




Department of Permitting Services
 Division of Fire Prevention and Fire Code Compliance
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Code/Year	Section of Code	Title of Code Section/Subsection/Policy
Montgomery Code Chapter 22	22-3	Construction and scope of chapter
<p>Statement/Background of Issue:</p> <p>MCFSC, Section 22-3 refers to a distinct hazard as a threshold for compliance with more stringent regulations without providing definition for the term “distinct hazard”.</p> <p>Division Interpretation/ Policy:</p> <p>A distinct hazard is defined as any existing or newly presented condition, circumstance or situation that: (1) unreasonably diminishes the level of fire safety, life safety, or property protection available in the structure or premises; (2) could reasonably result in a fire, explosion or other dangerous condition; or (3) unreasonably compromises the safety of fire fighters or emergency responders. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, listed below:</p> <p><u>Distinct Hazard Examples</u> (non-exhaustive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly flammable interior finishes (all surfaces) • Fully or partially obstructed paths of travel • Fully or partially obstructed exitways • Unauthorized modifications to fire protection and life safety systems • Non-functional fire protection and life safety systems • Ineffective fire protection and life safety systems • Unauthorized alterations or additions to the structure • Unauthorized change to the building’s use and occupancy 		
Interpretation/Policy No. FPCC 17-2018	Date 11-06-2018	Division Chief  Hemal Mustafa