



Office of the State Fire Marshal

WHY DOES THE OSFM NEED TO UPDATE THE ADOPTED EDITION OF THE LIFE SAFETY CODE?

The OSFM adopted the 2000 edition of the National Fire Protection Association's "Life Safety Code" (LSC), effective January 1, 2002. The OSFM proposes to update the LSC enforced in the State of Illinois to the 2012 edition.

What Has Changed from the 2000 edition to the 2012 edition of the LSC?

The majority of the 2012 LSC edition is identical to the 2000 edition currently enforced throughout the State – including the requirements applicable to existing buildings. The changes between the two editions are largely driven by lessons learned from real-life tragedies, an evolving awareness of fire and public safety, updated systems, devices and technology and social concerns associated with security and accessibility issues

Why Does the Code Need to Be Updated?

1. **It isn't broken, but it is outdated, and needs to be fixed.** The existing code was drafted in 1990's, and **does not** address a wide variety of public and fire safety concepts adopted by buildings and codes in the decade since it was drafted. By updating the LSC to the 2012 edition, the OSFM will have the opportunity to enforce a safety code that more accurately reflects today's society, norms and safety concerns.
2. **Rehabbed buildings need to be safe as well.** The 2012 LSC recognizes today's emphasis on sustainability by adding a new chapter ("Building Rehabilitation) to promote the adaptive reuse of existing buildings without sacrificing needed life safety.
3. **Both the LSC and the Codes it references have evolved since 2000.** The LSC necessarily references dozens of other standards that regulate fire prevention and life safety. Since the 2000 LSC was adopted by Illinois, it has been updated four times (i.e., 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012). Current application of the 2000 LSC is hampered by reference to outdated standards published in the 1990s. By updating to the 2012 LSC, the OSFM seeks to ensure that the latest edition of these other standards drive the design and installation of important building systems and equipment.
4. **The updates to LSC editions adopted since 2000 are driven by real-life tragedies.** The following incidents directly impacted the requirements of the LSC since the 2000 edition:
 - **The 2011 World Trade Center attack, fires and subsequent collapse** caused several changes, including wider stairs in newly constructed larger high rise buildings to accommodate occupant evacuation and firefighter entry and automatic sprinklers for all new high rise construction.

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- The **2003 Station nightclub fire** (100 deaths) prompted a requirement for public assembly occupancies used as nightclubs, dance halls or bars with live entertainment to be protected by automatic sprinklers when newly constructed or retrofitted with automatic sprinklers where an occupant load of greater than 100 exists.
 - The **2003 Cook County Administration Building fire** (6 deaths) prompted the requirement that stairwell doors should unlock when fire alarms activate or the building loses power.
 - The **2003 E-2 Nightclub stampede** (21 deaths) caused the size of main entrances/exits from specific types of new assembly occupancies (e.g., nightclubs, dance halls and bars with live entertainment) regardless of the number of exits provided.
5. **The LSC recognizes that over 80% of all fire deaths occur in single-family homes.** Since 2007, over 400 civilians and firefighters have lost their lives and 5,090 were injured in Illinois residential fires. At the same time, Illinois residential fire property loss exceeded \$1.2 billion, with an average property loss per fire of \$17,540. As a result, and since its 2006 edition, the LSC has required automatic fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed one- and two-family dwellings.

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