

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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Pre-Implementation of NFPA 855 (2023) and 2024 IFC Provisions Related to Energy Storage Systems, Lithium-Ion Batteries, and Micromobility Devices

The State Building Code Council of Washington State (SBCC) has extended a previously approved emergency rule to allow fire code officials to utilize the 2023 edition of NFPA 855 for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems. This emergency rule had support from regulatory agencies and industry when it was first introduced in November of 2022 to the SBCC. The existing emergency rule expired in May of 2023 and with the delay of the implementation of the 2021 Washington State Codes it was necessary to create an extension.

An [amended Chapter 12](#) of the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC) was also approved by the SBCC for Off-Cycle Rule making. This chapter is particularly relevant for the installation and maintenance of batteries and energy storage systems (ESS). The proposed changes bring forward the latest code language from the 2024 IFC into the Washington State 2021 Fire Code.

The 2021 WA State Fire Code also has two new sections addressing Lithium-ion batteries and powered mobility devices such as electric scooters and bikes. Section 322 Lithium-Ion and Lithium Metal Batteries and section 323 Powered Micromobility Devices and Powered Industrial Trucks were developed to help address the hazards associated with the use of lithium-ion batteries. The new code language is from the 2024 IFC (International Fire Code) and was brought forward early in Washington State to assist in regulating this industry. The first printing of the State's [insert pages](#) are a good source for Chapter 3 modifications.

Like the State codes, the 2021 Seattle Fire Code is pre-implementing the 2024 code provisions to provide the most up to date code protections to our residents and our firefighters with respect to these quickly evolving technologies.

The 2021 Washington Fire Code with these amendments is expected to take effect no earlier than October 29, 2023. The 2021 Seattle Fire Code will take effect on the same timeline as the State's.

Additional Resources To Prepare for ESS Project Submittal

Seattle Fire Department Information Sheet "[Energy Storage Systems – Code and Permit Requirements in Seattle](#)".

Seattle Fire Department [permit applications](#) and [permit conditions](#) are both available once you search on the relevant permit code. Permit Code 6401-Install "*Installation of Battery Systems*", 1206-Install "*Installation of Capacitor Energy Storage Systems*", or 1207-Install "*Installation of Stationary Fuel Cell Systems*". The permits are inspected by SFD's Special Hazards Unit.