

CODE WORD

This procedure is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. It's sole intent is to clarify what is acceptable practice.

Issue Date: March 1, 2007

Subject: *Commercial Establishment- Change of Ownership*

Question: I am buying a permitted business. Do I need new permits?

Answer: The purchase of a business which was operating under a valid Harris County permit, and is still in operation, does not require new permits. The business must continue to be operated for the purpose it was permitted and with minimal change to the building or the operation.


If the **occupancy classification** changes (i.e., changing an insurance office into a restaurant) or the business has not been in continuous operation, a new permit will be required and the business will be subject to Fire Code Plan Review and inspection by the Harris County Fire Marshal.

Purchasing or leasing a space in a building that is vacant, no matter what the former occupancy was, will require a new permit and Fire Code Review and Inspection.

If the State of Texas requires that you obtain a new operating license (i.e., daycare center). A new permit and Fire Code Review and Inspection will also be required.



Building Official
Harris County Texas



Fire Marshal
Harris County, Texas