



MOBILE FIRE - RESCUE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION

Signage and Building Requirements (New and Existing)

The following is a general list of fire code requirements for existing businesses within the City of Mobile, AL. This list is not to be considered all inclusive, due to varying occupancy requirements and special conditions.

Interior:

Housekeeping — Any obstructions of an egress path removed: to include locked doors. Any combustible wall/ceiling decorations exceeding 20% of the area removed. Any combustible storage within 2' of the ceiling in a non-sprinkled building or 18" of a sprinkled building removed.

Electrical — All lighting is required to be hardwired including neon signs. All junction boxes or outlets are to be covered with proper plates. Extension cords are to be limited in usage not to create a fire hazard. Electrical panels require 30" of circumferential clearance and if located within interior or exterior room, the room is to be identified with 2" lettering in contrasting color to the door stating Electrical. A fire extinguisher is required to be located within 75' of the electrical panels.

Mechanical — Any room interior or exterior housing major mechanical components shall be identified with 2" lettering in contrasting color with the door stating Mechanical. A fire extinguisher is required to be located within 75' of the mechanical system.

Egress Doors — Any door listed as an emergency exit should always be unlocked during hours of occupation (if the door is locked and has a single motion lever that releases the door and opens at the same time, then it is allowed to be locked). The door should be fully functional; opening with 151lbs of pressure, closing with auto-closer if one is present, having the correct type of hardware for occupant load (50 persons in group A and E occupancy require panic hardware).

Egress Pathways — Any obstructions removed (clearance should equal the width of the doorway width exiting the pathway). The exit is required to have lit signage stating EXIT that functions without AC power and the pathway route leading to the exit is required to be lit during AC power loss by emergency lighting.

Fire Alarm — Any fire alarm system installed in an existing occupancy shall be maintained with annual inspections and continuous monitoring occupied or unoccupied. Fire alarm panels installed in an interior or exterior room requires the room to be identified with 2” lettering in Contrasting color to that of the door as Fire Alarm, The fire alarm panel should identify the breaker and the breaker box that supplies it. The fire alarm is required to have a document box with 3yrs. of past inspection reports, manufacture specs, and zone maps. The breaker supplying the fire alarm should have identification on the exterior of the electrical panel and a lock out breaker installed on the actual breaker (unless it is behind a locked door). The panel requires 36” of circumferential clearance. A fire extinguisher is required to be located within 75’ of the fire alarm panel.

Fire Sprinkler — Any fire sprinkler installed in an existing occupancy shall be maintained with annual and quarterly inspections occupied of unoccupied. Fire sprinkler risers installed in an interior or exterior room require the room to be identified with 2” lettering in contrasting color to that of the door as Sprinkler Riser. The riser requires 36” of circumferential clearance. Sprinkler heads are to cover all spaces and be properly sealed with escutcheon caps. The heads are required to be the correct type for the product being stored in the building and no older than 50 yrs. The heads are all required to be the same type unless covering a specific hazard.

Kitchen Hoods — Inspections of the extinguishing system are required every 6 mos. and cleanings are required at least every quarter. Appliances are required to align with nozzles leading from the extinguishing system piping. The pull station to the system is required to be located within an egress pathway; it also has to be accessible and clearly visible.

Fire Extinguishers — Any fire extinguisher shall be maintained with annual inspections. The extinguishers is required to be in an accessible clearly visible location. Fire extinguishers are to be placed in a location that allows access from no greater distance than 75’ at any point in the building using egress pathways. Commercial occupancies in general require an extinguisher size 2A10BC.

Elevators — Emergency fire fighter key and tool are to be secured in an accessible and clearly visible location for first responders. The elevator room/panel is to be identified and access keys are to be accessible to first responders. Elevator rooms are required to have a fire extinguisher on the interior.

Stairwells — Emergency lighting is required for all landings located above the ground level and lit exit signs that work without AC power are to be located at doors that are part of the egress pathway. Stairwells require a fire extinguisher to be within 75’ of travel distance.

Exterior:

Address — Minimum of 4” lettering is to be used for premises identification, larger is often required when structure is located back from the road. **REFER TO LETTERING CHART**
Tenant suites are to be identified individually noting suite alpha/numeric at each entry point.

Egress Lighting — Class A occupancies with an occupancy load over 49 require emergency egress lighting at the egress landing. Class B occupancies with an occupancy load over 100 above the level of discharge and/or being 3 stories in height require emergency egress lighting at the egress landing.

Egress Landings — All landings 30” or more above the grade require guards of no less than 42” high. The openings on the guard cannot allow for any greater than a 6” sphere to pass through.

Existing stairs can remain if they have no greater rise than 8.25” and the run is not less than 9”. Ramps can remain if the running slope is not steeper than one unit vertical in 10 units horizontal.

Private Fire Hydrants — Any privately owned fire hydrant located within the city limits are to be painted grey on the barrel and color coded according to the water flow on the bonnet. They are to be inspected every five years and documentation of the inspection is to be kept on the premises. Hydrants are to be protected with a curb or bollards. Fire hydrants are to have a minimum of 20’ of fire lane painted out to prevent civilian parking from blocking access by first responders. No vegetation allowed within 3’ or that blocks access by first responders.

FDC— Require Knox Caps and FDC signage with reflective lettering identifying location. They also require NO PARKING to be identified as not to allow civilian parking to block access by first responders. No vegetation allowed within 3’ or that blocks access by first responders.

Standpipe Connections - Require NO PARKING to be identified as not to allow civilian parking to block access by first responders. No vegetation allowed within 3’ or that blocks access by first responders.

Knox Box — Knox boxes are required for any existing business with a fire alarm system and/or a fire sprinkler. They are also required by any business requiring a new Certificate of Occupancy.