

# Florida Fire Code: Existing Buildings Timetable

## Existing Buildings to come under booster system requirements –

While new buildings have been subject to ERRCS (Emergency Responder Radio Communications System) codes for some time, Florida will soon require that existing buildings also meet these code requirements.

### DISCUSSION:

The Safer Buildings Coalition ([www.saferbuildings.org](http://www.saferbuildings.org)) monitors changes to local codes, while actively participating in the development and adoption of national codes via ICC and NFPA.

### KEY DATES:

- **Existing buildings** are required to comply by the Florida Fire Prevention Code beginning **January 1, 2022**
- By **December 31, 2019**, an existing building that is not in compliance with the requirements for minimum radio strength for fire department communications must apply for an appropriate permit and must demonstrate that the building will become compliant by January 1, 2022
- **Existing apartment buildings** are not required to comply until **January 1, 2025**. However, existing apartment buildings are required to apply for the appropriate permit for the required communications installation by **December 31, 2022**

### NEXT STEPS:

1. Develop relationships with local jurisdictions and monitor local amendments and practices.
2. Attend State and Local Fire Marshal conferences and seminars to stay up to date
3. Follow the Safer Buildings Coalition to keep up to date on code changes, and become a member to have a voice in future codes.

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## CODE EXCERPTS

### 633.202 Florida Fire Prevention Code.

18) The authority having jurisdiction shall determine the minimum radio signal strength for fire department communications in all new high-rise and existing high-rise buildings. Existing buildings are not required to comply with minimum radio strength for fire department communications and two-way radio system enhancement communications as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code until January 1, 2022. However, by December 31, 2019, an existing building that is not in compliance with the requirements for minimum radio strength for fire department communications must apply for an appropriate permit for the required installation with the local government agency having jurisdiction and must demonstrate that the building will become compliant by January 1, 2022. Existing apartment buildings are not required to comply until January 1, 2025. However, existing apartment buildings are required to apply for the appropriate permit for the required communications installation by December 31, 2022.

### 718.1085 (EXCERPT)

..the term “high-rise building” means a building that is greater than 75 feet in height where the building height is measured from the lowest level of fire department access to the floor of the highest occupiable level.



### FOR THE LATEST FLORIDA STATUTES:

Visit Online Sunshine ([www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)) – Find There:

**Florida Statutes**—a permanent collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters, parts, and sections. The Florida Statutes are updated annually by laws that create, amend, transfer, or repeal statutory material.

**Laws of Florida**—a compilation of all the laws, resolutions, and memorials passed during a legislative session. They are divided into two broad categories- General Laws and Special Laws. Bills vetoed by the Governor are not included.

*The Safer Buildings Coalition is a non-profit association whose mission is to make buildings safer for occupants and first responders by advocating for policies, standards, and codes for in-building technologies that further that mission.*