

## Information Bulletin

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# Day Care Centres Fire and Safety Requirements

## I. General Information

The following is intended as a guide to assist professional designers in developing plans and related documents for building permit application for a day care centre in the City of Winnipeg.

“Day care centre” means premises other than a group day care home, where day care either alone or in combination with parental care is provided or offered at any time to

- more than 8 children,
- more than 5 children all of whom are less than 6 years of age, or
- more than 3 children all of whom are less than 2 years of age.

The Province of Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Program is responsible for licensing day care centres.

The Fire Prevention Branch and Development and Inspections Division of the City of Winnipeg reviews and approves plans submitted for the development of licensed day care centres, for compliance with applicable fire and life safety standards of the Manitoba Fire Code and Manitoba Building Code, respectively.

A Building Permit for the establishment of a day care centre shall include

- plans submitted under seal of a professional Architect licensed to practice in the Province of Manitoba, and
- a copy of the Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Design Summary for Permit Application – signed by the designated Provincial Child Care Coordinator.

Additional information for permit application can be found on the City of Winnipeg website at <http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/permits/Commercial/default.stm#1>.

## II. Classification and Construction Standards for Day Care Centres

The following regulations are intended to establish minimum fire and life safety requirements for both new and existing day care centres that are licensed by the Province of Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Program.

Throughout this document, the term ‘MBC’ shall refer to the latest edition, adopted by the Province of Manitoba, of the Manitoba Building Code.

**A. Building Major Occupancy**

Buildings or portions of buildings that are intended to be used as day care centres are classified as follows:

**Assembly Occupancy – Group A, Division 2** classification applies to buildings or portions of buildings where day care centres accommodate

- children not less than two years of age,
- children with no cognitive or physical limitations, and
- care is not provided between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

The authority having jurisdiction allows 4 children under the age of 2, or 4 children with cognitive and physical limitations, within a Group A, Division 2 major occupancy provided the Fire Department is satisfied an effective fire plan is in place.

**Care Occupancy – Group B, Division 3** classification applies to buildings or portions of buildings where day care centres accommodate children less than two years of age, children with cognitive or physical limitations, or provide care between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Smoke zones required – see C. Compartmentation in Section III.

**B. Construction Requirements**

This outlines the construction requirements applicable to day care centres being established in new buildings and in existing buildings.

A new building constructed to contain a day care centre, or an existing building in which a day care centre is to be established, shall be

- classified – in accordance with Section II(A) above – as a Group A, Division 2 or Group B, Division 3 major occupancy in conformance with the current MBC, which includes the fire and life safety standards set forth in Section III of this bulletin, or
- where the building has been established, and is currently established as a Group A, Division 2 or Group B, Division 3 major occupancy, meet the fire and life safety standards set forth in Section III of this bulletin.

### III. Fire and Life Safety Standards

#### A. Sprinkler Protection

Sprinkler protection shall be provided to day care centres where required by the MBC.

In accordance with MBC Section 3.2.2., all Group B, Division 3 major occupancies are required to be provided sprinkler protection.

In multi-storey buildings, and in accordance with MBC Sentence 3.2.2.18.(2), sprinkler protection shall be installed throughout the floor area and all lower stories in the building.

#### B. Early Warning System

Day care centres classified Group A, Division 2 with an occupant load more than 40, and all day care centres classified Group B, Division 3, shall have a fire alarm and detection system conforming to MBC Subsection 3.2.4., and shall be installed in accordance with the currently enforced version of CAN/ULC – S524 “Standard for the Installation of Fire Alarm Systems”.

For Group B, Division 3 occupancies, MBC Article 3.2.4.3. requires a 2-stage fire alarm system, however, a single stage fire alarm system is permissible in a building not greater than 3-storeys in building height.

Fire alarm systems shall be verified in conformance with CAN/ULC – S537, “Standard for Verification of Fire Alarm Systems”.

#### C. Compartmentation

Day care centres shall be separated from other occupancies by fire separations as required by, and in conformance with the MBC for Group A, Division 2 or Group B, Division 3 major occupancies.

Group B, Division 3, day care centres shall be provided with smoke zones conforming to MBC Sentences 3.3.3.5.(2) to (8). Sentence (8) clear floor space based on 0.5 m<sup>2</sup>/person, 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>/person in wheelchair.

**Intent:** *The MBC prescribes a smoke zone in Group B occupancies where sleeping accommodations are provided, however, for the application to day care centres, this requirement is prescribed to give staff sufficient time to effectively stage evacuation of the children – especially during winter. Sufficient floor area should be provided to accommodate all occupants and enable preparations for evacuation.*

The floor area on either side of a horizontal exit conforming to Article 3.4.6.10. may be considered as a smoke zone.

Separate zone indication for the actuation of fire alarm devices is required for each smoke zone.

- Ducts that pass through the smoke zone fire separation shall be equipped with combination smoke/fire-smoke dampers in conformance with the MBC.
- Doors between the smoke zones shall be rated for air leakage in conformance with MBC Sentence 3.1.8.4.(4).

All doors between fire compartments shall have fire-protection ratings and be provided self-closing devices in conformance with the MBC.

#### **D. Egress and Exits**

Egress and exit facilities for day care centres, including fire resistance ratings for fire separations; flame spread ratings for exits; door hardware; and exit signage and emergency lighting shall conform to the prescriptive requirements of the MBC.

#### **E. Fire Safety Plan**

Every daycare shall incorporate Emergency Planning in conformance with Section 2.8 of the Manitoba Fire Code, including a Fire Safety Plan in conformance with Subsection 2.8.2 of the Manitoba Fire Code.