



## **SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **FIRE SAFETY DIVISION**

**300 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street / Room 315**

**Springfield, IL 62701**

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### **Modification to 2006 IFC 2404.7 Open or Exposed Flame**

The Springfield city code chapter 94.10 adopts the 2006 version of International Fire Code (IFC). Chapter 24 of the 2006 IFC covers requirements for tents. Specifically, section 2404.7, Open or Exposed Flame, states “Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the tent, canopy or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.”

Modification of specific code requirements are covered by section 104.8, Modifications, which states, “Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the fire code official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the fire code official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the department of fire prevention.”

Due to the recent Covid-19 impact to establishments serving food and drink the use of tents for outside services have increased. Notably, these tents are being used at a time of year where the climate and ambient temperature normally would preclude routine use. An identified need of the community is to allow the use of these tents to provide services and to do so reasonably requires that the tents be heated. As section 2404.7 does not allow the use of open flame heating devices within tents, the code shall be temporarily modified pursuant to section 104.8, which allows for modifications that do not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements.

2006 IFC section 2404.7 is hereby temporarily modified as permitted by section 104.8 as follows. The use of devices emitting heat either with or without open flame are allowed, provided that:

1. All combustibles are kept at least five feet from the device.
2. No fuel, other than what is directly connected to or inside the heating device, shall be stored inside the tent or adjacent to the tent within 20 feet.
3. Tents heated in this manner shall be provided with carbon monoxide detection.
4. Tents heated in this manner shall have smoke detection provided.
5. Heating devices shall be constantly attended while in use.
6. Heating devices shall be approved by a nationally accepted certifying agency for heating devices such as Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) and be used in accordance with that manufacturers guidelines. Fire pits are prohibited.

7. All other adopted code requirements remain in force separately; including but not limited to hay and straw bales are prohibited in tents, no smoking is allowed in tents, and fire extinguishers are required in all tents
8. This temporary modification remains in effect until April, 1 of 2021.

The aforementioned additional requirements are intended to meet the intent of the code to provide for a reasonably similar level of safety, based on the existing Covid-19 restrictions of occupancy limits, at 25% of normal capacity. No other modifications to the adopted code are implied or intended.

Approved by:

Springfield Fire Marshal, Ed Canny

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Canny", is written over a horizontal line.

To take effect on December 10, 2020