



Guidance for Permitting Storage High Pile New Construction

Reference the current adopted edition of the International Fire Code, IFC by the City of Mobile Municipal Ordinance.

Defined

Storage of combustible materials on pallet, in racks or shelves where the top of the storage is greater than 12 feet in height. High-piled combustible storage also includes certain high-hazard commodities, such as rubber tires, Group A plastics, flammable liquids, idle pallets and similar commodities, where the top of storage is greater than 6 feet in height.

Required documents for submission:

1. Floor plan of the building showing locations and dimensions of high-piled storage areas, aisle dimensions between each storage array, maximum pile volume for each storage array, location and classification of commodities in accordance with Section 3203 of IFC, location of banded or encapsulated commodities.
2. Detail plan page of racks to include rack height, tiers within each rack and clearance between top of the commodity and the sprinkler deflector for each storage arrangement. Provide dimensions and location of transverse and longitudinal flue spaces.
3. Fire protection plan page identifying all fire department access doors, fire protection systems, valves controlling water supply of ceiling and in-rack sprinklers, and smoke removal and curtain board systems.
4. Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan page required for the following situations:
 - a. high-piled storage area exceeds 500,000sq.ft. for Class I-IV commodities.
 - b. high-piled storage area exceeds 300,00sq.ft. for high-hazard commodities.
 - c. high-piled storage is located in a Group H occupancy.

d. high-piled storage is located in a Group F occupancy with an occupant load 500 or more or more than 100 persons above or below the level of exit discharge.

e. high-piled storage is located in a Group M occupancy with an occupant load 500 or more or more than 100 persons above or below the level of exit discharge.

Plans required to be stamped by a Fire Protection Engineer.

What your inspector will be looking for at the time of your inspection:

Approved storage layout plaque mounted at main entry in a secure and visible location.

Aisle dimensions painted/taped off with lettering stating “NO STORAGE ALLOWED” every 20 feet.

Fire extinguishers located at accessible and visible locations with storage in place.

Emergency lighting provided along egress pathways per code with storage in place.

Fire protection systems and electrical panel painted/taped off with lettering stating “NO STORAGE ALLOWED” within 3 foot circumference.

Fire sprinkler system has identification on control valves, a general information plaque and a hydraulic plate with installation date.

Confirm operation of smoke removal or curtain board systems.

Confirm all fire department access doors are properly identified on the exterior of the building and that there is marking to indicate “NO PARKING ALLOWED” 10 feet of each side of the door.