

NFPA® 88A

Standard for Parking Structures

2015 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 88A
Standard for
Parking Structures
2015 Edition

This edition of NFPA 88A, *Standard for Parking Structures*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Garages and Parking Structures. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 29, 2014, with an effective date of May 19, 2014, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 88A was approved as an American National Standard on May 19, 2014.

Origin and Development of NFPA 88A

Work on fire protection safeguards for garages was initiated by NFPA in 1927 with the appointment of a committee. After extensive deliberations and the publication of successive drafts, a standard was adopted in 1932. Subsequently, the committee was discharged when it appeared that no further activity was needed in this field. In 1952, the present committee was created. This committee prepared a number of redrafts of the 1932 text, and in 1957 a revised NFPA 88, *Standard for Garages*, was adopted. Revisions were made in 1962, 1968, 1979, 1985, 1995, and 1998.

In order to treat separately the occupancies of repair garages and parking structures, NFPA 88A and NFPA 88B, *Standard for Repair Garages*, were published separately in 1973.

In 1991, partial revisions were made to this standard, and the 1995 edition contained editorial changes. The 1998 edition contained definitions clarifying the various configurations of parking structures. It also contained changes increasing the area of office space related to the parking structure and further clarified the requirements for vertical opening protection and automatic sprinkler installation. That edition also included new requirements for natural gas powered vehicles.

The 2002 edition contained primarily editorial revisions for compliance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*, and listed metric units of measurement as the primary units.

In the 2007 edition, the Committee rewrote the definition of *open parking structure* to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents* and moved the requirements to a new 4.7.1. The NFPA 220 definition of *Noncombustible Material* was adopted in place of the one used in the previous edition.

Definitions were added to recognize the emergence of *mechanical parking structures* where cars are moved to parking places by lifts or other devices instead of being driven. No specific requirements were added.

Lastly, the committee clarified the use of vehicle ramps in 4.4.3 and 4.4.4.

In the 2011 edition, the committee made a number of significant changes, including the following:

- (1) Added new definitions
- (2) Defined and addressed “automated mechanical-type parking structure” in a new chapter
- (3) Deleted certain sections that were not enforceable
- (4) Reorganized the entire document using a chapter structure that emulates other construction documents including, but not limited to, NFPA 101 and NFPA 5000

For the 2015 edition, the changes that have been made consist of primarily editorial alterations, reference updates, and clarifications of existing language.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on construction, control of fire hazards, ventilation, and fire protection in parking structures.



Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	88A- 4	5.5 Opening Requirements for Open Parking Structures	88A- 6
1.1 Scope	88A- 4	Chapter 6 Building Service and Fire Protection ...	88A- 6
1.2 Purpose	88A- 4	6.1 Lighting and Power	88A- 6
1.3 Retroactivity	88A- 4	6.2 Heating	88A- 6
1.4 Equivalency	88A- 4	6.3 Ventilation	88A- 6
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	88A- 4	6.4 Fire Sprinkler Systems	88A- 6
2.1 General	88A- 4	6.5 Standpipes	88A- 6
2.2 NFPA Publications	88A- 4	6.6 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems	88A- 7
2.3 Other Publications	88A- 4	Chapter 7 Special Hazard Protection	88A- 7
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections	88A- 4	7.1 Storage Use, Handling, and Dispensing of Fuels and Lubricants	88A- 7
Chapter 3 Definitions	88A- 5	Chapter 8 Housekeeping	88A- 7
3.1 General	88A- 5	8.1 Equipment	88A- 7
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions	88A- 5	8.2 Aisles	88A- 7
3.3 General Definitions	88A- 5	8.3 Lockers	88A- 7
Chapter 4 Means of Egress	88A- 5	8.4 Waste Receptacles	88A- 7
4.1 Means of Egress	88A- 5	8.5 Floors	88A- 7
Chapter 5 Construction	88A- 5	Chapter 9 Special Structures	88A- 7
5.1 General Requirements	88A- 5	9.1 General	88A- 7
5.2 Compartmentation	88A- 5	9.2 Automated-Type Parking Structures	88A- 7
5.3 Floors	88A- 6	Annex A Explanatory Material	88A- 7
5.4 Openings in Fire Resistance-Rated Assemblies	88A- 6	Annex B Informational References	88A- 8
		Index	88A- 9