

TMMOB, the Turkish Chamber of Mechanical Engineers made a press release on January 22, 2025 regarding the fire that occurred in Bolu Kartalkaya:
<https://www.tmmob.org.tr/en/node/20163>

Here is a machine translation:



ANOTHER MASSACRE CAUSED BY LACK OF CONTROL!

Yesterday, we lost 76 citizens, including many children, in a fire that broke out in a hotel in Kartalkaya Ski Resort. We offer our condolences to the relatives of all our citizens who lost their lives in this massacre and wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

The first thing to do in terms of fire safety in buildings is to ensure the safe evacuation of people from the building by taking passive and active measures. These measures; Providing escape routes and escape stairs specified in the Regulation on Fire Protection of Buildings in accordance with the building characteristics, using appropriate building materials, creating fire compartments, establishing detection and warning systems, establishing appropriate types of extinguishing, pressurization and smoke evacuation, establishing first aid teams, etc. . can be achieved by installing systems.

Checking whether these systems are installed in all private buildings or, if installed, whether they are in working order; It is regulated in Article 131 of the same Regulation regarding Audit. Accordingly, private structures, buildings, facilities and enterprises must be inspected by the inspectors, controllers or inspection staff of the local fire brigade and the ministries and public institutions and organizations to which they are affiliated or related, and the deficiencies found at the end of the inspection and desired to be remedied and the requested measures are in accordance with the envisaged compliance. It is stated that it is mandatory to be fulfilled by the relevant parties within the specified period.

In order to keep these systems in constant working order, regular maintenance and periodic checks must be carried out. The duty and responsibility in this regard lies with the hotel owner and the Fire Brigade, as well as the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

In the 5th paragraph of Article 17 of the Regulation on the Qualifications of Tourism Facilities regarding measures for health, cleanliness, security and environmental protection, it is stated that "Electronic and physical security measures are taken to ensure the safety of customers and personnel in general areas of use." Unfortunately, the provision "All kinds of installation, electrical and mechanical equipment must be in accordance with the standards and qualified, and their maintenance must be carried out regularly" was unfortunately inexplicably removed from the regulation by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the Official Gazette dated 22.12.2024.

In the Emergency Plan Preparation Guide prepared by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety; it is stated that in hotels, it is mandatory to make a risk assessment and prepare an emergency plan, and other people in the workplace, such as customers, visitors and employees coming to the workplace from other workplaces, should be informed about emergencies. It is obvious that this issue has not been fulfilled properly or at all.

Because it is known that the hotel capacity of Grand Kartal Hotel, which accommodates 237 people, excluding its employees, is 161 rooms, 350 beds and is 26 years old. According to the Regulation on Fire Protection of Buildings, the hotel is in the "existing building" class and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 10 of the regulation (Articles 138 to 167). In paragraph (d) of Article 165 regarding the necessity of sprinkler systems in existing buildings; "d) In hotels, hostels and guesthouses where the number of beds in a building with more than two floors exceeds 200." Therefore, for the hotel in the existing building class with 350 beds, there is a requirement for an Automatic Sprinkler system that prevents and extinguishes the spread of fire when it breaks out. In the photos on the hotel's website, it can be seen that the automatic sprinkler system, which should have been installed in 2008 at the latest, was not installed. Due to the lack of this system, the fire spread quickly and there were casualties.

In addition, it is not known whether the cabinet system, detection and warning systems, escape routes and features specified in Part 10 of the current regulation are complied with. However, considering the statements of our citizens who survived the fire, it is understood from the press release made by Bolu TMMOB İKK that the detection and warning systems did not work and escape routes could not be detected.

As the Chamber of Mechanical Engineers, we have formed opinions in scientific events organized on every subject in our field of discipline and shared them with public authorities and

the public. We also organized dozens of events to prevent fires from breaking out and spreading, and to help them escape harmlessly. As stated in the Fire Symposium with International Participation, which we organize and has been held every two years since 2018, and most recently in the Fire Safety Awareness Symposium in Buildings organized by our Antalya Branch, TÜYAK and ANTGIAD on October 12, 2023; legislation that will provide a comprehensive inspection mechanism with clear duties, powers and responsibilities, and defined at each stage, to check whether the necessary precautions are taken for the continuity of fire safety measures in all kinds of buildings, both residential and accommodation, and whether the relevant security systems are ready to work throughout the life of the building should be created urgently.

We don't want to wake up to news of a disaster every morning. We do not want a system where science, technology, engineering and engineer organization are ignored. For this purpose;

To supervise the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which allocates public assets to private institutions, and the conditions of use of these assets,

Invite the Ministry of Labor and Social Security to inspect whether this training is given to the personnel responsible for directing hotel guests to leave the hotel during a fire and whether periodic inspections of the equipment are carried out properly,

Encourage business owners to fulfil scientific and technical requirements with qualified personnel to ensure the safety of people's lives and property,

To include the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and the Chambers in all stages of the building production process and operation of the buildings, to make arrangements to ensure the involvement of Engineers Trained and Certified by the Chambers,

We invite you.

Auditing is a public duty and responsibility and cannot be left to the ruthlessness of the market. Rule violations and practices that amount to irregularities are unacceptable. The security of life and property of the people cannot be sacrificed to the greed for profit.

Once again, we offer our condolences and patience to the relatives of our loved ones and wish a speedy recovery to our injured.

As TMMOB Chamber of Mechanical Engineers, a professional organization that is a public institution, we would like to express once again that we are ready to provide all kinds of support and take part in the process of regulation and implementation of the relevant legislation.

Yunus Yener

President of TMMOB Chamber of Mechanical Engineers