



COMMUNIQUÉ

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
BUREAU DU COMMISSAIRE DES INCENDIES

October 24, 2024

No. 2024-07

Public consultation on Targeted Regulatory Exemption to the Ontario Fire Code Compliance Deadline for Sprinklers in Designated Long-Term Care (LTC) Homes

On October 24, 2024, the Ministry of the Solicitor General posted a proposal for a targeted Minister's regulation under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* (FPPA) to the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#).

The ministry is proposing to extend the sprinkler installation deadline for designated long-term care (LTC) homes by 18 months (from January 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026) while ensuring consistent application of fire safety criteria that an LTC home must meet during the interim period.

The regulatory exemption would apply to specifically defined LTC homes that qualify under one of three categories established by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC):

- Those that have a contract to install sprinklers in an existing building by July 1, 2026.
- Those that are party to an approved agreement to redevelop the home or beds at an existing or different location which will result in the home or beds being sprinklered by July 1, 2026.
- Those that are in the process of closing (with an MLTC-approved closure agreement).

The regulation would not apply to those LTC homes that are already in compliance with the sprinklering requirements of the Ontario Fire Code (whether compliance is achieved by meeting the code's technical requirements or by having in place a Chief Fire Official-approved Alternative Solution or Life Safety Study).

To ensure staff and resident safety while the unsprinklered LTC homes work toward achieving compliance, additional fire safety criteria would apply to the LTC homes covered by the regulation. During the interim period, all designated LTC homes will still be required to comply with both the Ontario Fire Code and MLTC requirements related to resident safety. Compliance will be enforced by local fire officials and/or MLTC inspections.

The ministry, in partnership with MLTC, is working to support those LTC homes on a path to sprinkler compliance while ensuring that residents can remain in their homes and that fire safety is maintained.

Fire service stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this important public consultation.