

Seattle Permits

—part of a multi-departmental series on City services & permitting

Fire Inspections for Clubs and Entertainment Establishments

Updated September 2014

Requirements for Clubs and Entertainment Establishments (Place of Assembly Occupancies)

1. A sign identifying the Occupant Load for each assembly area is required to be posted near the main entrance to that assembly area.
2. A valid Seattle Fire Department place of assembly permit must be conspicuously posted if the place of assembly has an occupant load of 100 or more persons.
3. Crowds are not allowed to exceed the posted occupant load.
4. During hours of operation, all exit doors must remain unlocked.
5. Exit doors are easily opened without the use of a key or special knowledge. Exit doors are not locked, chained bolted, barred, latched or otherwise rendered unusable.
6. All fire protection systems, including fire alarms, fire sprinklers, range hoods and fire extinguishers have the proper tags showing they are current in their inspection, testing and maintenance requirements.
7. Exit doors and pathways are visible, adequately lit and unobstructed. Obstacles used for crowd control such as I.D. checkpoints or ropes and stanchions do not block or restrict exits in any way.
8. Use of candles is permitted when following permit conditions.
9. Pyrotechnics are not allowed, except with a valid Seattle Fire Department Pyrotechnic Permit.
10. Interior decoration, draperies and sound proofing materials meet flame spread or flame resistant standards. Approved documentation by the manufacturer or a commercial fire proofing

company is available on the premises indicating materials meet the required standards.

11. Extension cords may not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.

Flame Resistant Requirements of Decorative Materials

Decorative materials in assembly occupancies are required to be flame resistant in accordance with national standards, such as those established by National Fire Protection Standard 701, California State Fire Marshal or Canvas Products Association International-84. Decorative materials include wall hangings, draperies, curtains, banners and other decorations. Dining tablecloths are not considered decorative material and are not required to have proof of flame resistance.

Documentation by the product manufacturer or a certificate of flame resistance by a commercial flame proofing company is required as proof of flame resistance for combustible decorative materials. It is not acceptable to treat decorative materials yourself by applying a flame resistant coating treatment. Consult the yellow pages or on-line directories for flame proofing services.

Emergency Procedures

An emergency plan identifying exit routes, staff duties, quarterly employee drills and fire safety equipment is required for new occupancies, and recommended for existing public assemblies.

Please see SFD Client Assistance Memos No. 5051 and No. 5062 for additional information.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: *This Client Assistance Memo (CAM) should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. Individuals are responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this CAM.*

