

**661—5.502(100) Child care centers for seven or more children.****5.502(1) “Application.”**

a. *“Life safety requirements.”* This section establishes life safety requirements for child care centers in which seven or more children receive care.

b. *“Regulations shall apply to all centers.”* Rules 661—5.500(100) through 661—5.502(100) shall apply to all child day care centers. Rules 661—5.500(100) through 661—5.502(100) shall constitute the minimum requirements for day care centers for approval by the state fire marshal’s office. Additional requirements may be established by other governmental agencies or governmental subdivisions.

c. *“Time for compliance.”* In existing childcare centers a reasonable time shall be allowed for compliance with any part of this rule, commensurate with the magnitude of the expenditure and the disruption of services. When alternate protection is installed and accepted the center shall be considered as conforming for the purposes of these regulations.

d. *“Additions or structural alterations.”* Additions or structural alterations to existing facilities must have written approval from the state fire marshal, and working plans and specifications must be submitted for review and approval.

**5.502(2) “Exit details.”**

a. *“Number of exits.”* Each floor occupied by children shall have not less than two approved remote means of egress. Additional exits shall be determined by the number of occupants.

b. *“Basement exits.”* Where children are located below the floor of exit discharge (basement) at least one exit directly to the outside to ground level shall be provided. No center shall be located more than one story below the ground. Any stairway to the floor above shall be cut by a fire barrier containing a rated door of at least 20-minute fire protection or a minimum of 1¾-inch solid bonded wood core. They shall be equipped with a self-closing device and positive latch.

c. *“Types of exits.”* Exits shall be of the following types or combinations thereof as defined by the National Fire Protection Association. At least two exits of the below types, remote from each other, shall be provided for every story or section of the building. At least one exit in every story or section shall be of type 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 as listed below. Exterior fire escape stairs, minimum of 44 inches in width, may be accepted as a second means of exit.

- (1) Horizontal exits.
- (2) Doors leading directly outside the buildings (without stairs).
- (3) Ramps.
- (4) Stairways, or outside stairs.
- (5) Rescinded IAB 2/15/06, effective 2/1/06.
- (6) Smoke towers.

d. *“Direct exits.”* At least one required exit from each floor shall lead directly or through an enclosed corridor, to the outside. A second or third required exit, where a more direct exit is impractical, may lead to a first floor lobby having ample and direct exit to the outside.

e. *“Exit doors shall not be locked.”* Exit doors shall not be locked against egress by bolt, key locks, hooks or padlocks. A latch type lock is permissible that locks against the outside entrance.

**5.502(3) “Doors.”**

a. *“Size.”* Each door in a means of egress shall not be less than 30 inches wide, 6 feet in height and reasonably covering the opening. If a door has a latch and is used by more than 50 people it shall be equipped with panic hardware.

b. *“Closet doors.”* Every closet door latch shall be such that children can open the door from the inside of the closet.

c. *“Emergency unlocking.”* Every door lock, except exit discharge, shall be designed to permit opening of the locked door from the outside in an emergency, and the opening device shall be readily accessible to the staff.

d. *“Doors protecting vertical openings.”* The doorway between the floor of exit discharge and any floor below shall be equipped with a self-closing labeled door of at least a 20-minute fire protection rating or a 1¾-inch solid bonded wood core door.

**5.502(4)** “*Interior finish.*” Interior finish in exits in child occupied spaces in the center shall be Class A in new centers and A or B in existing centers. See Table No. 5-C following 5.105(100).

**5.502(5)** “*Detection and extinguishing systems when needed.*” Detection and extinguishing systems shall comply to the following chart in regard to construction and number of stories.

a. “*Chart for detection and extinguishing systems—when needed.*”

		Number of stories				
Type of Construction	Number of Children	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Fire Resistive and Protected Noncombustible	7-15	4	2	2	2	2
	16 or more	3	2	2	2	2
Protected Wood Frame and Protected Ordinary	7-15	4	2	1	NP	NP
	16 or more	3	2	1	NP	NP
Heavy Timber	7-15	4	2	1	NP	NP
	16 or more	3	2	1	NP	NP
Unprotected Noncombustible	7-15	4	2	1	NP	NP
	16 or more	3	2	1	NP	NP
Unprotected Wood Frame and Unprotected Ordinary	7-15	4	NP	NP	NP	NP
	16 or more	2	NP	NP	NP	NP

Note 1—Sprinkler; Note 2—Complete Automatic Detection; Note 3—Manual Alarm; Note 4—Single Station Smoke Detection; Note 5—NP Not Permitted

“EXCEPTION:” Buildings where classrooms have a direct exit door to the outside are not required to have complete automatic detection. A manual alarm or single-station detector will be satisfactory.

b. “*Approved sprinkler system.*” Any required automatic sprinkler system shall be in accordance with approved standards for systems in light hazard occupancies, and shall be electrically interconnected with the manual fire alarm system. The main sprinkler control valve shall be electrically supervised so that at least a local alarm will sound when the valve is closed.

c. “*Complete automatic detection system.*” Requirements for automatic fire detection systems shall meet the following standards.

- (1) Automatically detect a fire.
- (2) Sound alarm signal throughout the premises for evacuation purposes.
- (3) Provide assurance the system is in operating condition by electric supervision.
- (4) Underwriters Laboratories listed equipment to be used throughout the system.
- (5) Provide a manual test switch and tested monthly and noted for inspection purposes.
- (6) Installation of equipment and wiring shall be in a neat and workmanship like manner.
- (7) To include smoke, or products of combustion, detection devices when required by the fire marshal.

(8) Properly located manual alarm stations.

(9) Where fire detection systems are installed to meet the requirements of this regulation, they shall be approved electrically supervised systems. Detectors shall be approved combined rate of rise and fixed temperature type detectors 135°F, or smoke, or products of combustion type, and properly installed. In spaces where high temperature is normal, devices having a higher operating point may be used. Operation of a detection or alarm shall cause an alarm which is audible throughout the center. In existing centers where “fixed temperature only detectors” are already installed, they need not be replaced until such time that a new head needs to be installed. Detector units shall be installed in every room and concealed area of the child care center.

d. “*Single station detectors.*” Every single station detector of product of combustion other than heat shall be mounted on the ceiling or wall at a point of central location in the corridor or in child occupied areas. No detector shall be mounted less than 12 inches of ceiling level. Care shall be exercised

to ensure the installation will not interfere with the operating characteristics of the detectors. When activated the detector shall provide an alarm. The detectors shall be tested monthly by the operator of the center or the operator's designee and a record kept for inspection purposes.

*e. "Manual fire alarms."*

(1) "Installation." Manual fire alarm stations shall be provided on each floor and so located that the alarm station is not more than 75 feet from any area within the building. Horns or bells that provide a distinctive sound different from any other bell system shall be provided that will give audible warning to all occupants of the building in case of a fire or other emergency. A test system shall be provided for the purpose of conducting fire drills and tests of the alarm system.

(2) "Approval of systems." Factory Mutual or Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., equipment and component parts shall be used in the installation of the fire alarm system. The electrical energy for the fire alarm system shall be on a separate circuit and shall be taken off the utility service to the center building ahead of the entrance disconnect.

(3) "Extension of system." Whenever the fire marshal determines it advisable, it may be required that the fire alarm system be extended or designed to provide automatic fire detection devices in unsupervised areas, boiler rooms, storerooms and shop areas.

(4) "Mounting." Each station shall be securely mounted. The bottom of each station will be not less than 4½ feet and not more than 6 feet above the floor level.

(5) "Location." Manual fire alarm boxes shall be distributed throughout the protected area so that they are unobstructed, readily accessible, and located in the normal path of exit from the area.

**5.502(6)** "*Fire drills.*" Fire drills shall be held at least once a month and recorded. A fire emergency plan shall be written and posted in a conspicuous place.

**5.502(7)** "*Extinguishers.*" Each child occupied area shall be protected by a Class "A" fire extinguisher 2A rating, and in areas where heating or cooking units are used there shall be a "5" lb. BC extinguisher 2B rating.

**5.502(8)** "*Heating equipment.*"

*a. "Location."* No furnace, space heater or portable heater shall be located in child occupied areas. EXCEPTION: Approved suspended unit heaters may be used, except in means of egress and sleeping areas, provided such heaters are located high enough to be out of the reach of persons using the area and provided they are equipped with the proper safety devices. Fireplaces may be used providing the fireplace is equipped with a heat tempered glass fireplace enclosure guaranteed against breakage up to a temperature of 650°F. If, in the opinion of the fire marshal, special hazards are present, a lock on the enclosure and other safety precautions may be required.

*b. "Combustion air."* If solid partitions are used to provide the separation of the furnace room from other areas, provision for outside air shall be made to assure adequate combustion for the heating unit.

**5.502(9)** "*Floor coverings.*" For carpet see Table No. 5-D following 5.105(100). Wall hangings and window treatments shall be flame-retardant or rendered flame-retardant.

**5.502(10)** "*Maintenance.*"

*a. "Regular and proper maintenance."* Regular and proper maintenance of electric service, heating plants, alarm systems, sprinkler systems, fire doors and exit facilities shall be accomplished.

*b. "Storerooms."* Storerooms shall be maintained in a neat and proper manner at all times.

*c. "Excessive storage."* Excessive storage of combustible materials such as paper cartons, magazines, paints, sprays, old clothing, furniture and similar materials shall be prohibited at all times.