs for outside training or training personnel (5627.8.1). * Fountain device display separation distance has been decreased which will allow smaller businesses to engage in fountain device retail sales and will allow fountain device retailers more latitude in floor display configuration and optimal space utilization (5627.9.1).

1301:7-7-57 (Flammable and Combustible Liquids): Exceptions have been added to provisions that would otherwise bar public access to distillery storage operations to allow for public access in certain circumstances – allowing such businesses to conduct tours and engage in an additional revenue stream (5704.1.1 and 5704.1.2).

17. Why did the Agency determine that the regulatory intent justifies the adverse impact to the regulated business community?

Please see response to question 15.

Regulatory Flexibility

18. Does the regulation provide any exemptions or alternative means of compliance for small businesses? Please explain.

No. OFC provisions are applicable for all facilities on an equal basis to ensure the safest accommodations possible for all building occupants and guests. However, provisions have been added to the relevant licensing provisions to allow individuals licensed in other states in similar categories to receive reciprocal licenses in Ohio.

19. How will the agency apply Ohio Revised Code section 119.14 (waiver of fines and penalties for paperwork violations and first-time offenders) into implementation of the regulation?

Generally, the SFM enforces the provisions of the OFC through a citation process. The goal of the process is to gain compliance with the safety standards contained in the OFC. Fines and penalties are generally imposed, but often waived if a responsible party brings their facility or property into compliance with the OFC provisions. Generally, however, such fines center around other violations, not those focused on paperwork. In fact, current revisions include clarification for fire protection installer certification applicants who have had their certification revoked and therefore, may not reapply for certification for a period of two years; the provisions now clearly state that applicants whose certification was denied due to paperwork omissions in the application process will not be disqualified for two years, as is the case when applicants are otherwise disqualified. Additionally, fines would only be imposed upon issuance of a citation; the SFM typically issues citations for a very small percentage of all facilities that it inspects (less than 5%). For most facilities, the SFM identifies fire code violations and provides an immediate notification of the deficiencies (via a report) and gives the owner an opportunity to cure. A citation is issued only if the building owner fails to cure the violations in a timely manner.

One potential paperwork related violation could be related to required maintenance records that must be kept so that compliance with testing and maintenance provisions can be verified. If such records are not maintained, they could constitute a violation of OFC requirements and could result in the imposition of fines or penalties. Again, however, such are generally waived if compliance is attained. The SFM generally prefers to see any funds that must be expended be used on achieving compliance rather than paying fines. Fines and penalties are generally reserved for the worst offenders who are either routinely non-compliant or who obstruct or refuse compliance.

20. What resources are available to assist small businesses with compliance of the regulation?

Please see question 14. All training opportunities will be made available to all entities. In addition, as stated above, SFM Code Enforcement Bureau inspectors are available to discuss relevant code provisions and changes with anyone affected by the rules.