



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Interior
General Directorate of Civil Defense

Regulation of Fire Protection and Pharmacies and Safety in Pharmaceutical Warehouses

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2024 – 1446

Chapter 1

(Definitions)

Article (1) Definitions: The terminologies in this regulation means:

1. Pharmacy: the Science or practice of the preparation and dispensing of medical drugs.
2. Pharmacist: Anyone who holds a Bachelor Degree from one of the pharmacy colleges in Saudi Arabia or equivalent of other pharmacy colleges recognized in the Kingdom.
3. Pharmacy and pharmaceutical warehouses: are public or private pharmacies or wholesale drug stores or private warehouses or pharmaceutical factories or medical offices or pharmaceutical laboratories.
4. The Law: Civil Defense Law issued by the Royal Decree No. M/10 and dated 10/5/1406 H and all other relevant regulations.
5. Civil Defense Representative: The authorized person or persons by the General Directorate of Civil Defense, or one of its centers to carry out inspection, forfeiture, and investigation of violations as per the rules and procedures specified in the relevant Regulation, to ensure the safety of the building, and safety of firefighting equipment, and tools.
6. The Relevant authority: the Ministry of Interior, the General Directorate of Civil Defense and other public authorities involved in pharmacies and drug stores license.
7. Safety Officer: according to Article 25 of the Civil Defense Law, the safety officer is the person (of the establishment staff or other) appointed or assigned to be responsible for all safety and security matters. The property owner (private property) or the licensee is responsible for safety in all cases following the regulation issued in this regard.



8. Saudi Standards:

- a) Saudi Standards: issued by the Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization, SASO.
- b) International Standards: international specifications approved by SASO, official documents to be submitted to prove all safety rules and requirements are available in the equipment or tool and approved by SASO.

Chapter 2

General terms and conditions

Article (2): This regulation is about the conditions of safety within civil defense scope without considering the rest of the health conditions and the process related to medicines or other medical supplies and other conditions related to organizing the practice of the business, which are related to the Ministry of Health and other relevant bodies.

Article (3): The safety officer shall assign a register called (safety and firefighting record) according to the application form prepared by Civil Defense. All pages are stamped with the seal of the Civil Defense. All the monthly inspections and periodic tests of fire, monitoring, alarm methods, the dates, results, repair works and other data are recorded in this register. Part of this record is dedicated to the building inspection and maintenance works and the building's electrical installations.



Article (4): The safety officer undertakes in the event of any accident involving a high degree of risk to try and isolate or stop the source of danger immediately and to evacuate workers from the dangerous areas in the building and to contact Civil Defense center immediately to consider the procedure that must be taken.

Article (5): All workers in the drug warehouses must be trained on the fire & rescue, and ambulance in schools and national training institutes approved by the General Directorate of Civil Defense provided that the training requesting party bears the costs of such. Workers numbers and their nationalities must be confirmed.

Article (6): The safety officer undertakes to conduct monthly inspections and tests every month for safety means and fire & alarm equipment and to repair any malfunction or defect immediately after discovered, and he may inform the relevant Civil Defense center to choose a suitable date to attend the tests. Civil Defense representative will sign the safety record as a proof of attending.

Article (7) According to article (20) of the Civil Defense Law, the licensee shall not be permitted to establish any new drug warehouses, renewing, renovating or expanding the existent warehouse until he submits a technical study prepared by one of the technical offices specialized in safety and alarm and firefighting works and approved by the General Directorate of Civil Defense. This study explains the extent of compliance with the rules mentioned in this regulation and the existing drug warehouses will be allowed a period of one year from



the time of issuing this Regulation in order to apply the requirements and instructions stated in this regulation.

Article (8) The office that prepared the study mentioned above have to answer to the Civil Defense and other relevant authorities about the accuracy of the study and monitoring its implementation. The office will undertake to provide a final certificate confirming the drug warehouse compliance with the terms and conditions included in this Regulation. The office shall be considered responsible in solidarity with the warehouse owner for any default or neglect in this regard.

Article (9) violations of this regulation shall be controlled, investigated and imposed as per Civil Defense Law and the regulations or instructions issued by the Civil Defense governing these matters.

Chapter 3

(Safety Conditions and Requirements)

Article (10) Location & Constructions

1. The location of the pharmacy or the drug warehouse must meet the requirements of the relevant authorities of the Ministry of Health, municipalities and others.
2. The building must be of non-flammable materials and fire resistant for at least two hours.
3. It is not allowed to set up pharmacies and drug warehouses underground (basements) or within gas stations range or near dangerous locations (welding workshops – chemical and radioactive materials laboratories and warehouses).
4. The warehouse area should not exceed 1,000 m².



Article (11) installations and electrical equipment:

1. Extensions and electrical installations must be carried out by a specialized technical authority, and all electrical equipment must comply with Saudi standards.
2. Extensions and electrical installations must be inside protective pipes/tubes and exposed extensions are not accepted.
3. Backup light source must be provided in the drug warehouses with an independent power source that comply with the nature of the facility and sufficient to supply light for a period of two hours at least during emergencies.
4. All electrical appliances and installations must be grounded.
5. All new electrical installations and equipment inside the pharmacy and drug warehouse must be fully inspected and tested upon first installation. After that, the necessary maintenance is carried out periodically by specialized technicians.
6. Switches and sub-distribution boards should be located in visible and easy to reach areas.
7. The main switch and main distribution board must be placed in a suitable place and require the following:
 - a) To be near the main entrances.
 - b) Instruction signs placed to indicate the main and sub switches and explaining the use of each switch.
 - c) If there are illuminated panels/signs on the building front and roofs, they must be equipped with a circuit breaker in a suitable place and covered with a glass panel.
8. Install a lightning rod as per Civil Defense specifications.
9. Carry out periodic maintenance to all extensions, connections and electrical appliances, by a specialized technical entity and authorized in this field.



Article (12) Ventilation and air conditioning systems:

1. When selecting the locations of the external units of the air conditioner, it should be away from areas that are fire risk.
2. The main ducts for the a/c unit must pass through vertical or horizontal corridors made of non-combustible materials with suitable openings with fireproof doors to facilitate maintenance works.
3. When burning the air conditioning channels for the walls and the fire-proof roofs in the building should be fire resistant to the same degree of resistance to the walls and be closed by the same work by the walls and roofs for fire.
4. Ventilation and chillers ducts must be equipped with smoke detectors that automatically shut down the entire unit when smoke detected, and at the same operate exhaust fans to extract smoke outside the building.
5. The insulation materials used for air ducts from the inside and outside should be of non-combustible.
6. Providing natural and mechanical ventilation to ensure air regeneration and no accumulation of fumes, gases or dust.
7. The temperature of the site should not exceed (25C°) and a thermometer is placed to measure temperatures continuously.
8. The periodical maintenance of all air conditioners and its accessories must be carried out by a specialized technical entity authorized in this field.

Article (13) Preventive Safety Instructions: Comply with the executive regulations of the pharmacy practice law issued by the Royal Decree No (M/18) and dated (18/2/1398).



Article (14) Firefighting methods

1. For the pharmacy:
 - a) The pharmacy must be equipped with the necessary number of manual fire extinguishers, one dry chemical powder extinguisher (12 kg) per (50 meters) of area with a minimum number of (2) dry chemical powder extinguisher (12 kg) for each pharmacy no matter how small the area.
 - b) The pharmacy is equipped with an early fire detection system connected to red or blue exterior lighting and an external alarm bell that works in the event of a fire.
2. For the warehouse:
 - a) The warehouses must be equipped with the suitable manual fire extinguishers following the rates and the minimum mentioned in paragraph 1 (for the Pharmacy).
 - b) The warehouse is equipped with an automatic fire sprinklers system and an external nozzles network (not less than two).
 - c) The warehouse is equipped with automatic alarm system and manual alarm systems.
 - d) Appropriate water tanks must be provided for the implementation of paragraphs (b & c).
3. The authority in charge of the site (drug warehouse) undertakes to submit a technical study that includes a complete and detailed plan of safety and firefighting equipment to the relevant Civil Defense Department for review, and then approve the appropriate equipment after inspecting the site.
4. Fire extinguishers as per SASO standards.
5. Fire extinguishers are placed or hanged in visible places, near doors and exits so that they are easy to reach and use when necessary.
6. Each extinguisher must carry instructions on how to use and the dates of last recharge and maintenance.



Article (15) Escape routes:

a) For pharmacies:

The necessary exit methods must be available according to the pharmacy area to ensure evacuation within a period of three minutes during emergencies such as fire, God forbid.

b) For drug warehouses:

1. The instructions included in the Regulation of storage warehouses, issued by HRH the Minister of Interior and the Chairman of the Civil Defense Council shall be applied.
 2. It is not allowed to place or install any kind of furniture, barriers, equipment or anything that would reduce the width of the escape exits or hinder its use.
 3. The escape exit must be always ready to use, to serve the maximum of its capacity, and it is prohibited to be used for any other purpose other than the intended.
 4. The escape exit must not be covered/coated with any combustible material or may cause slipping or tripping.
 5. The net height of the emergency exits must not be less than (2.2) meters and the width not less than (1.5) meters.
 6. The resistance of walls, floors and ceilings of the escape routes must be of the same of the building walls and pillars/beams.
 7. The number of emergency exits is not less than two exits.
- c) Civil Defense approval is required on how convenient of the escape routes for the site after reviewing the blueprints/designs.



Additional requirements for drug warehouses

Article (16) In addition to the previous conditions, the following requirements must be considered for drug warehouses:

1. The warehouse must meet all safety requirements and conditions in accordance with the Regulation of Safety conditions in Warehouses issued by the Civil Defense, taking into consideration the method of storage (qualitative classification) and preventing the mixing of active materials and classifies and stores them under the supervision of specialized chemists.
2. The provision of necessary first aid kits in accordance with the potential risks within the warehouse.
3. It is absolutely prohibited to perform any medical or chemical formulations inside the warehouses. These facilities are designed to receive and store pharmaceutical packages in preparation for distribution.
4. The storage area should be divided into a receiving and handling area, and a storage area with suitable shelves and an isolated area for retrieving the damaged and expired from the warehouse or pharmacy.
5. Management offices (services), toilets and other service areas must be completely separated from the storage area.

