

Industry Bulletin
September 12, 2017
New Requirements for
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Systems Used in
Beverage Dispensing Applications

On January 1, 2016, the Denver Fire Department (DFD) issued a new policy regulating the use of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in beverage dispensing applications. This policy was further codified with the adoption of the 2016 Denver Fire Code Amendments on March 10, 2016.

This new regulation is in response to incidents in restaurants, convenience stores, breweries, and other locations around the nation involving hazardous concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that have led to injuries and even death to customers, employees, and emergency responders.

Effective January 1, 2018, existing carbon dioxide (CO₂) systems used in beverage dispensing applications with more than one hundred pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in use, located within existing buildings in the City and County of Denver shall be retrofitted and modified to comply with Denver Fire Code Section 5307. Denver Fire Code Section 1107.1.1 requires this retroactive requirement. The twenty-four (24) month period from January 1, 2016 until January 1, 2018 was intended to allow businesses with existing carbon dioxide systems sufficient time to become compliant before January 2018.

Businesses that use carbon dioxide (CO₂) subject to the requirements of Denver Fire Code Section 5307 shall complete one of the following by January 1, 2018 to be considered in compliance:

1. Its location shall be permitted, inspected, and approved with issuance of a DFD operational permit.
2. Its location shall be permitted with pending inspection and approval within 90 days of permit issuance.
3. It shall formally submit construction drawings and specifications to Development Services for DFD review.
4. Its location shall reduce the in-use quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to one hundred (100) pounds or less.

Businesses that use carbon dioxide (CO₂) and do not comply by January 1, 2018 must apply to the Denver Fire Department for a ninety (90) day maximum Temporary Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) use permit at a cost of \$250.00. Per Denver Fire Code section 105.6.51: a temporary permit is required when a required permit has not been obtained. The fee for a temporary permit shall be double that of the cost of the required permit. Additionally, businesses will still need to pay any regular permit fees applicable to any required permit for retrofitting or modifying the existing carbon dioxide system.

Construction drawings and specifications must be formally submitted to Development Services for fire department review prior to the expiration of a temporary permit.

The Denver Fire Department may seek any available remedies authorized in the Denver Fire Code to businesses that use carbon dioxide (CO₂) and fail to comply with the compliance date of January 1, 2018 and/or the temporary permit expiration date.