

Benefits of Proposed Improvements to the Fire Inspection Process

Economic Development

- The proposed change will advance the City's strategic goal of economic development by reducing barriers for businesses. New businesses will receive their licences an average of 12 days sooner, which translates into substantial cost savings that will help them be more competitive.

Advancing Safety and Security

- The proposed change will eliminate duplication of efforts between the building permit and fire inspection processes and provide opportunities for fire inspections to be prioritized and completed based on a comprehensive assessment of risk instead of as a pre-condition of licensing.
- Completing the fire inspection after a licence is issued will also promote ongoing compliance by allowing inspections to occur when the business is fully operational. Additional aspects of the business can be observed - for example, furnishings, materials storage, workflows and safety practices - which provides a more accurate and comprehensive view of potential fire hazards. Inspectors can evaluate safety measures in the context of real-world usage and help businesses identify and address issues that may not have been apparent prior to opening.
- The proposed amendment will support EFRS's broader efforts to further enhance inspection efficiency. EFRS is in the early stages of developing a risk-based approach to inspections and this change provides more flexibility to focus resources where they will have the biggest impact on public safety.