



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644

Email [Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.7097

[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

## Request for Fire Code Modification

### 1. PURPOSE

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) recognizes that there must be a mechanism that allows the authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ's) to accept alternatives if they provide an equivalent level of safety. The SFPC does not permit waivers or variances. A waiver or variance is permission not to comply with some code requirement. A modification is an equivalency which allows the use of some other alternative to meet the level of safety intended by the code.

### 2. GENERAL

In accordance with Section 106 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code:

**106.5 Modifications.** The fire official may grant modifications to any provision of the SFPC upon application by the owner or the owner's agent provided the spirit and intent of the SFPC are observed and public health, welfare, and safety are assured.

**106.5.1 Supporting data.** The fire official shall require that sufficient technical data be submitted to substantiate the proposed use of any alternative. If it is determined that the evidence presented is satisfactory proof of performance for the use intended, the fire official shall approve the use of such alternative subject to the requirements of this code. The fire official may require and consider a statement from a professional engineer, architect or other competent person as to the equivalency of the proposed modification.

**106.5.2 Decision.** The application for modification and the final decision of the fire official.

### 3. PROCEDURE

Sufficient technical data must be submitted to substantiate the proposed use of any alternative. The technical data shall consist of three parts:

- The first item must be the applicable code requirement for which an equivalency is being sought.
- The second item must include the reasons the code requirement cannot be met.

### *MISSION*

*We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.*



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644

Email [Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.7097

[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

- The third item in the documentation must include a detailed analysis of why the proposed alternative meets the level of safety intended by the code.

It is important that the analysis demonstrate the equivalency, not just state that it is equivalent. Incomplete requests will not be approved. Fire protection or safety features provided in the facility in excess of the minimum code requirements may also affect the equivalency. It is important to consider that fire safety usually consists of a system of protection, not just a set of independent features. When considering accepting an equivalency, the Fire Marshal will consider how the specific item being evaluated affects the entire fire safety system of the building.

If it is determined that the evidence presented is satisfactory proof of performance for the use intended, the Fire Marshal may approve the use of such alternative subject to the requirements of the SFPC. The Fire Marshal may require and consider a statement from a professional engineer, architect or other competent person as to the equivalency of the proposed modification.

As required by the SFPC the application for modification and the final decision of the fire official shall be in writing and will be recorded in the permanent records of the local enforcing agency.

The attached application form that must be used to request a SFPC modification. Modification requests must be addressed to Chief Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Office, 1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington VA 22201. Request may be submitted via hand delivery, U.S. mail, fax or e-mail. Requests submitted via fax or e-mail must have an original and signed copy received within 7 business days.

### *MISSION*

*We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.*



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644

Email [Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.7097

[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

### **APPLICATION FOR CODE MODIFICATION**

*Name of Business/Facility*

*Address of Business/Facility*

*Agent's or owner's (applicant) Name, Address, Telephone & E-mail.*

*Applicable fire code requirement for which an equivalency is being sought.*

#### *MISSION*

*We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.*



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644

Email [Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.7097

[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

*The reasons the fire code requirements cannot be met are.*

*How does the proposed alternative meet the level of safety as intended by the fire code?*

Print Applicant's Name

Signature of Applicant

Date

### MISSION

*We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.*