



Service de protection contre l'incendie / Fire Protection Service
Prévention incendie / Fire Prevention

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN A BUILDING

1 The requirements of Regulation R.V.Q. 2241

- 1.1 The requirements listed in this document are summarized from the codes and regulations applicable in Quebec City.

The QCC and NFC requirements are also fully applicable during fairs and exhibitions.

2 Exhibition installation

- 2.1 Exits and access to exits must be kept free and operational at all times.
- 2.2 No person shall conceal a door leading to an exit or access to an exit.
- 2.3 Signs indicating the way out (exits) must be visible at all times.
- 2.4 Access to firefighting equipment (fire extinguishers, connectors, cabinets) must remain free at all times.
- 2.5 Entrance halls must be free of obstructions at all times.
- 2.6 Between the booths and exhibits, 2.75 m (9 ft.) wide aisles must be kept free. For exhibitions that are only open to merchants, the aisles must be 2.4 m (8 ft.) wide.
- 2.7 Each exit door must be accessible by an aisle that provides access to at least one other exit.
- 2.8 At any point on the aisle, the aisle must have access to two exits in opposite directions.
- 2.9 The distance to an exit door must be no more than 45 m (150 ft.) down each aisle.
- 2.10 When the number of occupants in an assembly with non-fixed seating exceeds 100, the seats must be attached in groups of no more than 16 seats between aisles so that the required spacing remains compliant with the NFC.
- 2.11 When the number of occupants at an assembly or inside a closed booth exceeds 60 people, two means of evacuation must be provided.
- 2.12 Boxes, crates and other combustible materials must be stored in a room provided for that purpose which the public cannot access.

- 2.13 No storage will be tolerated behind or between booths.
- 2.14 The use of pyrotechnic devices requires the SPCI's written permission.

3 Booth construction

- 3.1 Decorations and booths must be made from incombustible or fireproof material. One-quarter-inch thick plywood and wood may be used without fireproofing.

To test the material: hold a sample of the material in an upright position and apply flame to the bottom for a minimum of 12 seconds. To pass the test, the material must stop burning by itself within two seconds after the flame is removed.

- 3.2 Prohibited material: Sealed chipboard (Aspenite), "prefinished" 1/8 inch thick, burlap, any paper or cardboard and polystyrene.
- 3.3 Curtains, draperies, awnings, tents, artificial trees and flowers and other decorative items must be non-combustible or fire retardant as per CAN/ULC-S109 and CAN/ULC-S102 (healthy natural trees and flowers are acceptable when potted with moist soil). Certificates to this effect must be produced upon request. Any combustible material that cannot be fireproofed is prohibited.
- 3.4 Floor coverings shall conform to the Building Code (CAN/ULC-S109 and CAN/ULC-S102).
- 3.5 Bulbs and floodlights of any lighting equipment in a tent or inflatable shall be located at least 600 mm from all combustible materials.
- 3.6 No cut softwood trees, their branches, dried plant material or plastic foam shall be used as decorative materials. No fireproofing is acceptable for these materials.
- 3.7 Closed booths must be equipped with an emergency lighting system, a portable fire extinguisher and a smoke alarm per floor.
- 3.8 For a tent, building or kiosk larger than 55.8 m² (600 ft²) with ceiling must be protected by automatic sprinklers.
- 3.9 Recreational vehicles, trailers and boats with over 9.3 m² (100 ft²) of ceiling must be equipped with smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher (according to the manufacturer's standards).

4 Flammable liquids and gases

- 4.1 The Régie du bâtiment du Québec must approve the use of propane. Unused containers must be stored in accordance with item 4.4.
- 4.2 With the exception of point 4.1, containers of flammable liquids and gases may not be used, stored or exposed in places where the public gathers.
- 4.3 New explosive, flammable or corrosive liquid or gas containers that have never been filled may be exposed. (Dummies)

- 4.4 Flammable liquids and gases must be stored outside the building or in a room designed for this purpose.
- 4.5 Compressed gas cylinders used to inflate balloons must be protected against mechanical damage and be placed on stands or held firmly in place by approved devices.
- 4.6 Compressed gas cylinder valves must be equipped with protection.
- 4.7 Compressed gas cylinders must not be placed in exits, outside under stairwells or within one metre of an exit.

5 Cooking appliances

- 5.1 The cooking appliance must be 0.6 m (2 ft.) from visitors and all combustible materials and must rest on a non-combustible surface.
- 5.2 All cooking appliances must be certified by a recognized organization.
- 5.3 A fire extinguisher with an extinguishing capacity of at least 2A20BC must be provided near each cooking appliance and a type K extinguisher must be kept near a fryer.
- 5.4 Where cooking equipment is of the commercial type or where residential type cooking equipment listed in the manufacturing standard is used for the purpose of selling food, the construction and installation of venting facilities shall be in accordance with NFPA-96 standards.

6 Open flame

- 6.1 With the exception of approved cooking appliances, all devices that use open flames must be securely mounted on incombustible materials and must be positioned or protected so that the flame does not accidentally come into contact with combustible material.
- 6.2 Displaying lit candles or any other open flame is prohibited in tents.
- 6.3 When candles are displayed in a building, a maximum of four candles may be lit at any time, subject to the following conditions:
 - The circumference of the flame must be completely protected by glass.
 - The candle must not be able to access to the public.
 - The booth must be supervised at all times when the candles are lit.
 - At least one 2A20BC type fire extinguisher must be near the booth.

7 Vehicles and other combustion engines

- 7.1 Fuel tank caps must be locked or inaccessible to the public unless the tank has never contained fuel.
- 7.2 The caps of fuel tanks that have safety valves or vents must not be wrapped in such a way that prevents the valve or vent from functioning properly.

- 7.3 Combustion engines must not be started during an exhibition.
- 7.4 **Food truck:** No propane inside, no frying, electric stove only. All other motor vehicle regulations apply.
- 7.5 **Electric vehicle:** Keys for electric vehicles must be in a metal case to prevent signal transmission. If possible, remove the starter fuse.

8 Other

- 8.1 The use of a heater that burns solid, liquid or gas fuel is prohibited.
- 8.2 **Animals:** hay, straw, wood shavings or other similar combustible materials, except those used for feeding and the daily maintenance of the animals are prohibited. These materials must be stored outside or in a room that can resist fire for one hour. A type 2A fire extinguisher must be kept nearby.

9 Infractions and penalties

- 9.1 The owner of any building where a show or exhibition takes place, the event promoter and the exhibitor that violate or fail to comply with the SPCIQ's minimum requirements for fairs and exhibitions, commit an offence under the law and are liable to be served a ticket without notice, have their installations dismantled or have the show or current exhibition closed.

10 Information

- 10.1 For any information or clarification regarding the requirements and regulations mentioned in this document concerning fairs and exhibitions, do not hesitate to contact an inspector of the Quebec City Fire Protection Service. This will ensure that your facility complies with municipal regulations.

Service de protection contre l'incendie / Fire Protection Service

3-1-1