

Concise Explanatory Statement

Rhode Island Government Register

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

AGENCY: Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation

DIVISION: Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review

RULE IDENTIFIER: 450-RICR-00-00-10

REGULATION TITLE: RI Fire Alarm Code

RULEMAKING ACTION: Full rulemaking, Amendment

COMMENT PERIOD: December 2, 2025, to January 1, 2026

A. Statement of Purpose of the Amendments

The Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (“Board”) has proposed amendments to this regulation to update from the 2019 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, to the 2022 edition, with annexes.

Here is a summary of the substantive changes:

- §§ 10.1 and 10.2 – Added authority and incorporation by reference sections as required by the APA.
- Updated references to NFPA 72’s 2022 edition, rather than the current 2019 edition and noted that this adoption includes the Annexes to avoid conflicts with NFPA 70 and Part 5 of Title 510 (Electrical Code).

B. Summary of the Regulatory Analysis

Structural improvement to the formatting of the regulation makes it more user friendly for fire and building officials, design professionals and property owners to read in conjunction with the NFPA model code.

Over the years, it has been consistently shown that the results of historical analyses of catastrophic and fatal fire events, evolution in manufacturing and building processes and advancements in technology and the modernization of supplies and materials are major factors in the development and modification to fire and building codes. These changes are associated by some with increased requirements and by association, cost, however in many cases the opposite is found to be the case and costs have decreased. These factors cannot be consolidated in a central theme as they are entirely site-specific and controlled by choices made by the property owner. Overall, no costs were identified because of the amendments proposed in this regulation.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

C. Summary of Comments Resulting in Post-Comment Changes

No comments were received. No changes were made. Therefore, the final rule is the same as what was proposed.