

**Child Care Center Inspectors Guide**  
(Including Group Child Care licensed on or after Sep. 1, 2009)

	<u>Code Reference</u>	<u>2006 Code Edition</u> <u>SCRR 2009</u>
<b>Plans Approval</b>		
All plans and specifications approved by Local Building Official , Fire Official and/or DSS CCL Fire & Life Safety office.		SCRR 71-8300.1(D)(3) SCRR 71.8301.1. C
<b>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</b>		
more than 5 children older than 2 1/2 is Group E		IBC 305.2
more than 5 children 2 1/2 or younger on 24-Hr basis is Group I-2		IBC 308.3.1
5 or less children of any age is classified as R-3		IBC 310.1
more than 5 children 2 1/2 or younger is Group I-4 Exception : more than 5 but less than 100 younger than 2 1/2, when rooms have a direct exit to outside on grade level direct exit at grade level, shall be classified Group E		IBC 308.5.2
Group E. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies as follows: (1) Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than 20,000 square feet (1858 m2) in area. (2) Throughout every portion of educational buildings below the level of exit discharge. Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required in any fire area or area below the level of exit discharge where every classroom throughout the building has at least one exterior exit door at ground level.		IBC 903.2.2
Group R. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings with Group R fire area. (Group Child Care is mixed occupancy of Group R and E.		IBC 903.2.2
<b>Group I-4 occupancy (2 1/2 yr old not meeting exception for educational)</b>		IBC 308.5.2
<b>Group I. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings with a Group I fire area.</b>		IBC 903.2.5
fire alarm and smoke detection system required		IFC 907.2.6
I-4 sprinklered with no corridor rating		IFC T-1017.1
<b>Group I-2 occupancy (more than 24 hrs per day)</b>		
I-2 sprinklered with no corridor rating		IFC T-1017.1
Fire alarm and smoke detection system required		IFC 907.2.6
Sprinkler system required		IFC 903.2.5
<b>Fire Alarm System</b>		
Fire alarm required 50 or more load (13 or more for centers under the SCRR prior to June 2009)		IFC 907.2.3
Fire alarm plans required to be submitted to DSS CCL Fire & Life Safety and approved.		IFC 907.1.1
Annual test, service, and maintenance by licensed person, conducted and documented per NFPA 72 (02) chapter 10. (including duct detectors)		IFC 907.20
Smoke Alarms more than 10 yrs old are required to be replaced.		NFPA 72(10)- 14.4.8
Monthly fire drills conducted (or see IFC 408.3)		IFC T-405.2
Written records of fire drills required		IFC 405.5
Fire alarm required to be monitored per NFPA 72 when >100 children (start - after 6/25/99)		SCRR 71-8301.3 (A)(1)(b)
Fire alarm required to be monitored per NFPA 72 when 50 or more load (start July 2008)		IFC 907.15
Written fire plan required		IFC 404.3.1
Fire escape plan required and posted in Child Care		IFC 404.3.2
Fire Plan updated annually and as needed		IFC 404.4
Employees required to be trained on fire plan at least annually and documented		IFC 406.2
pull station at each exit (note sprinkler exception IFC 907.2.3 (3)		IFC 907.4.1
Fire alarm acceptance test upon completion new and when devices added.		IFC 907.17
"When Alarm Sounds - Call Fire Dept" sign required for systems not required to be monitored. (new or existing.)		IFC 907.4.4
Building owner is responsible ensure that fire alarm is maintained and operable.		IFC 907.20.5

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	Building owner is responsible to provide <b>fire watch</b> when Fire Alarm is not operable.	IFC 901.7
	<b><u>Fire Extinguishers</u></b>	
	Required	IFC 906.1
	Placement	NFPA 10 (07) 6.1.3.1
	Spacing	NFPA 10 (07) T 6.2.1
	Monthly inspection	NFPA 10 (07) 7.2.1.2
	Annual inspection	NFPA 10 (07) 7.3.1.1.1
	Hydrostatic testing	NFPA 10 (07) 7.3.1.2.1
	6 year maintenance	NFPA 10 (07) 7.3.1.2.1
	Minimum size	NFPA 10 (07) 6.2.1.1
	Obscured from view / blocked	IFC 906.5 & 906.6
	Mounting (between 4" and 5' above grade)	IFC 906.7-906.9
	Max 75' travel distance for class A	NFPA 10 (07) T 6.2.1
	<b><u>Fire Hydrants and Water Base Protection</u></b>	
	Required (note modified by SCBCC) within 500 Ft. of all buildings	IFC 508.1 Mod. 2006
	Physical protection (traffic protection) required	IFC 508.5.6
	Not to be obstructed	IFC 508.5.4
	Fire hydrant inspected periodically Per NFPA 25	IFC 508.5.2
	Fire Department access required and maintained	IFC 503
	Sprinklers, standpipes and fire hydrants to be maintained per NFPA 25 (monthly, quarterly & annual)	IFC 901.6
	Sprinkler system test and serviced per NFPA 25 by SC licensed person / company	IFC 901.6.1
	Fire Protection equipment rooms required to be Identified. (Riser Room, Fire Alarm, Etc.)	IFC 510
	<b><u>Housekeeping</u></b>	
	All decorative items fire retardant	IFC 807.1
	Storage orderly, compact, accessible and away from ignition sources	IFC 315.2
	Student artwork and teaching materials on walls shall not exceed 20 % of wall space	IFC 807.4.3.2
	Storage not within 2 Ft. of ceilings (inner room area)	IFC 315.2.1
	Trash containers >40gal. require lid and made of non-combustible or other approved material	IFC 304.3.2
	Flammable liquid storage in approved cabinets (>10 gal.)	IFC 3404.3.4.4
	Flammable liquid storage limited	IFC 3404.3.4.2.3
	LP gas storage	NFPA 58 (08) 8.3
	Street address number posted outside building	IFC 505.1
	Storage not permitted in electrical or mechanical rooms	IFC 315.2.3
	Gas equipment not permitted to be stored in unapproved areas	IFC 313.1
	Clothing and personal items not placed in corridor unless sprinklered or automatic smoke detection system	IFC 807.4.3.1
	Artificial vegetation required to be flame retardant with manufacturer documentation.	IFC 806.2
	No storage in attic or under floor space not permitted unless protected	IFC 315.2.4
	Portable Unvented Heater are prohibited. Others must meet Listing and Code requirements	IFC 603.4
	<b><u>Exits / Egress</u></b>	

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	Required exterior exit doors subject to blocking by snow or ice required to be protected. (all of SC) Facilities prior to November 2008 were permitted to close with public schools as alternate means of compliance. (Need to provide if changes made to existing facility.)	IFC 1028.3
	Rated doors are required to close and latch	IFC 703.2.3
	Access to Public Way - Exit discharge shall provide unobstructed access to a public way	IFC 1024.6
	Means of Egress maintained reliable at all times.	IFC 1028.2
	Storage in corridors/ items in halls	IFC 315.2.2 and IFC 807.4.1 (3)
	Minimum door width 32 inches (typically 34 or 36 inch door)	IFC 1008.1.1
	Dead end corridors not permitted > 20 feet	IFC 1017.3
	Doors in rated corridors required to have self or automatic door closers.	IBC 715.4.7
	Door hardware shall be direct acting single action type.	IFC 1008.1.8.5
	Exit discharge requirements	IFC 1024.1
	Panic hardware and fire exit hardware required 50 or more occupants (2003 code and before 100 or more occupants)	IFC 1008.1.9
	Doors opening into corridors, projecting no more than 7 In.	IFC 1005.2
	Minimum number of exits required	IFC Table 1019.1
	Fenced playgrounds and locking	IFC 1008.2
	Prohibits egress through adjoining room [unless room is accessory]	IFC1014.2(see SCBCC Modification)
	Corridor width 72 inches with more than 100 occupants / 44" with 50 - 99 occupants / 36" 1 - 49 occupants.	IFC 1017.2
	1 hour corridor if more than 30 occupants. Exception: sprinklered, or direct exit to outside from each class no rating required	IFC Table 1017.1
	Group E 50 or less occupants and less than 75' travel may have 1 exit	IFC T- 1015.1 and IFC T-1019.2
	*Day Care maximum occupant load for single exit is 10	IFC T- 1015.1 note a and IFC T-1019.2 note e
	Manual flush bolt or surface bolts prohibited on exit doors.	IFC 1008.1.8.4
	Delayed egress locks are prohibited for Group E	IFC 1008.1.8.6
	Exits continuous from entry to exit discharge	IFC 1019.3
	Door swing in direction of egress 50 or more	IFC 1008.1.2
	Wedges and fold down feet shall be removed from rated doors	IFC 703.2.2
	Exit sign illumination required	IFC 1027.3 and IFC 1011.5.2
	<b><u>Stairs and Ramps</u></b>	
	Landings minimum width, same as stairs	IFC 1008.1.5
	Separation of closets for storage under stairs	IFC 1009.5.3
	Minimum headroom for stairs 6'8"	IFC 1009.2
	Handrails 34 - 38 inches height	IFC 1012.2
	Openings in guardrails < 4 inches	IFC 1013.3
	Guardrails 42 inches or greater	IFC 1013.2
	Ramp slope not to exceed 1:12 (1:8 if not an exit)	IFC 1010.2
	Ramp surface nonslip material	IFC 1010.7.1
	Landings at top and bottom of stair	IFC 1009.4
	Landing at doors required at same elevation as floor.	IFC 1008.1.4
	<b><u>Electrical</u></b>	

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_____	Open wiring splices/junction box covers and power panels	IFC 605.6
_____	Cover missing on lights	IFC 605.7
_____	Electric panels labeled	NEC 408.4
_____	Extension cords not to be used as permanent wiring	IFC 605.5
_____	Multiplug adapters, surge protector type only	IFC 605.4.1
_____	Electrical Cord and surge protectors shall not be piggy-backed	IFC 605.4.2
_____	Illuminated exit signs at exits	IFC 1027.3 and IFC 1011.5.2
_____	Directional exit signs where exit is not visible	IFC 1011.1
_____	Separate source of emergency power	IFC 1011.5.3, 1006.3
_____	Exit signs listed or approved	IFC 1011.4, 1011.1
_____	Access 30" in front of all electric panels	IFC 605.3
_____	Emergency lights in all halls ,windowless rooms and large areas( i.e.: cafeterias, gyms) Required before 7 am or after 5 pm, office memo 1-10 - when licensed prior to May 2004.	IFC 1027.5
_____	Emergency lighting required: (1)Aisles and unenclosed egress stairways and rooms that require two or more exits. (2) Corridors, exit enclosures and exit passageways that require two or more exits. (3) Exterior egress components at other than level of exit discharge... (4)Interior exit discharge elements, as permitted in Section 1024.1 in buildings requiring two or more exits. (5) Exterior landings, as required by Section 1008.1.5 for exit discharge doorways in buildings that require two or more exits.	IFC 1006.3
_____	Electrical rooms to have sign "Electrical Room"	IFC 605.3.1
_____	Emergency power for Exit signs and Emergency lights required to be tested.	IFC 604.3
<b><u>Fire Walls and Doors</u></b>		
_____	Fire walls and fire doors maintained (self or auto closing except class room)	IFC 703.1
_____	Fire doors maintained operable, not blocked	IFC 703.2
_____	Fire doors marked either Fire Door-Do Not Block or Fire Door-Keep Closed	IFC 703.2.1
_____	All hold open devices maintained operable	IFC 703.2.2
_____	Interior finishes per Table 803.3	IFC 803.3
_____	Fire dampers and Smoke dampers maintained per manufacturers instructions	IMC 607.2
_____	Fire stopping required and maintained	IFC 703.1.1
_____	Draft stopping in attics	IBC 717.1, IFC 703.1.1
_____	Duct smoke detectors tied into fire alarm system	IFC 907.2.3
_____	Rated Doors may not be modified unless approved by manufacturer / listing	IFC 703.2
<b><u>Mechanical</u></b>		
_____	Fire and smoke dampers	IBC 716.2
_____	Duct detectors over 2000 cfm	IMC 606.2.1
<b><u>Hood System</u></b>		
_____	UL 300 commercial hood suppression system required for commercial hoods	IFC 904.2.1 (904.11)
_____	Commercial hood required	IFC 609.2
_____	Manual pull station in path of exit located 42 - 48 inches above floor (minimum 10' and maximum 20' from protected appliance.)	NFPA 96 (08) 10.5.1
_____	Exhaust systems operated whenever cooking equipment is turned on	NFPA 96 (08)11.1.1
_____	Minimum 16 inches between deep fat fryers and surfaces of open flames	NFPA 96 (08)12.1.2.4
_____	Filters listed - mesh filters prohibited	NFPA 96 (08) 6.1.3
_____	Filters tilted at 45 degree angle minimum on the horizontal	NFPA 96 (08) 6.2.3.5
_____	Access panels in ducts labeled - ACCESS PANEL - DO NOT OBSTRUCT	NFPA 96 (08) 7.1.6
_____	Placard posted at each extinguisher in cooking area identifying its use as secondary backup to automatic fire suppression system	NFPA 96 (08)10.2.2

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	Serviced every 6 months by SC licensed company	IFC 904.11.6.4
	Instructions for manual operation of system posted in kitchen	NFPA 96 (08)11.1.4
	Gas shunt valve below ceiling (not in concealed spaces or plenums)	IGC 409.1.2
	Suppression system tied to fire alarm system	NFPA 96 (08)10.6.2
	Fresh air shutdown	NFPA 96 (08) 8.3.2
	Type "K" not more than 30 Ft from appliances	IFC 904.11.5
	Shutoff devices shall require manual reset	NFPA 96 (08) 10.4.4
	All appliances shut down - electric and gas	IFC 904.11.2
	New Hood Suppression System Inspections shall include discharge of liquid	NFPA 17A (09) 6.4.2
	Hood to be cleaned	IFC 904.11.6.3
	<b><u>Existing Child Care (prior to July 2008) per State Fire Marshal Rules and Regulations 2009</u></b>	
	All Child Day Care Facilities keeping children first grade and younger shall be located on the floor of exit discharge. Second grade children shall not be located more than one (1) story above or below the floor of exit discharge. This restriction does not apply to structures equipped throughout with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(1)
	All facilities with fire alarm systems shall be designed, installed, and maintained per NFPA 72.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(1)(a)
	Each Child Day Care Center serving more than one hundred clients shall have a fire alarm system to provide off-premise notification to the fire department per NFPA 72.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(1)(b)
	All facilities licensed after 1999 shall have a listed smoke detector installed and maintained per NFPA 72 in every room occupied by clients, excluding bathrooms and closets.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(1)(c)
	All facilities continuously licensed before 1999 may use hard-wired single station smoke detectors with battery backup.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(1)(d)
	New Child Day Care Facilities and closed facilities that reopen caring for 6 or more children will be classified as Group E occupancy. These facilities must comply with the codes in effect at the time of licensure.	SCRR 71-8301.3 (A)(2)
	An existing Child Day Care Facility that has been continuously licensed may continue operation under the codes to which it was initially licensed. These facilities shall also meet the following standards:	SCRR 71-8301.3 (A)(3)
	Facilities providing care, maintenance, and supervision for thirteen (13) or more clients for less than twenty-four (24) hours but more than four (4) hours per day shall be classified as Group E occupancy.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(a)
	Special protective covers for electrical receptacles shall be installed on all receptacles located in areas occupied by clients.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(b)
	Emergency evacuation drills shall include complete evacuation of all persons from the building.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(c)
	The owner shall maintain records of emergency evacuation drills for at least three (3) years.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(d)
	Facilities shall provide a copy of their Fire Evacuation Plan to the responding fire department. The plan must note the rooms keeping children under twenty-four (24) months of age.	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(e)
	Facilities with six (6) or more children under twenty-four (24) months of age shall comply with the regulations for "Facilities with Children Under 24 Months of Age" (S.C. Reg. 71-8301(B)).	SCRR 71-8301.3(A)(3)(f)
	The State Fire Marshal has authority to approve alternate methods of compliance within the intent of the regulations for existing facilities.	SCRR 71-8301.3 (A)(4)
	Facilities were allowed to use "Controlled Cooking Plan" licensed prior to September 2004	SCRR 1999

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<b><u>Existing Rooms for children 24 month old and younger</u></b>		
Facilities caring for four or more children under twenty-four (24) months of age unattended by a parent or guardian shall provide the following safeguards:		SCRR 71-8301.3 (B)(1)
Rooms shall have a one (1) hour fire rated separation. No fire rated separation is required between adjacent rooms caring for children less than twenty-four (24) months of age.		SCRR 71-8301.3 (B)(1)(a)
Rooms shall have a direct exit to the outside. Exit door(s) from infant rooms shall swing in the direction of egress and the door leaf shall be at least thirty-six (36) inches wide.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(b)
Rooms shall be limited to twelve (12) children per direct exit. There shall be no more than twenty-four (24) children per room. Older children kept in the room shall be counted as part of the total for direct exits and room occupancy considerations.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(c)
Rooms shall not have any type of open flame appliances.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(d)
Smoke detectors installed in infant room's) and in adjacent spaces. Must be tied into FACP after 6/25/99 (opening date) Single station detectors acceptable prior to 6/25/99 (opening date)		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(e)
Doors in the required one-hour separation partitions shall be twenty (20) minute labeled doors equipped with door closures or a smoke actuated hold-open device.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(f)
Facilities shall develop a fire safety and evacuation plan complying with the requirements for Group E occupancies in the IFC.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(g)
Facilities shall provide a copy of their fire safety and evacuation plan to the local fire authorities. The plan must note the rooms keeping children under twenty-four (24) months of age.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(h)
Emergency evacuation drills shall comply with the requirements for Group E occupancies in the IFC. The owner shall maintain records per the IFC of emergency evacuation drills for at least three (3) years.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(i)
Portable unvented fuel-fired heating equipment shall be prohibited in all infant rooms and daycares.		SCRR 71 8301.3 (B)(1)(j)
Minimum Class C flame spread rating for the room		IFC T- 803.3
<b><u>ICC Children 2 1/2 yrs (30 months) old and younger for Group E</u></b>		
Special requirement for 6 or more occupant 2 ½ yrs old and younger		IBC 308.5.2
Facility (each building or area separated by Fire Walls per IBC) Limited to 100 children 2 ½ yrs and less, in separate rooms, for Group E qualification.		IBC 308.5.2 Ex
Direct Exit to outside required to be Group E Occupancy. Minimum 36" (32" clear opening) Remember need to push small children in cribs.		IBC 308.5.2 Exception
Minimum Class C flame spread rating for the room		IFC T- 803.3
Portable Unvented Heaters are prohibited. Others must meet Listing and Code requirements		IFC 603.4
Maximum load of 10 occupants for single exit per IBC T-1015.1 and T-1019.2. (two approved exits one of which is directly to the outside.)		IFC 1019
Exit signs required for room occupant load of more than 10.		IFC 1011.1
Written plan and Drawn plan include actions for evacuation		IFC 404.1
Monthly Fire Drills		IFC T- 405.2
Ramp require instead of steps due to exit is required to be on level of exit discharge.		IBC 308.5.2 Exception
Emergency lighting required: (5) Exterior landings, as required by Section 1008.1.5 for exit discharge doorways in <b>buildings</b> that require two or more exits.		IFC 1006.3
Required exterior exit doors subject to blocking by snow or ice required to be protected or covered. (all of SC)		IFC 1028.3