

January 5th, 2021

RM of Sasman No. 336
Box 130
Kuroki, SK
S0A 1Y0

**Re: Limiting Distances and Fire Department Response
RM of Sasman No. 336, Saskatchewan**

Recently, I have been contacted by drafting firms / professional designers asking if the requirements regarding the Limiting Distance and Fire Department Response, Section 9.10.15.3. in the National Building Code are being enforced in your municipality. These requirements state:

"9.10.15.3.(1) Except for the purpose of applying Sentences 9.10.15.2.(2), 9.10.15.4.(3) and 9.10.15.5.(13), a limiting distance equal to half the actual limiting distance shall be used as input to the requirements of this Subsection, where

- a) the time from receipt of notification of a fire by the fire department until the first fire department vehicle arrives at the building exceeds 10 min in 10% or more of all calls to the building, and
- b) any storey in the building is not sprinklered."

The limiting distance referred to in this section is that distance from an exposing building face (building wall) facing a property line measured at right angles to the building wall.

The requirement listed above is only concerned with the time from receipt of notification of a fire by the fire department until the arrival of the first fire department vehicle at the building. It specifies a 10-minute time limit must be met in more than 90% of the calls to a building served by the fire department. This reliability level and provision for flexibility is essentially consistent with NFPA 1710, "Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments."

Where the 10-minute limit cannot be met by the fire department at least 90% of the time, the building code requires that when determining the type of wall construction, a value corresponding to half the actual limiting distance must be used.

The result of this requirement would include one of the two following options:

1. The minimum setback for a building would need to be doubled what it would currently be permitted. For example, a house permitted to be located 4' from the property line would need to be located not less than 8' to the property line.
2. **If** the setback for a building is not increased, then the construction of the walls facing the property line would need to be changed to comply with the following:
 - a. The exterior walls facing the property lines would need to be clad with metal or noncombustible cladding (i.e.: masonry, cementitious stucco,)
 - b. The cladding would need to be installed without furring members over gypsum sheathing at least 12.7 mm thick or over masonry,
 - c. The interior of the walls would need to be covered with ½" Type X (fire rated) drywall.



To determine the building code requirements during the plan review for any new construction within your municipality, Meridan Inspections will require a letter from the local fire department and signed by the fire chief. The letter must state whether the fire department can meet the 10-minute time limit in more than 90% of the calls to a building served by the fire department from receipt of notification of a fire by the fire department until the arrival of the first fire department vehicle at the building.

If the fire department cannot meet the 10-minute time limit in more than 90% of the calls, all new residential buildings constructed will need to comply with the requirements listed above, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Remi Boissonnault
Building Official