



**Department of Business Regulation
Office of the State Fire Marshal**

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN NUMBER 2025-01

Kitchen Exhaust System Cleaning Certifications

This Bulletin is applicable to all authorities having jurisdiction (“AHJ”) pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.5-1 regarding the inspection of buildings, structures, or other places where any combustible material has, may, or is liable to accumulate and become dangerous as a fire menace. This Bulletin addresses circumstances covered by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., 2018 edition, with annexes (“NFPA”), except those portions specifically reserved, deleted, altered, added to, or otherwise amended as outlined in 450-RICR-00-00-07, RI Fire Code (the “RI Fire Code 7”), 450-RICR-00-00-1, Fire Safety Code Sections 1 Through 6 (“RI Fire Code 1-6”), and/or 450-RICR-00-00-8, the RI Life Safety Code (“RILSC”). This Bulletin specifically refers to the requirements of NFPA 96, the *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations* (“NFPA 96”).

NFPA 96 § 11.6.1: “If, upon inspection, the exhaust system is found to be contaminated with deposits from grease-laden vapors, the contaminated portions of the exhaust system shall be cleaned by a properly trained, qualified, and certified person(s) acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.”

NFPA 96 § 11.6.2: “Hoods, grease removal devices, fans, ducts, and other appurtenances shall be cleaned to remove combustible contaminants prior to surfaces becoming heavily contaminated with grease or oily sludge.”

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (“OSFM”) has become aware of circumstances regarding industrial commercial exhaust system cleaning services that may affect compliance with the cleaning and maintenance requirements of said systems pursuant to NFPA 96. Specialized cleaning of commercial kitchen exhaust and appurtenances is often accompanied by certification stickers bearing the date of cleaning. In most instances the cleaning has been done properly. In some instances, however, the appropriate cleaning and removal of contamination has not occurred. The inspecting AHJ is advised to request full documentation of exhaust cleaning from the proper source when circumstances warrant, pursuant to NFPA 96 section 11.6.14 and 11.6.15.

Please direct any questions you may have to the OSFM via email at:

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David Pastore

Chief Deputy Marshal, Inspections Division

Dated: June 9, 2025