

Fire Inspector's Guide

A-Occupancies

I. EXTINGUISHERS

- A. One Class 2-A rated fire extinguisher shall be provided for each 6000 square feet (560 m²) of light hazard fuel load or one Class 2-A extinguisher for each 3000 square feet (280 m²) of ordinary hazard fuel load. Travel distance shall not exceed 75 feet (25 m).T19 Sec. 568
- B. If Class B fuel hazards are present, a Class B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in accordance with Table 906.3(2) of the CFC...T19 Sec. 569
- C. Extinguishers shall be manually inspected at least monthly by the building owner or occupant, or electronically monitored.T19 Sec. 574.1
- D. Extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance annually as described in Title 19 CCR. With exceptions, this type of service does not require internal examination of the extinguisher.T19 Sec. 575.1
- E. Fire extinguisher shall not be obstructed or obscured for view. T19 Sec. 567

II. MEANS OF EGRESS

- A. Occupancy loads shall be posted in conspicuous place, near the main exit from the room or space.CFC Sec. 1004.3
Note: Determination of occupancy load is complex, involving many factors.....
..... Refer to CFC Sec. 1004
- B. At least two exits shall be provided in A occupancies.CFC Sec 1015.1
- C. Three exits shall be provided from any story, basement or individual space when the occupant load of that area is between 501 and 1000 persons.CFC Sec. 1015.1.1
- D. Four exits shall be provided from any story, basement or individual space when the occupant load of that area exceeds 1000 persons.CFC Sec. 1015.1
- E. Egress doors shall swing in direction of egress travel where serving an occupant load of 50 or more persons.CFC Sec. 1008.1.2
- F. For Group A having an occupant load of 300 or less, doors shall be equipped with panic hardware of fire exit hardware.CFC Sec. 1008.1.10
Exception: In A Occupancies with an occupant load of 300 or less, and in places of religious worship, the main exterior door or doors is permitted to be equipped with key operated locking devices from the egress side if a sign is posted stating "This door to remain unlocked when building is occupied".CFC Sec. 1008.1.9.3
- G. Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.CFC Sec. 1008.1.9.4
- H. The unlatching of any door shall not require more than one operation.CFC Sec. 1008.9.5
- I. Entrance doors in a group A shall not be secured from the egress side during periods that the building is open to the general public.CFC Sec. 1008.1.4.4(6)
- J. Means of egress (except aisles) shall be illuminated when the building space is occupied.CFC Sec. 1006.1

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MEANS OF EGRESS (CONTINUED)

- K. In the event of power supply failure, an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate the means of egress.CFC Sec. 1006.3
- L. Required means of egress shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions.CFC Sec. 1003.6
- M. Exit and exit access doors shall be marked by approved exit signs readily visible from any directions of egress travel.CFC Sec. 1011.1
- N. Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times; signs shall be connected to an emergency power system that provides illumination for not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss.CFC Sec. 1011.5.3
- O. Means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes, or through rooms subject to locking.CFC Sec. 1014.2
- P. Required corridors shall be no less than 44 inches in width.CFC Sec. 1018.2
- Q. Delayed egress locks are not allowed on doors serving group A occupancies.CFC Sec. 1008.1.9.7
- R. With exceptions, total travel distance to an exit shall not exceed 200 feet in nonsprinklered buildings and 250 feet in a sprinklered building.CFC Sec. 1016.1

III. HOUSEKEEPING

- A. Storage of combustible materials in buildings shall be orderly, with storage separated from heating devices by distance or shielding so that ignition cannot occur.CFC Sec. 315.2
- B. Combustible waste containers larger than 40 gallons (0.15 m³) shall be constructed of noncombustible material or approved combustible material and provided with a lid.CFC Sec. 304.3
- C. Combustible waste containers larger than 1.5 cubic yards (1.15 m³) shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet (1524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines.CFC Sec. 304.3
- D. Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container. Contents shall be emptied daily.CFC Sec 304.3
- E. Combustible material shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms.CFC Sec. 315.2.3
- F. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas of buildings or minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.CFC Sec. 315.2.1
- G. Electronic motors shall be maintained free from excessive accumulations of oil, dirt, waste and debris.CFC Sec. 605.8

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IV. ELECTRICAL

- A. Temporary wiring is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days; such wiring is allowed for longer periods for construction, remodeling or repair of buildings or equipment.CFC Sec.605.9
- B. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
.....CFC Sec. 605.5
- C. Multiplug adaptors, such as cube adaptors, unfused plug strips or other such devices not complying with the California Electrical Code shall be prohibited.....CFC Sec. 605.4
- D. Relocatable power taps shall be permitted if of the grounded type, equipped with overcurrent protection and listed in accordance with UL 1363.CFC Sec. 605.4.1
- E. Relocatable power taps shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle.
.....CFC Sec. 605.4.2
- F. Appliance cords and extensions cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.CFC Sec. 605.5.3
- G. Power taps and extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor covering, nor subject to physical impact.
.....CFC Sec. 605.4.3
- H. A working space of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Storage is prohibited within the designated working space.CFC Sec. 605.3
- I. Open junction boxes and open-wiring splices shall be prohibited. Approved covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical outlet boxes.CFC Sec. 605.6
- J. Portable electric space heaters shall be plugged directly into a permanent receptacle.
.....CFC Sec. 605.10.2

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Exposed foam plastic materials and unprotected materials containing foam plastic used for decorative purposes, or stage scenery or exhibit booths shall have a maximum heat release rate of 100 kilowatts.CFC Sec. 807.4.2
- B. Storage, use and dispensing and mixing of flammable liquids shall not exceed amounts necessary for demonstration, treatment, maintenance purposes and operation of equipment and shall not exceed quantities set for the in Table 2703.1.1. (1). CFC Sec.3404.3.4–3405.3.5
- C. Natural cut trees shall not be displayed except in areas protected by an approved sprinkler system.CFC Sec. 806.1.1
- D. The support device that holds the upright shall be of a type that is stable and is capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.CFC Sec. 806.1.2

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MISCELLANEOUS (CONTINUED)

- E. Natural cut trees shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger.CFC Sec. 806.1.3
- F. All drapes, hangings, curtains and other decorative material, including Christmas trees that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from a nonflammable material or shall be treated and maintained in flame retardant condition with a flame-retardant solution approved by the State Fire Marshal.T19 Sec. 3.08
- G. Interior finish of wall and ceiling materials shall comply with flame spread resistance of Table 803.3 of the California Fire Code.CFC Sec. 803.3
- H. Open flame devices are prohibited in A occupancies, with exceptions for ceremonial or theatrical purposes, or approved candle holders in dining establishments.T19 Sec. 3.25
- I. Hand held open flame devices shall not be permitted in any A, C, E, I or R-1 occupancy.T19 Sec. 3.25
- J. An operational permit is required to operate a place of assembly.CFC Sec. 105.6.34
- K. When required by the code official because of the number of persons or the nature of the performance or activity in a tent, the owner's agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons to remain on duty when the place of assembly is open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted.CFC Sec. 2404.20
- L. Commercial cooking equipment that produces grease laden vapors shall be provided with an automatic fire-extinguishing system listed and labeled for its intended use. CFC Sec. 904.1.1
- M. An approved fire apparatus access road not less than 20 feet (6.6 m) wide shall be provided for access to within 150 feet (49 m) of all portions of the building.CFC Sec. 503.1.1
- N. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles.CFC Sec. 503.4
- O. Fire access roads shall be marked with approved signs or markings that state "NO PARKING FIRE LANE". Marking shall be maintained in clean, legible condition and repaired when necessary.CFC Sec. 903.3
- P. Posts, fences, vehicles, trash, storage or other materials shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants in a manner that would prevent such hydrants from being immediately discernible.CFC Sec. 508.5.4
- Q. New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible from the street or road fronting the property.CFC Sec. 505.1
- R. Material Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials shall be either readily available on the premises as a paper copy, or were approved, shall be permitted to be readily retrievable through electronic access.CFC Sec. 407.2

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MISCELLANEOUS (CONTINUED)

- S. Exterior doors and their function cannot be eliminated without approval. If approved, and door retains the appearance as functional, door shall be posted on the exterior "THIS DOOR BLOCKED".CFC Sec. 504.2
- T. Portable unvented fuel-fired heating equipment shall be prohibited in A occupancies.CFC Sec. 603.4