

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE 2015 ONTARIO FIRE CODE

(O. Reg. 213/07, as amended current to January 1, 2015)

CHANGE NUMBER: N/A

CODE REFERENCE: Division A, Article 1.3.1.1. and New Article 1.3.1.2.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

Amendment to Farm Building Exemption

- Add a new requirement**
 - Making a technical change to an existing requirement**
 - Making an editorial/administrative change to an existing requirement**
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EXISTING OFC PROVISIONS

SECTION 1.3. Exemptions

Subsection 1.3.1. Exemption for Farms

1.3.1.1. A **farm building** with an **occupant load** of not more than one person per 40 m² of floor area during normal use and other premises on a farm used for farming purposes are exempt from the requirements of this Code.

PROBLEM

Existing provisions currently exempt all low occupant load farm buildings including those that may contain hazardous processes related to the extraction of cannabis oils and other concentrates.

PROPOSED OFC CHANGE

Note for Proposed OFC Change:

- Black indicates existing text.
- Red underline indicates new text.

Division A SECTION 1.3. Exemptions

Subsection 1.3.1. Exemption for Farms

1.3.1.1. Except as provided in Article 1.3.1.2., a **farm building** with an **occupant load** of not more than one person per 40 m² of **floor area** during normal use and other premises on a farm used for farming purposes are exempt from the requirements of this Code.

1.3.1.2. Where **floor areas** or portions of **floor areas** within **farm buildings** contain cannabis **extraction** operations involving use of **flammable liquids, combustible liquids** or flammable gases as **extraction** solvents, the **floor area** or portion of **floor area** shall comply with Article 2.7.1.1., Article 2.7.2.2., Section 2.8., Article 5.1.4.2. and Subsection 5.14.11. of Division B.

(See also Proposed Change to Division A, Article 1.4.1.2., new definition for **Extraction**)

PROPOSED IN FORCE DATE

Upon filing of the regulation

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Federal legalization of recreational cannabis proposed for October 2018, is anticipated to result in significant growth of the cannabis industry in Ontario. Some extraction processes used in the production of cannabis oil and other concentrates may involve the use of flammable liquids, combustible liquids or flammable gases as extraction solvents. In the absence of appropriate safety measures, use of these materials may pose severe fire and explosion hazards. Currently, there are licensed cannabis producers both in urban and rural settings. Where cannabis extraction operations are located in buildings other than farm buildings (e.g. industrial buildings in urban settings), they are subject to Fire Code requirements. However, operations located in low occupant load “farm buildings” as defined by the Fire Code are currently exempt from Fire Code requirements.

IMPACT

Application of the proposed requirements would be confined to only those floor areas or portions of floor areas within farm buildings that contain cannabis-related extraction operations involving the use of flammable liquids, combustible liquids or flammable gases as extraction solvents. There is a potential cost impact for building owners that do not currently meet proposed standards, however, the requirements are intended to reduce the likelihood or severity of fire or explosion and to facilitate egress in the event of an emergency. As the cannabis industry moves towards the adoption of alternate extraction technologies that involve non-hazardous materials, the impact of this code change on those operations located in farm buildings will be diminished.

A consequential amendment to Division B, Clause 4.1.1.2.(2)(f) will also be required.

OBJECTIVE BASED ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGE OR NEW PROVISION

N/A

FUNCTIONAL STATEMENT(S) AND LINK(S) TO OBJECTIVE(S)

N/A