

COMMUNIQUE

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ONTARIO REGULATION 256/14: TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE FIRE CODE

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) is pleased to announce the filing of [Ontario Regulation 256/14](#), a regulation made under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, that comes into force on January 1, 2015, and amends the 2007 Fire Code (Ontario Regulation 213/07) with approximately 120 technical changes.

These technical changes are made in response to the following:

- ongoing efforts to harmonize with National Fire Code (NFC) requirements;
- coroner's inquest recommendations and other findings relating to past fires;
- Ontario government priorities, e.g., energy conservation;
- support for industry and other stakeholders; and
- support for Fire Code compliance and enforcement activities.

Below are some of the highlights of the regulation:

- a new section in Part 5 that applies to hot surface applications typically used in roofing operations; the new section was developed in response to a tragic fire in Listowel, Ontario, that resulted in the death of two firefighters in 2011;
- new fire safety planning requirements for buildings with a contained use area or impeded egress zone; the new requirements are introduced in response to recommendations made during a 2009 inquest into the death of two persons who died as a result of a fire while temporarily detained by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service;
- new requirements for double-wall construction for flammable and combustible liquid storage tanks and piping systems to harmonize with requirements in the NFC and other provincial regulations;
- a relocation of code requirements to more closely align the structure of the Fire Code with that of the NFC; and
- references to more current editions of standards and other documents.

[Proposed changes to the Fire Code](#) were posted for public consultation on the Ontario Regulatory Registry in June 2012 and generated close to 350 public comments. The OFMEM gratefully acknowledges the assistance of two technical advisory committees comprised of industry stakeholder groups and established to review and make recommendations on comments received. The OFMEM further extends its appreciation to all stakeholders who provided feedback during the public consultation period.

Additional information about the changes to the Fire Code will be posted on the [OFMEM Web site](#) over the coming weeks.

Enquiries regarding the new regulation may be directed to the Technical Services Section of the OFMEM. Staff members may be reached by telephone at (647) 329-1100 or by e-mail at FireSafetyStandards@ontario.ca.