

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Manila

August 17, 1978

MEMORANDUM
No. 229, s. 1978

PROTECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND OFFICES AGAINST
FIRE AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER PD 1185

To Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Chiefs of Services and Heads of Units
Coordinator, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
School Superintendents

1. In compliance with PD 1185 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines which took effect on June 20, 1978, this MEC Memorandum is hereby issued to prevent and suppress fire that may result in death and injury to persons and loss and damage to property by the adoption of uniform fire safety standards, the incorporation of fire safety construction, and the provision of protective and safety devices in school buildings and structures.

2. Pursuant, therefore, to PD 1185, to protect office and school personnel, students and properties as well, it is hereby directed that

- a. Fire prevention education be undertaken continuously at all school levels,
- b. Educational institutions endeavor to include in their curricula courses on fire technology and fire protection engineering.
- c. In order to maximize efforts in disseminating national fire consciousness and involvement of all persons in the prevention and suppression of fires, a copy of PD 1185 and its implementing rules and regulations be provided all educational institutions and offices.

- 1 In order to effectively implement all efforts to minimize, if not eliminate, the occurrence of fires and their destructive effects, full personnel support of all educational institutions and offices is necessary and therefore enjoined
- 2 All educational institutions and offices must adopt and/or incorporate fire safety standard (and construction) and provide protective and safety devices in their respective school and office buildings and structures, including treatment of building components or contents with flame retardant chemicals designed to achieve among others, safe and rapid evacuation of persons through means of a pass sealed from smoke or fire, the confinement of fire or smoke in the room or floor of origin and delay their spread to other parts of the building by means of smoke sealed and fire resistant doors, walls and floors

3 For the guidance of all concerned, herewith are the excerpts of specific requirements and provisions from the implementing rules and regulations of the Fire Code of the Philippines on educational occupancies on fire safety construction and fire protection for educational occupancies specifically on interior finishes of buildings, structures and facilities involving the use of fire retardants.

4 This ITC Memorandum should immediately be disseminated to all concerned

(SGD) JUAN L. MANUEL
Minister of Education and Culture

Incl. As stated

Reference
None
Allotment 1-- (D O 1-76)

To be indicated in the Periodical Index under the following subjects

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ BUILDINGS, Miscel | ✓ SAFETY EDUCATION |
| ✓ CURRICULUM | ✓ SCHOOLS |
| ✓ LEGISLATION | ✓ STUDENTS |
| ✓ RULES & REGULATIONS | |

FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

(Pursuant to Presidential Decree 1185 Major General Fidel V. Ramos, Chief of Codebook and Director General, Integrated National Police hereby publishes the complete text of PD 1185 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines)

MALACANANG PALACE

MANILA

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1185

✓ WHEREAS, death and injury to persons and loss and damage to property by fire have reached alarming proportion that the economic and social gains of the society being continually undetermined

✓ WHEREAS, in order to effect a meaningful reduction of the alarming fire losses there is a need to develop national consciousness and involvement of all persons in prevention and suppression of fires,

✓ WHEREAS, fire prevention and suppression require the adoption of uniform fire safety standards the incorporation of the safety construction and provision of protection and safety devices in buildings and structures

✓ WHEREAS there is an urgent need for an agency primarily responsible for the implementation and coordination of the activities of all sectors of society on fire prevention and suppression

✓ WHEREAS in order to effectively implement all efforts to minimize the occurrence of fires and their destructive effects full financial equipment and personnel support by the government and the private sector is necessary

NOW THEREFORE I FERDINAND E. MARCOS President of the Philippines in virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution do hereby order and decree part of the law of the land the following:

SECTION 1 -- TITLE -- This Decree and the Rules and Regulations for its implementation shall be known as the "Fire Code of the Philippines" and shall hereafter be referred to as the "Fire Code."

SECTION 2 -- DECLARATION OF POLICIES -- The following are declared policies of the State:

- a. The government with the cooperation of the private sector shall develop and promulgate sets of standards and regulations taking into consideration the latest development in fire technology suitable to Philippine conditions.
- b. Fire prevention and fire safety shall be given equal if not greater emphasis as the suppression or extinguishment of fires. Fire prevention education shall be undertaken continuously involving all sectors of the community.
- c. The Fire Service of the Integrated National Police shall endeavor to respond to all fires before they reach critical and conflagration stages. Towards this end the organization, administration and operation of the Fire Service shall be improved and developed, its personnel and equipment augmented and effective fire alarm systems set up and
- d. The Fire Service shall be professionalized. For this purpose, educational institutions shall endeavor to include in their curricula courses on fire technology and fire protection engineering.

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SECTION 3 — DEFINITION OF TERMS — As used in this Fire Code the following words and phrases shall mean and be construed as indicated

ABATEMENT — Any act that would remove or neutralize a fire hazard

ADMINISTRATOR — Any person who acts as agent of the owner and manages the use of a building for him

BLASTING AGENT — Any material or mixture consisting of a fuel and oxidizer used to set off explosives

CELLULOSE NITRATE OR NITRO CELLULOSE — A highly combustible and explosive compound produced by the reaction of nitric acid with a cellulose material

CELLULOSE NITRATE PLASTIC (PYROXYLIN) — Any plastic substance, material or compound having cellulose nitrate (nitro cellulose) as base

COMBUSTIBLE, FLAMMABLE OR INFLAMMABLE — Descriptive of materials that are easily set on fire

COMBUSTIBLE FIBER — Any readily ignitable and free burning fiber such as cotton oakum; rags waste cloth waste paper, kapok hay, straw Spanish moss excelsior and other similar materials commonly used in commerce

COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID — Any liquid having a flash point at or above 37.8°C

CORROSIVE LIQUID — Any liquid which causes fire when in contact with organic matter or with certain chemicals

CURTAIN BOARD — A vertical panel of non-combustible or fire resistive material attached to and extending below the bottom chord of the roof trusses to divide the underside of the roof into separate compartments so that heat and smoke will be directed upwards to a roof vent

CRYOGENIC — Descriptive of any material which by its nature or as a result of its reaction with other elements produces a rapid drop in temperature of the immediate surroundings

DAMPER — A normally open device installed inside an air duct system which automatically closes to restrict the passage of smoke or fire

DISTILLATION — The process of first raising the temperature to separate the more volatile from the less volatile parts and then cooling and condensing the resulting vapor so as to produce a nearly purified substance

DUCT SYSTEM — A continuous passageway for the transmission of air

DUST — A finely powdered substance which when mixed with air in the proper proportion and ignited will cause an explosion

ELECTRICAL ARC — An extremely hot luminous bridge formed by the passage of an electric current across a space between two conductors or terminals due to the incandescence of the conducting vapor

EMBER — A hot piece or lump that remains after a material has partially burned and is still oxidizing without the manifestation of flames

FINISHES — Materials used as final coating of a surface for ornamental or protective purposes

FIRE — The active principle of burning, characterized by the heat and light of combustion

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FIRE TRAP — A building unsafe in case of fire because it will burn easily or because it lacks adequate exits or fire escapes

FIRE ALARM — Any visual or audible produced by a device or system to warn occupants or the building or fire fighting elements of the presence or danger of fire enable them to undertake immediate action to save life and property and to suppress fire

FIRE DOOR — A fire resistive door prescribed for openings in fire separation or partitions

FIRE HAZARD — Any condition or act which increases or may cause an increase in the probability of the occurrence of fire, or which may obstruct, delay, hinder or interfere with fire fighting operations and the safeguarding of life and property

FIRE LANE — The portion of a roadway or publicway that should be kept open and unobstructed at all times for the expedient operation of fire fighting units

FIRE PROTECTIVE AND FIRE SAFETY DEVICE — Any device intended for the protection of buildings or persons to include but not limited to build-in protection systems as sprinklers and other automatic extinguishing system detectors for heat smoke combustion products and other warning system components personal protective equipment such as fire blankets helmets fire suits gloves and other garments that may be put on or worn by persons to protect themselves during fire

FIRE SAFETY CONSTRUCTIONS — Refers to design and installation of walls barriers doors windows vents means of egress etc integral to and incorporated into a building or structure in order to minimize danger to life from fire smoke fire or panic before the building is evacuated These features are also designed to aid among others safe and rapid evacuation of people through means of egress seals from smoke or fire the confinement of fire or smoke in the room or floor of origin delay their spread to other parts of the building by means of smoke sealed and fire resistant doors walls and floors It shall also mean to include the treatment of buildings components or contents with flame retardant chemicals

FLASH POINT — The minimum temperature at which any material gives off vapor in sufficient concentration to form an ignitable mixture with air

FORGING — A process where a piece of metal is heated prior to changing its shape or dimensions

FULMINATE — A kind of stable explosive compound which explodes by percussion

HAZARDOUS OPERATION/PROCESS — Any act of manufacturing fabrication operation version etc that uses or produces materials which are likely to cause fires or explosions

HORIZONTAL EXIT — Passageway from one building to another or through or over a wall in approximately the same floor level

HOSE BOX — A box or cabinet where fire hoses valves and other equipment are stored and arranged for fire fighting

HOSE REEL — A cylindrical device turning on an axis around which a fire hose is wound and connected

HYPERGOLIC FUEL — A rocket or liquid propellant which consist of combination of fuels and oxidizers which ignite spontaneously on contact with each other

INDUSTRIAL BAKING AND DRYING — The industrial process of subjecting materials to heat for the purpose of removing solvents or moisture from the same and/or fuse certain chemical salts to form a uniform glazing on the surface of materials to be treated

JUMPER — A piece of metal or an electrical conductor used to bypass a safety device in an electrical system

OCCUPANCY — The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is used or intended to be used

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OCCUPANT — Any person actually occupying and using a building or portion thereof by virtue of a lease contract with the owner or administrator or by permission or sufferance of the latter

ORGANIC PEROXIDE — A strong oxidizing compound which releases oxygen readily. It causes fire when in contact with combustible materials especially under conditions of high temperature

OVERLOADING — The use of one or more electrical appliances or devices which draw or consume electrical current beyond the designed capacity of the existing electrical system

OWNER — The person who holds the legal right of possession or title to a building or real property

OXIDIZING MATERIAL — A material that readily yields oxygen in quantities sufficient to stimulate or support combustion

PRESSURIZED OR FORCED DRAFT BURNING EQUIPMENT— Type of burner where the fuel is subjected to pressure prior to discharge into the combustion chamber and/or which includes fans or other provisions for the introduction of air at above normal atmospheric pressure into the same combustion chamber

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY BUILDING— Any building or structure where fifty (50) or more people congregate, gather or assemble for any purpose

PUBLIC WAY — Any street, alley, other strip of land unobstructed from the ground to the sky, deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated for public use

PYROPHORIC— Descriptive of any substance that ignites spontaneously when exposed to air

REFINING — A process where impurities and/or deleterious materials are removed from a mixture in order to produce a pure element or compound. It shall also refer to partial distillation and electrolysis

SELF-CLOSING DOORS — Automatic closing doors that are designed to confine smoke and heat and delay the spread of fire

SMELTING — Melting or fusing of metallic ores or compounds so as to separate impurities from pure metals

SPRINKLER SYSTEM — An integrated network of hydraulically designed piping installed in a building, structure or area with outlets arranged in a systematic pattern which automatically discharge water when activated by heat or combustion products from a fire.

STANDPIPE SYSTEM — A system of vertical pipes in a building to which fire hoses can be attached on each floor, including a system by which water is made available to the outlets as needed

VESTIBULE — A passage, porch or anti-chamber between the outer doors and the interior parts of a house or building

VERTICAL SHAFT — An enclosed vertical space of passage that extends from floor to floor, as well as from the base to the top of the building

SECTION 4 — APPLICABILITY OF THE CODE — The provisions of the Fire Code shall apply to all persons and all private and public buildings, facilities or structures erected or constructed before and after its effectivity

SECTION 5 — GRACE PERIOD — The owner, administrator or occupant of buildings or structures existing at the time of the effectivity of the Fire Code is given two (2) years to comply with the provisions thereof on fire safety constructions and on protective and warning systems. However, the Director General of the Integrated National Police may prescribe a shorter period depending upon the degree of hazard to be corrected and the cost and extent of the work to be done

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SECTION 6 — RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS CODE — The Fire Service under the direct supervision and control of the Director General of the Integrated National Police hereinafter referred to as the 'Director General' shall be responsible for the enforcement of this Code as well as pertinent provisions of other laws pertaining to fire protection or fire safety. With the approval of the Secretary of National Defence the Director General is hereby authorized to

- a) Issue implementing rules and regulations, and prescribe administrative penalties thereon.
- b) Reorganize the Fire Service of the Integrated National Police as may be necessary and appropriate,
- c) Enter into long term agreement, either through public bidding or negotiations to include advance payments therefor, for the acquisition of fire prevention, fire protection and fire fighting equipment supplies and materials and related technical services necessary for the Fire Service and
- d) Enter into Memoranda of Agreement with other departments, bureaus, agencies, offices and corporations of the government as well as private institutions in order to define areas of cooperation and coordination and delineate responsibility on fire prevention education, fire safety, fire prevention, fire suppression and other matters of common concern.

SECTION 7 — TECHNICAL STAFF — The Director General shall constitute a technical staff of highly qualified persons who are knowledgeable on fire prevention, fire safety and fire suppression. They may be drawn not only from the organic members of the Integrated National Police and other government offices and agencies but also from other sources. In the latter case they will either be appointed into the service or hired as consultants in accordance with law. The technical staff shall study, review and evaluate latest developments and standards on fire technology, prepare plans/programs on fire safety, prevention and suppression and evaluate implementation thereof, develop programs on the professionalization of the Fire Service, coordinate with appropriate government and private institutions for offering of college courses on fire technology and fire protection engineering, propose amendments to the Fire Code, advise the Director General on any matter brought to his attention and perform such other functions as directed on any matter brought to his attention and perform such other functions as directed by higher authorities.

SECTION 8 — INSPECTIONS, SAFETY MEASURES, FIRE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION AND PROTECTIVE AND/OR WARNING SYSTEM — As may be defined and provided in the Rules and Regulations, owners, administrators or occupants of buildings, structures and their premises or facilities and other responsible person shall be required to comply with the following, as may be appropriate:

- a) **Inspection Requirement** - A fire safety inspection shall be conducted by the Director General or his duly authorized representative as a prerequisite to the grants of permits and/or licenses by local governments and other government agencies concerned for the
 - (1) Use or occupancy of buildings, structures, facilities or their premises including the installation of fire protection and fire safety equipment and electrical system in any building, structure or facility.
 - (2) Storage, handling and/or use of explosives or of combustible, flammable, toxic and other hazardous materials.
- b) **Safety Measures for Hazardous Materials** - Fire safety measures shall be required for the manufacture, storage, handling and/or use of hazardous materials involving
 - (1) Cellulose nitrate plastic of any kind.

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- (2) Combustible fibers
- (3) Cellular materials such as foam rubber sponge rubber and plastic foam
- (4) Flammable and combustible liquids or gases of any classification
- (5) Flammable paints varnishes stains and organic coatings
- (6) High-piled or widely spread combustible stock
- (7) Metallic magnesium in any form
- (8) Corrosive liquids oxidizing materials organic peroxide nitromethane ammonium nitrate or any amount of highly toxic pyrophoric hypergolic or cryogenic materials or poisonous gases as well as material compounds which when exposed to heat or flame become a fire conductor or generate excessive smoke or toxic gases
- (9) Blasting agents explosives and special industrial explosive materials blasting caps black powder, liquid nitro-glycerine, dynamite nitro cellulose fulminates of any kind and plastic explosive containing ammonium salt or chlorate
- (10) Firework materials of any kind form
- (11) Matches in commercial quantities
- (12) Hot ashes live coals and embers
- (13) Mineral vegetable or animal oils and other derivatives/ by products
- (14) Combustible waste materials for recycling or resale,
- (15) Explosive dusts and vapors and
- (16) Agriculture, forest marine or mineral products which may undergo spontaneous combustion

Safety measures for hazardous operation/processes — Fire safety measures shall be required for the following hazardous operations/processes

- (1) Welding or soldering
- (2) Industrial baking and drying
- (3) Waste disposal
- (4) Pressurized/forced draft burning equipment
- (5) Smelting and forging
- (6) Motion picture projection using electrical arc lamps
- (7) Refining distillation and solvent extraction and
- (8) Such other operations or processes as may hereafter be prescribed in the Rules and Regulations

Provision on Fire Safety Construction Protective and Warning System— Owners occupants or administrator of buildings structures and their premises or facilities except such other building or structure as may be exempted in the rules and regulations to be promulgated under Section 6 hereof shall incorporate and provide therein fire safety construction, protective and warning system and shall develop and implement fire safety programs to wit

- (1) Fire protection features such as sprinkler systems, hose boxes hose reels or standpipe systems and other fire fighting equipment
- (2) Fire alarm systems
- (3) Fire walls to separate adjoining buildings warehouses and storage areas from other occupancies in the same building
- (4) Provisions for confining the fire at its source such as fire resistive floors and walls extending up to the next floor slab or roof, curtains boards and other fire containing or stopping components
- (5) Termination of all exist in an area affording safe passage to a public way or safe dispersal area

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- (6) Stairways vertical shafts horizontal exits and other means of egress sealed from smoke and heat
- (7) A fire exit plan for each floor of the building showing the routes from each room to appropriate exits displayed prominently on the door of each room
- (8) Self-closing fire resistive doors leading to corridors
- (9) Fire dampers in centralized airconditioning ducts
- (10) Roof vents for use by fire fighters and
- (11) Properly marked and lighted exits with provision for emergency lighting to adequately illuminate exit ways in case of power failure

SECTION 9 — PROHIBITED ACTS — The following are declared as prohibited acts and omissions

- a Obstructing or blocking the exits ways or access to building clearly marked for fire safety purposes such as but not limited to aisles in interior rooms any part of stairways, hallways, corridors vestibules balconies or bridges leading to a stairway or exit of any kind, or tolerating or allowing violations,
- b Constructing gates entrances and walkways to building components and yards which obstruct the orderly and easy passage of fire fighting vehicles and equipment
- c Prevention interference or obstruction of any operation of the Fire Service or of duly organized designated fire lanes or access to fire hydrants
- e Overcrowding or admission of persons beyond the authorized capacity in movie houses theaters, coliseums auditoriums, or other public assembly buildings, except in other assembly areas on the ground floor with open sides or open doors sufficient to provide safe exits
- f Locking fire exits during periods when people are inside the building
- g Prevention or obstruction of the automatic closure of fire doors or smoke partitions or dampers
- h Use of fire protective or fire fighting equipment of the Fire Service other than for fire fighting except in other emergencies where their use are justified
- i Giving false or malicious fire alarms
- j Smoking in prohibited areas as may be determined by Fire Service or the wearing of cigars cigarettes burning objects in places which may start or cause fire
- k Abandoning or leaving a building or structure by the occupant or owner without appropriate safety measures
- l Removing destroying tampering or obliterating any authorized mark sign or tag posted for fire safety in any building structure or processing equipment and
- m Use of jumpers or tampering with electrical wiring or overloading or overloading the electrical system beyond its designed capacity or such other practices that would tend to undermine the fire safety features of the electrical system

SECTION 10 — ABATEMENT OF FIRE HAZARD — Fire hazard shall be abated immediately For this purpose the Director General or his authorized representative may issue orders for such abatement If the owner administrator or occupant of buildings structure and their premises or facilities does not abate the same within the period fixed in said order the occupancy permit or permit to operate shall be cancelled Any building or structure declared as a firetrap or is causing clear and present fire danger to adjoining establishments and habitations shall be declared a public nuisance as defined in the Civil Code of the Philippines

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If the assessed value of the building or structure is not more than twenty thousand (P20 000 00) pesos the owner administrator or occupant thereof shall abate the hazard within thirty (30) days or if the assessed value is more than twenty thousand (P20,000 00) pesos within sixty (60) days from receipt of the order declaring said building or structure a public nuisance otherwise the Director General or his duly authorized representative shall forthwith cause its summary abatement. Summary abatement as used herein shall mean all corrective measures undertaken to abate hazards which shall include but is not limited to remodeling, repairing, strengthening, reconstructing, removal and demolition, either partial or total of the building or structure. The expenses incurred by the government for such summary abatement shall be borne by the owner administrator or occupant. These expenses shall constitute a prior lien upon such property.

SECTION 11 — ENFORCEMENT OF THE LIEN — If the owner administrator or occupant fails to reimburse the government of the expenses incurred in the summary abatement within ninety (90) days from the completion of such abatement, the building or structure shall be sold at public auction in accordance with existing laws and rules. No property subject of lien under Section 10 hereof may be sold at a price lower than the abatement expenses incurred by the government. The property shall be forfeited in favor of the government if the highest bid is not at least equal to the abatement expenses.

SECTION 12 - PENALTIES

- a **ADMINISTRATIVE FINE** - Any person who violates any provision of this Fire Code or any of the rules and regulations promulgated under Section 6 hereof shall be penalized by an administrative fine of not exceeding twelve thousand (P12 000 00) pesos or in the proper case by stoppage of operations or by closure of such buildings structures and their premises or facilities which do not comply with the requirements or by both such administrative fine and closure/stoppage of operation to be imposed by the Director General. Provided That the payment of the fine stoppage of operations and/or closure of such buildings structures and their premises or facilities shall not absolve the violator from correcting the deficiency or abating the fire hazard. The decision of the Director General under this subsection, may be appealed to the Secretary of National Defense within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the order imposing the administrative fine stoppage of operations and/or closure. The decision of the Secretary of National Defense shall be final and executory.
- b **PUNITIVE** - In case of wilful failure to correct the deficiency or abate the fire hazard as provided in the preceding subsection the violator shall upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than six (6) years or by a fine of not more than twenty thousand (P20 000 00) pesos or both such fine and imprisonment. Provided however that in the case of a corporation, firm, partnership or association the fine and/or imprisonment shall be imposed upon its officials responsible for such violation and in case the guilty party is an alien in addition to the penalties herein prescribed he shall immediately be deported. provided, finally, that where the violation is attended by loss of life and/or damage to property the violator shall be proceeded against under the applicable provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

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SECTION 13 - APPROPRIATION AND SOURCES OF INCOME

- a To support the manpower, infrastructure and equipment needs of the Fire Service of the Integrated National Police the sum of one hundred million (P100 000 000 00) pesos is hereby appropriated. Thereafter the same such amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Fire Code shall be appropriated and included in the annual appropriation of the Integrated National Police for the next ten (10) years.
- b To partially provide for the funding of the Fire Service the following taxes and fees which shall accrue to the General Fund of the National Government are hereby imposed:
- (1) Fees to be charged for the issuance of certificates, permits and licenses as provided for in Section 8 (a) hereof.
 - (2) One-tenth of one per centum (0.1%) of the verified estimated value of buildings or structures to be erected from the owner thereof but not to be exceeded fifty thousand (P50,000.00) pesos, one half to be paid prior to the issuance of the building permit and the balance after final inspection and prior to the issuance of the use and occupancy permit.
 - (3) One-hundredth of one per centum (0.01%) of the assessed value of buildings or structures annually payable upon payment of the real estate tax except on structures used as single family dwellings.
 - (4) Two per centum (2%) of all premiums excluding re-insurance premiums for the sale of fire, earthquake and explosion hazard insurance collected by companies, persons or agents licensed to sell such insurances in the Philippines.
 - (5) Two per centum (2%) of gross sales of companies, persons or agents selling fire fighting equipment, appliances or devices, including hazard detection and warning systems and
 - (6) Two per centum (2%) of the service fees received from fire, earthquake and explosion hazard preinsurance surveys and post loss service of insurance adjustment companies doing business in the Philippines directly through agents.

SECTION 14 - COLLECTION OF TAXES, FEES AND FINES - All taxes, fees and fines provided in Section 13 hereof shall be collected by the City or Municipal Treasurer concerned for remittance to the National Treasury.

SECTION 15 - SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If any provision of this Code or the application of such provisions to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the Code or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 16 - REPEALING CLAUSE - Provisions of Presidential Decree No. 402 otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended and Presidential Decree No. 1096 otherwise known as the National Building Code and other laws, decrees, orders or regulations in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Fire Code are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17 - EFFECTIVITY - This Fire Code and its Rules and Regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after their publication in newspapers of general circulation.

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FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
INTERIOR FINISHES
OF

(EDUCATIONAL OCCUPANCIES)

Listed below are excerpts and specific requirements and provisions on FIRE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION and FIRE PROTECTION specifically on INTERIOR FINISHES of buildings, structures, and facilities involving the use of FIRE RETARDANTS as quoted from the IMPLEMENTING RULES and REGULATIONS of the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES (P D 1185)

1. RULE 1, DIVISION 1, SECTION 1 101

"SCOPE - The provisions of the FIRE CODE shall apply to and govern the following

- a All persons
- b All private or public buildings, facilities, structures, and their premises, constructed before or after the effectivity hereof,
- c Design and installation of electrical system,
- d Storage, handling, or use of explosives and/or combustible, flammable, toxic, and other hazardous materials,
- e Fire Safety Construction, and
- f Fire protective and warning equipment or systems

2. RULE 1, DIVISION 1, SECTION 1 102 b & c

"GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT FOR BUILDING, STRUCTURE, or FACILITY - The owner of any building, structure, facility shall install, provide, incorporate, adopt, and maintain under operable and usable conditions FIRE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION and FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM as provided in subsequent Rules for all types of occupancies mentioned therein "

3 RULE 1, DIVISION 1, SECTION 1 103 b & c

- b) "All occupants or lessees of buildings, structures, or facilities shall organize themselves and develop and implement fire safety programs to include, among others, fire prevention in the premises. The building owner shall take the initiative of formulating the fire safety program for his building and of organizing the occupants to implement the program "
- c) "In buildings, leased to and used by one or several companies or persons, the management of each company or each person shall be responsible for fire safety measures within the leased or occupied areas. The building owner shall be responsible for the common areas in the building such as the means of egress, utilities, and building services equipment or system "

4 RULE 1, DIVISION 1, SECTION 1 105 (DEFINITIONS)

"FLAME SPREAD RATING - The time in which flame will spread over the surface of a burning material "

"FLAME RETARDANT - Any compound or mixture which when applied properly improves the fire resistant quality of wood, fabrics, and other materials "

"MEANS OF EGRESS - a continuous and unobstructed route of exit from any point in a building, structure, or facility to a public way "

5. RULE 3, DIVISION 3, SECTION 3 301 a to j:

"CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPANCY - A building or structure shall be classified as follows

a	<u>Place of Assembly</u>	f	Business
b	Educational	g	Industrial
c	Institutional	h	Storage
d	Residential	i	Mixed Occupancies
e	Merchandise	j	Miscellaneous

6 RULE 3, DIVISION 3, SECTION 3 301 b

"EDUCATIONAL (for requirements see Division 8) - Educational occupancies include all buildings used for the gathering of groups of six (6) or more persons for purposes of instruction. Educational occupancies include SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, ACADEMIES, NURSERY SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS, and CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES. Other occupancies associated with education shall be in accordance with the appropriate parts of this RULE, except licensed day-care facilities of any capacity. In case where instruction is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of the RULE governing such other occupancy shall apply

7 RULE 3, DIVISION 4, SECTION 3 401 a

"INTERIOR FINISH IN EXITS The flame spread of interior finish shall not exceed CLASS B in exit enclosures Divisions 7 through 15 governing individual occupancies may impose further limitations "

8 RULE 3, DIVISION 5, SECTION 3 502 a

- (1) "INTERIOR FINISH means the exposed interior surfaces of buildings including but not limited to fixed or movable walls and partitions, columns, and ceilings For requirements on decorations and furnishing, see SECTION 3 602 b "
- (2) "A finish floor or covering shall be exempt from the requirements of this section provided, however, that in any case where the Director General or his duly authorized representative finds a floor surface of unusual hazard the floor surface shall be considered a part of the interior finish for the purposes of this Rule "
- (4) "Interior finish materials shall be grouped in the following classes, in accordance with their flame spread ratings "
 - (a) "CLASS A INTERIOR FINISH - Flame Spread 0-25
Includes any material classified at 25 or less -----"
 - (b) "CLASS B INTERIOR FINISH - Flame Spread 26-75
Includes any material classified at more than 25 but not more than 75 -----"
 - (c) "CLASS C INTERIOR FINISH - Flame Spread 76-200
Includes any material classified at more than 75 but not more than 200 -----"
 - (d) "CLASS D INTERIOR FINISH - Flame Spread 201-500
Includes any material classified at more than 200 but not more than 500 -----"
 - (e) "CLASS E INTERIOR FINISH - Flame Spread over 500
Includes any material classified at over 500 -----"

9 RULE 3, DIVISION 5, SECTION 3 502 b & c

"FIRE RETARDANT PAINTS In existing buildings the required flame spread classification of interior surfaces may be secured by applying a proved fire retardant paints or solutions to existing interior surfaces having a higher flame spread rating than permitted "

"Where a complete standard system of automatic sprinklers is installed, interior finish with flame spread rating not over CLASS C may be used in any location where CLASS B is normally specified, and with rating of CLASS B in any location where CLASS A is normally specified, unless specifically prohibited elsewhere in this RULE "

10 RULE 3, DIVISION 5, SECTION 3 502 a

"USE OF INTERIOR FINISHES

- (1) Interior finish material shall be used in accordance with requirements for individual classes of occupancy specified elsewhere of the RULE. Wherever the use of any class of interior finish is specified the use of a class of lower flame spread rating shall be permitted e.g., where CLASS C is specified, CLASS B may be used
- (2) In all new buildings other than private residences CLASS A or CLASS C interior finish shall be used in all basements or other underground spaces from which there is no direct exit to the outside of the building, if subject to occupancy for any purpose other than storage or service facilities
- (3) Interior finish of CLASS B shall not be used in any room space subject to human occupancy ---- "

11 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 801 f(3)

"INTERIOR FINISH - Interior finish shall be CLASS A in corridors, stairways and other means of egress and maybe CLASS B or CLASS C elsewhere, in accordance with the provisions of SECTION 3 502

12 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 802 a(1)

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR FLEXIBLE PLAN AND OPEN PLAN BUILDINGS

DEFINITIONS

- (1) Flexible Plan and open plan educational buildings or portion of a building not having corridors which comply with Section 3 801 and are designed for multiple teaching stations "

- (a) "Flexible plan buildings have movable corridor walls and movable partitions of full height construction with doors leading from room to corridors. Flexible plan buildings without exit access doors between rooms and corridors shall be classified as open plan buildings "
- (b) "Open plan buildings have rooms and corridors delineated by use of tables, chairs, desks, bookcases, counters, low height partitions, or similar furnishings "

13. RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 802 f

"INTERIOR FINISH - Interior finish in flexible plan and open plan buildings shall be as follows

- (1) CORRIDORS IN FLEXIBLE PLAN BUILDINGS - CLASS A, on rigid material which will not deform at temperature below two hundred thirty two (232 °C) degrees celsius. Smoke emissions shall be minimum as approved by the DIRECTOR GENERAL or his duly authorized representative (See Section 3 502)
- (2) OTHER THAN CORRIDOR WALLS - CLASS A or CLASS B throughout except that fixtures and low height partitions maybe CLASS C. In one-storey buildings the exposed portions of structural members complying with the requirements for heavy timber construction maybe permitted. (See also Section 3 502) "

14. RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 806 a

"GENERAL - An EXISTING BUILDING being used for educational occupancies established prior to the effective date of this Fire Code may have its use continued if it conforms or is made to conform to the provisions of this RULE to the extent that, in the opinion of the Director General or his duly authorized representative, reasonable fire safety against the hazards of fire, explosion, and panic is provided and maintained."

15. RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 806 d

"INTERIOR FINISH - In EXISTING EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS which have interior finish that does not comply with the requirements for new buildings, the provisions of SECTION 3 502 shall be acceptable as alternate requirements "

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16 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 807 a(1)

CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS

- (a) This Section establishes life safety requirements for child day care centers, in which more than twelve (12) children receive care, maintenance, and supervision for twenty-four (24) hours or less per day.
- (b) For the purposes of this Section, children are classified in age groups as follows: Children under three (3) years of age, children from three (3) through five (5) years of age, and children six (6) years of age and older.
- (c) The text principally applies to centers for children under three (3) years of age. Variations for centers housing children three (3) years of age and older are indicated.
- (d) Centers housing children six (6) years of age and older shall conform to the requirements for educational occupancies.
- (e) Where a facility houses more than one age group, the requirements for the younger children shall apply, unless the area housing the younger children is maintained as a separate fire area."

17 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 807 c(5)

"INTERIOR FINISH -

- (a) In centers for children five (5) years old or less, interior finish for all walls and ceilings shall be CLASS A or CLASS B in accordance with SECTION 3 502 and floors shall be CLASS A, B, or C.
- (b) In centers for children six (6) years of age or older, interior finish for means of egress shall be CLASS A or CLASS B and for individual rooms CLASS A, B, or C. Floors shall be CLASS A, B, or C.

18 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 808 a (GROUP DAY CARE HOMES)

- (1) "This Section establishes life safety requirements for group day care homes, in which at least seven (7) but not more than twelve (12) children receive care, maintenance, and supervision by other than their parents or legal guardians for twenty-four (24) hours per day or less.

- (2) Same provisions as SECTION 3 807 a(1-b) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (3) Same provisions as Section 3 807 a(1-c) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (4) Same provisions as Section 3 807 a(1-c) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (5) When a group day care home is located in a building containing mixed occupancies, the separation requirements of the Building Code shall be satisfied

19 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 808 c(4) (GROUP DAY CARE HOMES)

INTERIOR FINISH

- (a) Interior finish in occupied spaces in the home shall be CLASS A, B, or C in accordance with Section 3 502
- (b) The interior finish in means of egress shall be CLASS A or CLASS B

20 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 809 a(FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE HOMES)

- (a) This section establishes life safety requirements for licensed family child day care homes, in which fewer than seven (7) children receive care, maintenance, and supervision by other than their parents or legal guardians for less than twenty-four (24) hours per day
- (b) Same provision as Section 3 807 a(1-b) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (c) Same provision as Section 3 807 a(1-c) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (d) Same provision as Section 3 807 a(1-c) for CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS
- (e) Same provision as Section 3 808 a(5) for GROUP DAY CARE HOMES

21 RULE 3, DIVISION 8, SECTION 3 809 c(2)

INTERIOR FINISH

- (a) Interior finish in occupied spaces in the Family Child Day Care Home shall be CLASS A, CLASS B, or CLASS C, in accordance with Section 3 502
- (b) The interior finish in means of egress and in rooms into which exits discharge shall be CLASS A or CLASS B

22 RULE 43, SECTION 43 105

EFFECTIVITY: These Implementing Rules and Regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication of the last installment in a newspaper of general circulation

NOTE The last installment appeared in Bulletin Today on May 28, 1978

