Codewords are used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to provide information regarding acceptable practice.

Issue: Date: May 12, 2009

Subject: Dry Cleaners

Section of regulation: IFC 2006, Section 1208 & 1208.2

Question: Does Harris County exempt any dry cleaning plants from the sprinkler requirements of IFC Chapter 12?

Answer: Yes, performance-based plan submittals may be considered. Dry cleaning facilities (F-1 occupancy) that are otherwise compliant with IBC and IFC requirements and will use dry cleaning machinery that employs the following.

1. Has an on board Fuel L.E.L. Analyzer
   and/or
2. Produces an inert gas enriched, closed system environment during the dry cleaning process.

The request for performance based review shall contain detailed plans showing the Machine's performance criteria as well as compliance with other applicable code requirements, including separation from other occupancies. Details of solvent storage and refill procedures must also be submitted.

Performance-based review requests for facilities using machines other than those listed above must show:

1. An alternative fire suppression system, meeting 903.4 IFC 2006 Ed.
2. 3-hour fire rated walls to separate the facility from other occupancies.
3. The dry cleaning machinery must be located in a 1-hour fire rated control room to prevent the spread of fire throughout the facility.

Building Official,
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal,
Harris County, Texas