

Common Code Violations

The following are some of the most common fire code violations found during inspections. Please be sure to walk through your facility and correct any conditions that meet these requirements.

Housekeeping

- Combustible material shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. (VSFPC 315.3.3)
- Combustible materials shall not be stored in exits or exit enclosures. (VSFPC 315.3.2)
- Storage shall be at least 2 feet below the ceiling or 18 inches below sprinkler heads. (VSFPC 315.3.1)
- Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks shall be secured to prevent falling. (VSFPC 5303.5)



Exits

- Exit ways and doors shall not be visually or physically obstructed. (VSFPC 1030.3 & 1030.6)
- Exit signs shall be illuminated. (VSFPC 1011.3)
- Emergency lighting systems shall be functional. (VSFPC 1006.3)
- Exit door shall have a sign above or on door stating "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED." unless approved panic hardware is in place (VSFPC 1008.1.9.3)

Fire Protection

- All fire lanes, hydrants, fire department connections (FDC) or control valves shall be clear and unobstructed. (VSFPC 503.4 & 507.5.4)
- Sprinkler or fire alarm systems shall be serviced in accordance with the applicable NFPA standard. (VSFPC 901.6)
- Fire protection systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and repaired where defective. (VSFPC 901.6)

Commercial Cooking Classes

- A Class K fire extinguisher shall be mounted within 30 feet of commercial food equipment using vegetable or animal oils (VSFPC 904.11.5)
- Automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be serviced at least every six months or after an activation. (VSFPC 904.11.6.2)

- Hoods, grease removal devices, fans, ducts and other appurtenances shall be cleaned to bare metal. Cleaning shall be recorded, and records shall state the extent, time and date of cleaning. Records shall be maintained on premises. (VSFPC 609.3.3)

Building Maintenance

- The building address shall be clearly visible from the street, minimum 4 inches in height with a contrasting background. (VSFPC 505.1)
- Provide Knox Box for buildings with supervised fire protection and/or detection equipment (VSFPC 506.1)
- Provide current keys for Knox Box (VSFPC 506.2)
- Fire-resistance-rated construction shall be maintained. (VSFPC 703.1)
- Provide legible & permanent sign with occupant load posted in conspicuous location. (VSFPC 1004.3)

Electrical

- A working space of not less than 30 inches wide (or width of equipment), 36 inches deep and 78 inches high shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. No storage within this designated work space. (VSFPC 605.3)
- Relocatable power taps shall be polarized or grounded equipped with over-current protection and shall be listed. (VSFPC 605.4.1)
- Relocatable power taps shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle. (VSFPC 605.4.2)
- Relocatable power tap cords and extension cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings, or be subject to environmental or physical damage. (VSFPC 605.4.3)
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. (VSFPC 605.5)

Portable Fire Extinguishers

- A minimum of one 10:B portable fire extinguisher shall be provided within 75 feet of travel distance from anywhere in the business on each floor. (VSFPC 906.3 – NFPA 10)
- Fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed and shall be in a conspicuous location. (VSFPC 906.5)
- When visually obstructed, an approved means shall be provided to indicate location. (VSFPC 906.6)
- Fire extinguisher shall be mounted on wall with hanger. (VSFPC 906.7)
- Fire extinguishers shall be serviced and tagged annually by a certified individual (VSFPC 906.2)