

**ANDHRA PRADESH STATE DISASTER RESPONSE AND
FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**II. Notification of Alternatives to Water Sprinklers in Design of
Fire Safety Systems-Reg.**

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**1) The basis of power conferred on Director General, AP Fire
services to issue No Objection Certificate for Fire Safety:**

(1) As per Section 13 of A.P. Fire Service Act, 1999 Issue of No Objection Certificate: (1) Any person proposing to construct a building of more than 15 meters height for commercial/business purpose, 18 meters and above height for residential purpose, and buildings of public congregation like schools, cinema halls, function halls, religious places, which are more than 500Sq. Meter in plot area or 6 meters and above in height shall apply to the Director General or any member of the service duly authorized by him in this behalf, before submission of such building plans to the authority or officer competent to approve the same under the relevant law, for the time being in force, for a no objection certificate along with such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) The Director General or any member of the service duly authorized by him in this behalf, shall within sixty days of receipt of such application, on being '**satisfied**' about the provision of fire prevention and safety measures as stipulated in the [National Building Code Guidelines, as amended from time to time] or any other law for the time being in force regulating such purpose or activity, shall issue a no objection certificate with such conditions as may be considered necessary and if not so satisfied, reject the same for reasons to be recorded in writing.

2) The purpose of this notification:

The purpose is to define and elaborate the word "**satisfied**" to include the following six alternative technologies to conventional water sprinkler system in all types of structures /Occupancies. However, the choice is left to the managements.

1. Installation of Temperature and Heat Sensors connected to hooters.
2. Aerosol Automatic extinguishing devices.
3. Dry Chemical Powder modular system.
4. CO₂ flooding system.
5. N₂ flooding system.
6. The clean agent flooding system.

3) Nature of the National Building Code of India:

*The National Building Code of India(NBC), promulgated by the Bureau of Indian Standards, is a comprehensive building code containing **guidelines** for regulating building construction activities across the country. Relevant paragraphs of the "Foreword" to the NBC are extracted hereunder:*

"The Code contains regulations which can be immediately adopted or enacted for use by various departments, municipal administrations and public bodies. It lays down a set of minimum provisions designed to protect the safety of the public about structural sufficiency, fire hazards and health aspects of buildings; so long as these basic requirements are met, the choice of materials and methods of design and construction are left to the ingenuity of the building professionals".

"The provisions of this Code are intended to serve as a model for adoption by local bodies, Public Works Departments and other government construction departments, and other construction agencies. Existing PWD codes, municipal byelaws and other regulatory media could either be replaced by the National Building Code of India or suitably modified to cater to local requirements in accordance with the provisions of the Code. Any difficulties encountered in adoption of the Code could be brought to the notice of the National Building Code Sectional Committee for corrective action".

*From the above, it is evident that **NBC does not have the force of law and is not statutory** in nature. It serves as a **Model Code** for adoption by all agencies involved in the building construction works.*

4) The intent and objectives behind Part-4 of National Building Code which deals with "Fire and Life Safety":

An extract from the Foreword to Part 4 of the NBC:

*"Absolute safety from fire is not attainable in practice. The objective of this Part is to specify measures that will provide that degree of safety from fire which can be reasonably achieved. **(The Code endeavors to avoid requirements that might involve unreasonable hardships or unnecessary inconvenience or interference with normal use)** and occupancy of buildings but insists upon compliance with minimum standards of fire safety necessary for building occupants and users".*