



HARRIS COUNTY CODEWORD



The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

Issue Date: April 7, 2010

Subject: **Projects in Buildings not requiring a Permit under the Harris County Fire Code.**

Question: **What code applies for inspection of projects in buildings?**

(1) built before 1/1/2005, or

(2) involving less than substantial improvement, or

(3) otherwise not requiring a Permit under the Harris County Fire Code?

Answer: Subchapter B of Texas Local Government Code 352 authorizes the Harris County Fire Marshal to review and inspect these projects for fire and life safety hazards, and to order corrections. At a minimum, the Fire Marshal has identified the International Fire Code-2006, the State Inspection Standard, NFPA 101-2009, and applicable provisions of other recognized codes and standards to ensure that plans for construction in existing buildings meet a minimum level of fire and life safety.

This subchapter also authorizes the Fire Marshal to review plans of proposed construction for fire or life safety hazards, and to charge a fee for such review. The Fire Marshal has authorized the Permits Office to accept requests for reviews under this Subchapter and collect all applicable fees on his behalf. The purpose of this review is to identify and eliminate fire and life safety hazards before construction if possible, and to ensure that actual construction is in accordance with applicable codes, and standards.

All required plans, permit applications, and fees shall be submitted to the Permits Office, Fire Code section. A person may request and pay the required fees for any plans review, existing or new construction, at the same time. The Permit Office will then assist the Fire Marshal in his review of such plans and provide a report approved by the Fire Marshal of findings as to fire and life safety hazards evident from such plans.

Building Official
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal
Harris County, Texas