Florida Fire Code: Existing Buildings Timetable

Florida Fire Prevention Code (NFPA 1) requires in-building coverage. Some building types have been granted an extension.

DISCUSSION:

Florida Fire Prevention Code provides that AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) can require maintaining adequate fire department radio signal strength inside any building (new or existing). Florida Statute § 633.202 provides for compliance extensions for certain building types.

KEY DATES:

- **Existing hi-rise buildings** are required to comply by the Florida Fire Prevention Code beginning **January 1, 2022**
- By **December 31, 2019**, an existing building that is not in compliance with the requirements for minimum radio strength for fire department communications must apply for an appropriate permit and must demonstrate that the building will become compliant by January 1, 2022
- **Existing apartment buildings** are not required to comply until **January 1, 2025**. However, existing apartment buildings are required to apply for the appropriate permit for the required communications installation by **December 31, 2022**

NEXT STEPS:

1. Determine if sufficient fire department radio signal exists in your building. Qualified in-building wireless systems integrators (and others) can assist with this testing.
2. Contact your local Fire Code Official (AHJ, Authority Having Jurisdiction) to find out how this code is being enforced in your jurisdiction.
3. If coverage is insufficient and the AHJ is enforcing this requirement, prepare a plan (design, permits, etc.) by the deadline listed for your property type.
4. Visit Safer Buildings Coalition website [www.saferbuildings.org](http://www.saferbuildings.org) to locate professionals who can assist and to stay up to date on fire codes pertaining to in-building radio communication enhancement systems.

FOR THE LATEST FLORIDA STATUTES:
Visit Online Sunshine ([www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)) – Find There:

**Florida Statutes** — a permanent collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters, parts, and sections. Florida Statutes are updated annually by laws that create, amend, transfer, or repeal statutory material.

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**The Safer Buildings Coalition is a non-profit association whose mission is to make buildings safer for occupants and first responders by advocating for policies, standards, and codes for in-building technologies that further that mission.**

[www.saferbuildings.org](http://www.saferbuildings.org)