



**State of Alaska**  
Department of Public Safety  
**Division of Fire and Life Safety**

Sarah Palin, Governor  
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

April 13, 2009

Policy 09-01

Educational E-1/F-1 Shop Separation Requirements for New Construction

This policy is for all new construction and advocates for physical separation between dedicated combination shop areas and the rest of an educational facility according to International Building Code (IBC) Table 602 "Fire Resistive Rating Requirements for Exterior Walls Based on Fire Separation Distance". All combination shops will be classified an F-1 Occupancy. This separation does not eliminate the requirement of fire protection suppression or alarm systems as currently required in the IBC as adopted by the State of Alaska for educational facilities.

A combination shop is defined as a shop where multiple skills are taught using dissimilar and non compatible processes as commonly performed in rural schools. An example would be a shop that teaches the subjects of wood working, sheet metal, welding and small engine repair in the same shop.

To teach shop subjects using the various equipment types simultaneously is a hazard and is a violation of the International Fire and Building Codes as adopted by the State of Alaska. This policy is the result of repetitive shop fires destroying educational facilities in Rural Alaska.

This policy is not intended for implementation in educational facilities that have individual shops designated for specific subjects and are constructed with appropriate fire walls and barriers without openings between them as required under the International Building Code.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact the Plans Review Bureau.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Tyler".

David L. Tyler  
Alaska State Fire Marshal

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