

## INSTRUCTION

**NEW CONSTRUCTION:** FOR NEW COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS OF THIS FORM. ( ANY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS THAT FALL UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO HARRIS COUNTY FIRE CODE REVIEW).

**SHELL BUILDINGS:** FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SHELL BUILDINGS; COMPLETE THE SECTIONS LISTED: BUILDING PLANNING, SECTIONS 1-5, SECTION 7 (IF APPLICABLE) AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION. ALSO FILL OUT THE NAME OF THE PROJECT AND SIGN AND SEAL EVERY SHEET.

**LEASE SPACE BUILD OUTS:** FOR LEASE SPACE BUILD OUTS, FILL OUT THE SECTIONS LISTED; SECTION 1, 2, 3, 6, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT OCCUPANCY SEPARATION OR DEMISING WALLS IN SECTION 4 (IF YOU HAVE RATED WALLS). SECTION 7 (IF APPLICABLE) AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION. ALSO FILL OUT THE NAME OF THE PROJECT AND SIGN AND SEAL EVERY SHEET. NOTE: AN INTERIOR DESIGNER CAN SIGN AND SEAL THE DESIGN PLANS, BUT THE FIRE CODE REVIEW SHEET MUST BE SIGNED AND SEALED BY AN ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER.

### **SECTION 102.9 - SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT**

A "SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT" IS

(A) THE REPAIR, RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, OR REMODELING OF A PUBLIC BUILDING, A COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT, OR A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLING CONSISTING OF FOUR OR MORE UNITS FOR WHICH THE COST EXCEEDS 50% OF THE BUILDING'S VALUE ACCORDING TO THE CERTIFIED TAX APPRAISAL ROLL FOR THE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR PRECEDING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE WORK WAS BEGUN; OR

(B) A CHANGE IN OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION INVOLVING A CHANGE IN THE PURPOSE OR LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN A BUILDING, INCLUDING THE RENOVATION OF A WAREHOUSE INTO A LOFT APARTMENT. FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF AN IMPROVEMENT IS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT, THE APPLICANT FOR A PERMIT MUST SUBMIT DATA REFLECTING COST OF THE IMPROVEMENT, RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT OR REMODELING. COSTS SHALL INCLUDE THE VALUE OF ALL LABOR AND MATERIALS. A PERMIT IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS CODE, SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT BEGINS ON THE DATE THAT THE REPAIR, RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, OR REMODELING OR THE CHANGE IN OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION BEGINS OR ON THE DATE MATERIALS ARE FIRST DELIVERED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

THE COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL MAY REQUIRE THE SUBMITTAL OF AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IN CASES WHERE THE STRUCTURE HAS SUFFERED OTHER THAN MINOR DAMAGE.