

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review

DIVISION: N/A

RULE IDENTIFIER: 450-RICR-00-00-8

RULE TITLE: Rhode Island Life Safety Code

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The purpose of these regulations is to update the State Fire Safety Code from the current 2012 referenced editions of the model NFPA codes to the 2015 editions.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE: These regulations are promulgated pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.3-3 and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-1 et seq., the Administrative Procedures Act.

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review received one comment:

COMMENT: # 1: Captain Christopher Mahoney – Newport Fire Department [email]

- I'm just getting to look at the new code and have a question for you. 31.1.1.1 Option 3 sends you to 31.3.5.9. This in turn sends you to 31.3.5.9.3 and references 31.3.5.8 which has been reserved by NFPA 101. I believe if 31.3.5.9.3 simply states "The workmanship and materials of the sprinkler system installation shall meet the requirements of 9.7" would be a better fit. My reasoning is if this refers us to a section that has been reserved, some may think a fire alarm or sprinkler system may not be required if each unit has independent egress without reasonable separation.
- **Response:** After consultation with the NFPA Life Safety technical staff it was confirmed that there was an erroneous reference citation in section 31.3.5.9.3 discovered during the publication process which was editorially corrected prior to the release of the current 2018 edition of the Life Safety Code.

COMMENT: # 2: Inspector Scott Mooney – Providence Fire Department [#10682-31]

- Per (Add) 12.3.4.3.8 and (Add) 13.3.4.8 Upon the activation of any fire alarm system in any nightclub place of assembly or theater, the fire alarm system shall be interconnected with the building systems so that all emergency lights or other appropriate lighting shall activate and that all other conflicting sounds and visuals shall cease.

Question: Should there be a comma between the words night club and the words place of assembly (above) since a night club automatically is classified as a place of assembly under the code? There are many different assembly uses that have similar issues with high volume music, visual effects and low lighting. These can drown out and create conflicting visual effects and audible/visible

notification creating the same dangerous conditions that you would find in a night club or a theater. If it is not all places of assembly then the phrase place of assembly should be stricken to not create confusion with the actual intent of these codes.

- **Response:** After careful consideration it was determined that this is the language that was intended by the Board during the development of this section and that no changes to the text of the code are warranted.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE:

- **450-RICR-00-00-8.1.31 / Section 31.3.5.9.3** has been changed to reflect the above editorial correction as follows:

(Amd) 31.3.5.9.3

The workmanship and the materials of the sprinkler installation specified in 31.3.5.9 shall meet the requirements of Section 9.7.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: The Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review developed the current regulations for the standardized and consistent enforcement of the State Fire Safety Code as it relates to all properties and processes located throughout the state.

DATE THE FINAL RULE WAS SIGNED BY THE AGENCY HEAD:

_____, 2019.