

October 2, 2026

Attention: Stakeholders

Re: Adoption of the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada

Throughout the development of the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada (NFC), the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) remained actively engaged in the national code development process. During the 2025 code cycle, SPSA distributed proposed code change forms to Saskatchewan fire chiefs and other stakeholders for review and encouraged comments and recommendations to be submitted directly to Codes Canada. This collaborative approach helped ensure that the interests and practical experiences of Saskatchewan's fire service community were represented throughout the national consultation process.

The Government of Saskatchewan intends to adopt the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada by regulation under The Fire Safety Act. The 2025 NFC continues to support a nationally consistent approach to fire safety while introducing several important updates that reflect emerging construction methods, evolving fire risks, and lessons learned through research and operational experience.

Changes introduced in the 2025 NFC include:

- Agricultural and farm buildings – revised provisions clarify the application of fire protection objectives to farm buildings and align occupancy restrictions with the new Group G agricultural occupancy classifications. The changes include expanded restrictions on locating certain Group A, B and C occupancies within specified Group G agricultural buildings and the distance between buildings to prevent fire spread.
- Laboratories and dangerous goods – substantially revised requirements establish more explicit limits on the quantities of flammable and combustible liquids and compressed gases permitted for use in laboratories. Flammable and combustible liquid quantities are now addressed differently for laboratories located in basements and laboratories in Group A, Division 2 educational or Group D major occupancies that are not located in basements. New limits for flammable, oxidizing and toxic compressed gases also vary according to whether the building is sprinklered and the occupancy classification.
- Underground storage tank venting – revised requirements clarify the location of vent pipe outlets from underground storage tanks containing Class II or Class IIIA combustible liquids. Vent outlets must be located outside the building, above the fill-pipe opening, at least 2 m above finished ground level, and at least 1.5 m from building openings. A separate change also introduces an exception for certain emergency vent outlets associated with the secondary containment of double-walled storage tanks.
- Encapsulated mass timber construction – significant new and revised construction-stage fire safety requirements establish a more comprehensive framework for controlling fire spread in buildings incorporating encapsulated mass timber construction. The provisions address risk assessments, protective encapsulation and allowable exposed mass-timber surfaces, alternative protection measures, standpipe and hose-station requirements, fire-watch duties, and limits and clearances for combustible materials stored indoors during construction.

- Fire safety and occupant protection – revisions clarify requirements affecting occupant-load signage, minimum clear width between rows of nonfixed seating, and fire safety plan provisions for construction sites, including an express connection between fire safety planning and the new fire-watch requirements applicable to mass timber construction.

Recognizing the importance of these changes, SPSA, in partnership with Building and Technical Standards, Ministry of Government Relations, will be hosting provincial information sessions to provide an overview of the 2025 NFC and discuss its implementation in Saskatchewan.

Information Sessions

- Regina – October 20, 2026
- Saskatoon – October 26, 2026

Additional information regarding registration, venues, and session agendas will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Organizations and associations receiving this correspondence are encouraged to distribute this information to their members and other stakeholders who may be affected by the adoption of the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada.

In addition, SPSA is making arrangements to host information sessions with both the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs (SAFC) and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (SVFFA). These sessions will focus specifically on the operational, inspection, and enforcement implications arising from the adoption of the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada.

SPSA appreciates the continued support and participation of Saskatchewan's fire service, municipal, and industry partners throughout the national code development process. Your engagement in reviewing proposed code changes and providing feedback directly to Codes Canada has contributed to the development of a modern fire code that enhances life safety, property protection, and fire prevention across Saskatchewan.

Should you have any questions regarding the adoption of the 2025 National Fire Code of Canada, please contact the Fire Programs and Standards Unit at the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

Sincerely,

Wayne Rodger
Fire Marshal
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency
