

March 17, 2016



To: Stakeholder

Effective April 1, 2016, Manitoba Regulation 221/2015 and 222/2015, which only deal with residential care facilities, will come into effect.

- Manitoba Regulation 221/2015 amends the Manitoba Fire Code Regulation 155/2011.
- Manitoba Regulation 222/2015 amends the Manitoba Building Code Regulation 31/2011.

These amendments can be found on the Manitoba Laws website at:

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2015/221.pdf>

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2015/222.pdf>

The amendments establish new fire and life safety requirements for all existing and recently established residential care facilities. The scope of the regulations now clearly covers all residential care facilities that operate under a licence or letter of approval. Owners and operators of existing facilities will be required to meet the new requirements within specified time frames, while new facilities will have to meet the requirements at the time they are established.

For existing facilities, phased implementation time frames have been established to allow operators the opportunity to plan for the more expensive retrofit requirements. For example, facilities will have until January 1, 2021 to install emergency lighting, while sprinkler systems, where required, will have to be installed by January 1, 2026.

To assist owners and operators with understanding and complying with the new Building and Fire Code requirements, I have attached a user guide that explains the new requirements in plain language.

Over the coming months, Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) staff will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure consistent and effective implementation of these new regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact the OFC directly at 204-945-3322 or email at firecomm@gov.mb.ca should you have any questions regarding these new requirements.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Candace Russell Summers
Chief Building Official