

Annual Public School Inspections



Illinois
State Board of
Education

John Runge



Dave Demler at ROE #26



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Public School Inspection Program

This program provides:

- Reminders, updates, and changes made to the public school inspection program in general,
- Specific changes to the Health and Life Safety Glossary and Checklists.
- Recap of requirements related to checklist submittal
- Refresher training on using Mobile Eyes

Tier 1 vs. Tier 2 Inspectors



Certificates of Completion

Tier 2 students should check our QFO list that is posted on our website and anybody with an (*) next to their name is able to act as a “mentor” for an inspector that is shadowing to become a QFO.

Policy

Inspections do not have to be performed with ROE staff, but the intent of this program is to be collaborative. So whenever possible the best approach is to work with the local ROE.

EXCEPT FOR COOK COUNTY, the ROE must be notified prior to starting inspections

ROE = Regional Office of Education

Inspections Must Be Completed Either by Local or OSFM

If the local fire department that has fire jurisdiction over the school(s) does not have the staffing or expertise to perform these inspections, OSFM inspectors will perform this inspection. This is a mandatory inspection so if the local fire department decides they cannot perform these inspections anymore, please, please, please let the OSFM know. The schools will be transferred to OSFM inspection scheduling.

Adopted Codes

Only the codes adopted by ISBE are the codes that can be referenced. These rules apply to all buildings owned or leased by the public school district, whether student occupied or not.

Codes adopted by the local fire agency or OSFM are not applicable within public schools in Illinois (except for CPS, which must comply with Chicago codes).

Adopted Codes

See matrix in front of the Glossary

Part 185 – for schools approved for design before July 1, 1965

Part 175 – for schools approved for design after July 1, 1965 but before March 24, 1995.

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (BOCA 1993) – for schools approved for design on or after March 24, 1995 but before July 6, 1998

BOCA 1993 Fire Prevention and Property Maintenance Codes can be retroactive to all the older schools unless Parts 175 or 185 have something more stringent

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (BOCA 1996) – for schools approved for design on or after July 6, 1998 but before October 3, 2005

Part 180 (ICC 2003) – for schools approved for design on or after October 3, 2005 but before September 25, 2007

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (ICC 2006) – for schools approved for design on or after September 25, 2007 but before January 1, 2010

Part 180 (ICC 2009) – for schools approved for design on or after January 1, 2010 but before July 1, 2016

Part 180 (ICC 2015) – for schools approved for design on or after July 1, 2016 but before January 1, 2025.

Part 180 (ICC 2024) – for schools approved for design on or after January 1, 2025.

Timeline for Returning Inspection Reports

Inspection reports must be returned to the ROE/ISC and to OSFM within **15 calendar days** of the inspection.

These are independent and separate submittals.

Submitting to OSFM on the portal does NOT automatically send the report to the ROE.

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Cook County Reports

For all counties except Cook, inspection reports must NOT be left at the school OR with the school district

Again, except for schools located in Cook County

For public schools in **Cook County only**, within **15** calendar days make sure to:

- Leave a copy of your report at the school
- Submit a copy of your report to the assigned Cook County Intermediate Service Center
- Submit a copy to OSFM

Prepare Your Own Report

If you are walking with ROE staff during this inspection, you must write up your own independent report! You cannot co-sign the ROE's written report. There must be a separate report from you, the inspector, sent to the ROE and sent to OSFM.

Use Current and Approved Checklist

YOU MUST USE AN UPDATED APPROVED INSPECTION FORM THAT IS DISCUSSED IN THIS CLASS WHEN YOU PERFORM THESE INSPECTIONS.

You are not permitted to use your own fire department inspection forms!

Changes to the Glossary

Effective January 1, 2025, the 2024 edition of the I-Codes will be used for new construction and certain levels of remodeling.

Because of this addition, a new Appendix R was created that identifies only the I-Code fire rated separations for the I-Codes adopted by ISBE (2003, 2006, 2009, 2015, 2024).

Changes to the Glossary

28. Panic Hardware (IBC15 1010.1.10, IBC24 1010.2.8)

Panic hardware shall immediately release the lock on any door and not be obstructed in any fashion except that electromagnetic locks are permitted on doors with panic hardware in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.9 which requires, among other things, that upon operation of the panic hardware the electromagnetic lock is released allowing immediate egress. Electromagnetic locks are not the same as delayed-egress locking. There are separate requirements for delayed-egress locking.

Changes to the Glossary

IBC24 only: Where spaces under grandstands or bleachers are used for purposes other than ticket booths less than 100 ft², toilet rooms, **or accessory areas 1,000 ft² or less**; such spaces shall be separated by fire barriers with not less than 1-hour fire-rated construction.

Changes to the Glossary

Certificate of Inspection (41 II Admin Code 1000.150(e)60)
Elevators must have a current inspection certificate. **The Certificate of Operation or a copy of the certificate shall be clearly displayed on or in each conveyance.**

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, GROUND MOUNTED PANEL SYSTEMS

237. Clearance from Vegetation (IFC24: 1205; IBC15: 605.11)

A clear, brush-free area of 10 feet shall be required for ground-mounted photovoltaic arrays for visibility, service, and emergency access.

238. Shutdown and Marking

(See requirements for roof mounted solar photovoltaic power systems).

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, ROOF MOUNTED

(Fire inspectors are not expected to climb to roofs to inspect systems)

239. Roof Access (IFC24: 1205; IBC24: 3111; IFC15: 605.11)

Roof access points shall be located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors, and located at strong points of building construction in locations where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs. Roof access points are areas where ladder placement would not be over openings so as to obstruct ingress or egress of personnel, interfere with the use of openings for ventilation or expose the ground ladder and its users to heat, smoke or fire erupting from openings. Ladder placement must also be located at strong points of building construction so that there is less risk of collapse while fighting a fire. Overhead obstructions must also be taken into account. Having PV panels and modules limits the locations where fire fighters can place ladders, therefore it is more important that these factors be addressed as part of the installation process.

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, ROOF MOUNTED

(Fire inspectors are not expected to climb to roofs to inspect systems)

240. Rapid Shutdown (IFC; NFPA 70)

PV system circuits installed on or in buildings shall include a rapid shutdown function that controls specific conductors in accordance with 690.12. (See Appendix S).

241. Marking. (IFC; NFPA 70)

Each PV system disconnecting means shall be permanently marked to identify it as a PV system disconnect. The type of solar photovoltaic system rapid shutdown shall be labeled as detailed in Appendix S.

Additionally, a warning label shall appear on the utility-interactive inverter or be applied by the installer near the ground-fault indicator at a visible location, stating the following. When the PV system also has batteries, the same warning shall also be applied by the installer in a visible location at the batteries:

ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARD

IF A GROUND FAULT IS INDICATED, NORMALLY GROUNDED CONDUCTORS MAY BE UNGROUNDED AND ENERGIZED

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, ROOF MOUNTED

(Fire inspectors are not expected to climb to roofs to inspect systems)

New Appendix S to provide more information on Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems

Changes to the Glossary

298. Fire Extinguishers (NFPA 10-5.5.4.7.1)

Only water **or foam extinguishers** shall be installed in areas where pool chemicals containing chlorine or bromine are stored. Multipurpose dry chemical fire extinguishers shall not be installed in areas containing oxidizers.

Changes to the Glossary

22. Curtains, Draperies, Furnishings and Decorations (See also Corridors New Artwork) (IFC: Chapter 8; BOCA-F: 306.1; 175.430; 185.290k)

Definition of Decorative Material: All materials applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical, or other effect (such as curtains, draperies, fabrics, streamers, and surface coverings), and all other materials utilized for decorative effect (such as batting, cloth, cotton, hay, stalks, straw, vines, leaves, trees, moss, and similar items), including foam plastics and materials containing foam plastics. Decorative materials do not include floor coverings, ordinary window shades, interior finish, and materials 0.025 inch (0.64 mm) or less in thickness applied directly to and adhering tightly to a substrate.

IFC

IFC15 only: All **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and decorations in schools approved for design on or after July 1, 2016 shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 8 of the International Fire Code (2015).

IFC09 only: All **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and decorations in schools approved for design on or after January 1, 2010 but before July 1, 2016 shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 8 of the International Fire Code (2009).

IFC06 only: All **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and decorations in schools approved for design before January 1, 2010 but on or after September 25, 2007 shall comply with applicable provisions of Chapter 8 of the International Fire Code (2006).

Changes to the Glossary

22. Curtains, Draperies, Furnishings and Decorations (See also Corridors New Artwork) (IFC: Chapter 8; BOCA-F: 306.1; 175.430; 185.290k)

IFC03 only: All **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and decorations in schools approved for design before September 25, 2007 but on or after October 3, 2005 shall comply with Chapter 8 of the International Fire Code (2003).

BOCA

BOCA-F only: All **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and decorations in schools approved for design on or after March 24, 1995 but before October 3, 2005 shall comply with Section F-306 of the BOCA Fire Prevention Code (1996/1993). Electric light bulbs shall not be decorated with paper or other combustible materials unless flame-resistant in accordance with NFPA 701.

Changes to the Glossary

22. Curtains, Draperies, **Furnishings and Decorations** (See also Corridors New Artwork) (IFC: Chapter 8; BOCA-F: 306.1; 175.430; 185.290k)

Part 175

175 only: ~~(Part 175 does not provide definition of furnishings or decoration or differentiate between the two.~~ This does not include wall and ceiling finishes as described in 175.420). No **furnishings** curtains, draperies, and, decorations, wall coverings, paints, etc., shall be used which are of a highly flammable character or which, in the amounts used, will endanger egress due to rapid spread of fire or formation of heavy smoke or toxic gases. Draperies, curtains, loosely attached wall coverings, cloth hangings, and similar materials shall be noncombustible or flameproofed in corridors, exitways, and assembly occupancies. In other areas, up to 10% of the wall area may have combustible coverings and hangings. Methods of flameproofing, tests, and acceptability shall be in accordance with NFPA 701. A flameproofing certificate, identifying agent used, and material protected shall be kept on file in the school. Additionally, the requirements of BOCA Fire Prevention Code (1993), Section F-306 also apply to these schools.

Changes to the Glossary

TEACHERS' WORKROOMS AND LOUNGES

301. Maintenance of Fire-Rated Construction and Door Closers (IFC: 703; BOCA-F: 303)

If the teachers' lounge has any cooking or heating appliances, with the exception of microwaves, refrigerators, and coffee pots, the required fire-rated construction shall be maintained. [See Appendix O, P, or Q for requirements]

Language was added to clarify that microwaves, refrigerators, and coffee pots do not trigger the need for fire-rated separation.

Changes to the Glossary

Completely revised due to changes in the Title 23 Ill. Adm. Code.

Time-Out Rooms

306. Locking [105 ILCS 5/10-20.33(d); 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.285(a)(4)(E)]

The use of any of the following rooms or enclosures for an isolated time out or time out purposes is prohibited:

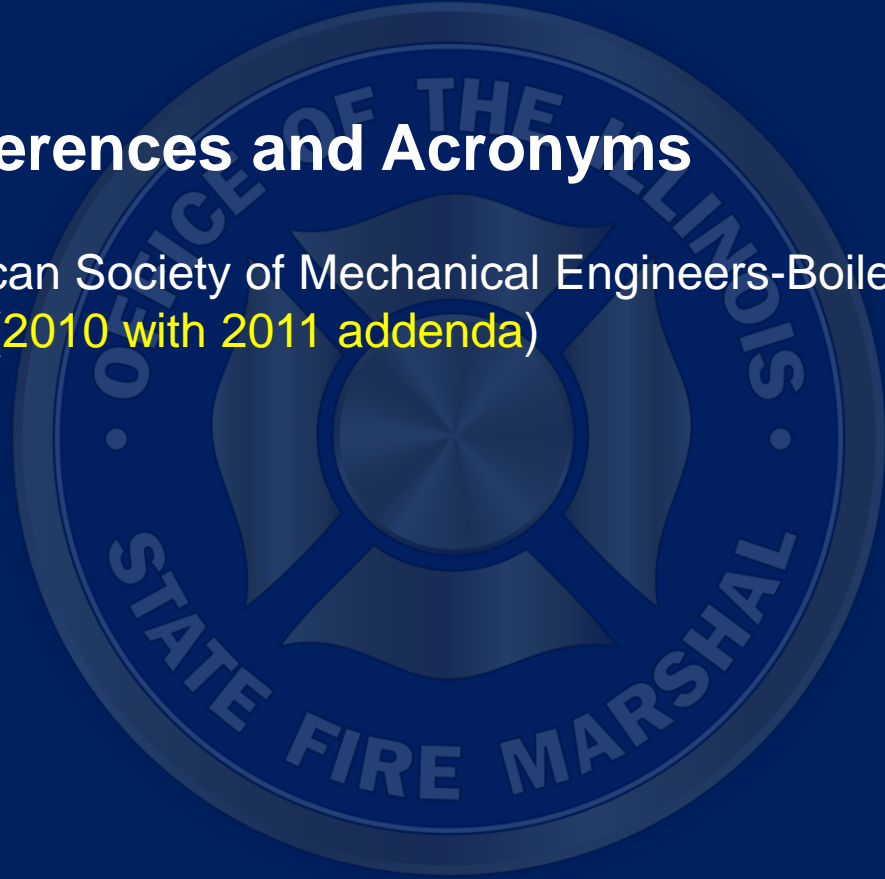
- 1) Any room with a door fitted with a locking mechanism.
- 2) Any room that is physically blocked by furniture or any other inanimate object at any time during the isolated time out or time out.
- 3) A confining space such as a closet or box.
- 4) A room where the student cannot be continually observed.
- 5) Any other room or enclosure or time out procedure that is contrary to current rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Changes to the Glossary

APPENDIX A: Code References and Acronyms

ASME B&PV Code American Society of Mechanical Engineers-Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Code (2010 with 2011 addenda)

Updated referenced code edition



Changes to the Checklists

Changes to the Glossary are carried over to all checklists

As a reminder only the approved ROE or Fire Service Checklist discussed in this class is permitted to be used for public school inspections. By law, you cannot use your own FD inspection form.

Code Questions

For questions related to the codes and standards adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, including code clarification and interpretation please contact:

Cathy Stashak

Catherine.Stashak@illinois.gov

Inspection Program and Qualification Questions

For additional information or assistance with the School Inspection Program including becoming a Qualified Public School Inspector, the Tier I and Tier 2 programs, registering for classes, or information on hosting a Public School Inspection class please contact:

Kensie.Proctor@Illinois.gov

217-785-4714