



# Standards for Open Flame Cooking Devices on Balconies, Patios And Decks

## I. PURPOSE

These requirements apply to the use and storage of open flame cooking devices on balconies, patios, and decks of residential structures having more than two dwelling units (i.e. apartments, condominiums, and townhouses other than townhouses located on individual parcels separated by recorded property lines).

## II. FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS

Open-flame cooking devices such as charcoal burners and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) burners shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within ten (10) feet of combustible construction. [CFC 308.1.4]

*Exceptions:*

- A. One- and two-family dwellings
- B. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
- C. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity – small camping style tanks).

## III. EXPLANATION OF CODE REQUIREMENTS

Open-Flame Cooking Devices: It is not acceptable to operate a charcoal barbeque unit on a combustible (e.g., wood) balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction, including the surrounding walls and overhang. It is acceptable to operate such a barbeque on a balcony if the balcony, deck, overhang and adjacent walls are of non-combustible construction or if the balcony is protected overhead by an automatic fire sprinkler system. It is okay to store a charcoal barbeque unit on a combustible balcony.

LPG Fueled Cooking Devices: It is not acceptable to store or operate an LPG barbecue with a LPG fuel container size greater than 1 pound LPG capacity on a combustible balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction, including the surrounding walls and overhang. It is acceptable to store or operate such a barbecue on a balcony if the balcony, deck, overhang, and adjacent walls are of non-combustible construction, or if the balcony, deck or overhang is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. [Note: NFPA 58 prohibits the transport of LPG containers with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound LPG capacity) through common building areas (i.e., enclosed interior stairways, elevators, exit stairways), so most barbecues of this type will be limited to ground floor use with direct access to the area of use.]