



**BUREAU OF
FIRE PREVENTION
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BULLETIN**

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Purpose: This Bulletin clarifies requirements for Group A2L Refrigerants and Refrigerating Systems (pending Fire Code revision)

Topics: Fire Department permit and supervision requirements of A2L refrigerant systems; storage of Group A2L refrigerants; approval of emergency alarm systems associated with A2L refrigerant detection systems.

Relevant code sections: FC102.8, FC105.4, FC606, and FC908.2

I. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

The New York City Fire Department issues this Bureau of Fire Prevention Bulletin to clarify storage, supervision and permit requirements applicable to Group A2L refrigerants, pending amendments to the 2022 New York City Fire Code (FC). This Bulletin also clarifies requirements for Fire Department approval of emergency alarm systems associated with A2L refrigerant detection systems. This Bulletin is intended for design professionals, building owners, operating engineers and contractors involved in the design, installation, operation and maintenance of A2L Refrigerating Systems.

Group A2L refrigerants were developed in recent years to replace certain refrigerants with a higher global warming potential that are currently used in many air conditioning and other refrigerating systems. However, unlike the refrigerants they are designed to replace, Group A2L refrigerants are liquefied flammable gases subject to greater fire safety precautions.

The information contained in this Bulletin does not supersede applicable laws, rules and regulations.



II. DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A2L REFRIGERATING SYSTEMS

Design and installation requirements for refrigerating systems are under the jurisdiction of the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB). Inquiries about design and installation of A2L refrigerating systems should be directed to DOB at ConstructionCodes@buildings.nyc.gov.

Exception: Design and installation documents for required emergency alarm systems must be submitted to the Fire Department for review and approval (in accordance with FC105.4 and 908.2). When Group A2L refrigerants are used, the machinery room must be provided with a refrigerant detection system and an emergency alarm system in accordance with DOB rule 1 RCNY §7011-01. Design documents detailing the refrigerant detection system and emergency alarm system must be submitted for approval to the Bureau of Fire Prevention via FDNY Business portal using the following link: [Fire Alarm Application](#). You may email FDNY Customer Service Center with any questions at FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov.

III. STORAGE OF GROUP A2L REFRIGERANTS IN REFRIGERATING SYSTEM MACHINERY ROOMS AND OTHER STORAGE AREAS.

Pending amendments to the Fire Code, Fire Department will apply the provisions set forth in FC Table 5003.1.1(1), which specifies the maximum allowable quantity (MAQ) per control area for liquefied flammable gases such as Group A2L refrigerants. Additionally, A2L refrigerants must be stored in containers meeting the requirements of FC5303.

A modification (variance) pursuant to FC104.8 must be obtained to exceed the quantities set forth in FC Table 5003.1.1(1). Modification requests must be submitted to the Bureau of Fire Prevention via FDNY Business portal using the following link: [Fire Code Modification \(Variance\)](#).

IV. SUPERVISION

Pending amendments to the Fire Code to address Group A2L refrigerants and A2L refrigerating systems, the Fire Department will apply the supervision requirements applicable to Group A1 refrigerants in accordance with FC606.1.1 to A2L refrigerating systems.

V. PERMIT

Pending amendments to the Fire Code, all A2L refrigerating systems must follow the requirements of an A1 refrigerating system for operating permits.