



Yakima County Fire Marshal's Office

Public Information Handout FP-7

Non UL 300 Commercial Kitchen Hood Suppression Systems

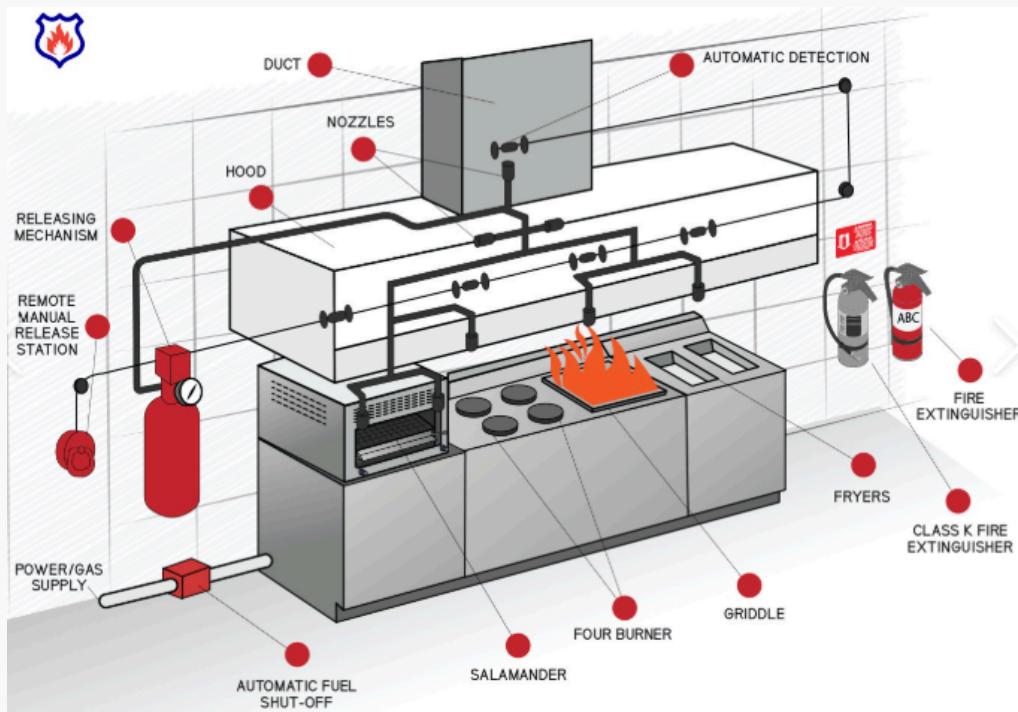


International Fire Code 904.13

The International Fire Code (IFC), NFPA 96 Chapter 11, and UL 300 together form the standards to which the installation, testing, and maintenance of commercial kitchen hood systems is held to.

UL 300 Compliant

UL 300 compliant systems were first required in 1994 in response to an industry shift away from cooking with animal fats to cooking with vegetable oil, along with the use of cooking equipment that is significantly more insulated. The combined changes create a fire risk that didn't previously exist and cannot be adequately contained by our prior generations of fire suppression systems.



The following information will help determine if an existing kitchen hood suppression system must be upgraded to a UL 300 compliant system.

- If vegetable oil is used as the cooking media.
- If cooking equipment has been repositioned.
- If cooking equipment has been upgraded or replaced.
- If the suppression system cannot be replaced.

Common Questions

Question: I have one quote for \$1,200 and another for \$4,500. Both quotes claim their work will bring my hood fire extinguishing system up to code. What steps should I take to ensure the work complies with UL 300?

Answer: Try to obtain at least three proposals from licensed contractors to perform the work. Make sure that they include permit fees, plans submittal, and an acceptance test.

Question: How long do I have to accomplish this work?

Answer: Provided the suppression system is operational, the upgrade must be completed no later than 6 months from notification. Based on conditions, a shorted time frame may be required.

Question: What regulation requires upgrade to a UL 300 Fire Suppression System?

Answer: International Fire Code Section 904.13

Where changes in the cooking media, positioning of cooking equipment, or replacement of cooking equipment occur in existing commercial cooking systems, the automatic fire extinguishing system shall be required to comply with the applicable provisions of Section 904.13.

Question: Does IFC 904.12 require an upgrade to existing non-compliant UL 300 hoods when a UL 300 system is being installed?

Answer: Yes, however that does not necessarily mean the hood has to be replaced. It may be possible to modify the hood to bring it into compliance.