

NFPA Standards for Inspection of Existing Chimneys

This is a brief outline of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards for Inspection of Existing Chimneys. Please contact our office for additional information or clarification of any points you may not understand. The complete reference is available for review in our office.

	Scope	Required Access	Occasion	Indications
Level I	<p>Basic condition of chimney and flue</p> <p>Absence of combustible deposits or blockage in flue.</p> <p><i>Accessible</i> areas of appliance & connector.</p>	<p><i>Readily accessible</i> areas of the chimney interior and exterior.</p> <p><i>Accessible</i> portions of the appliance and chimney connector.</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>During routine chimney sweeping.</p> <p>Upon replacement of connected appliance with a similar unit.</p>	<p>When verification of serviceability for continued use under present conditions is needed.</p>
Level II	<p>A Level I Inspection and:</p> <p><i>Accessible</i> portions of the chimney structure and all enclosed flues, including size and suitability of flues.</p> <p>Proper clearances to combustibles in accessible areas.</p>	<p>All <i>accessible</i> areas, interior and exterior, including parts of the chimney passing through crawlspaces and attics.</p> <p>Shall include video scan or other means of flue interior visual inspection.</p>	<p>Adding/removing an appliance; replacing an appliance with one of a different type or fuel.</p> <p>Before relining.</p> <p>After an event likely to cause damage.</p> <p>Real estate sale or transfer.</p>	<p>Verification of chimney serviceability for continued service under changing conditions, or a Level I inspection is inadequate.</p>
Level III	<p>All areas covered by Level I and Level II Inspections.</p> <p><i>Concealed</i> areas of the chimney structure and enclosed flues suspected of damage or malfunction. Clearances from combustibles.</p>	<p>Designated parts of the chimney structure and the building, including <i>concealed</i> areas.</p> <p>Removal of parts of the chimney or building as needed to gain access to specific <i>concealed</i> areas.</p>	<p>As needed to examine damage to the chimney or building.</p> <p>When a lower level inspection results in a detected or suspected hazard that can't be checked without access to <i>concealed</i> areas.</p>	<p>When knowledge of the condition of the chimney is critical to the renewed or continued use of the chimney.</p> <p>Required only for areas of concern that can't be properly evaluated by a lower level inspection.</p>

Important Definitions

Readily Accessible – Exposed or capable of being exposed for operation, inspection, or maintenance without the use of tools or ladders.

Accessible – Exposed or capable of being exposed for operation, inspection, or maintenance with the use of common tools, without damage to the chimney structure, building, or finished surfaces, and without removal of permanently attached parts of the building.

Not accessible, Concealed – Not capable of being exposed for operation, inspection, or maintenance without the use of special tools or without damage to the chimney structure, building, or finished surfaces, or without removal of permanently attached parts of the building.