

# Seattle Fire Department

## Permit Conditions

2501/2502/2504

### GROUP A – ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES

Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation.

**Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the *fire code official*. (SFC 105.3.5)**

The following permit conditions shall be adhered to all times in order for the permit to be valid:

1. A current Seattle Fire Department permit (Code 2501/2502/2504) is required for any Group A assembly occupancy having an occupant load of 100 or more. (SFC 105.6.40) A separate temporary assembly permit is required in addition to this permit when any one or more of the following occurs:
  - a. Additional seating is proposed, or original seating is reconfigured for an event.
  - b. The existing means of egress (exiting) system is modified for an event.
2. A current Seattle Fire Department permit is required to use open flames or candles in any Group A assembly occupancy having an occupant load of 50 or more. (SFC 105.6.37, 202, and 308.2)
3. These permit conditions for Seattle Fire Department Permit Code 2501/2502/2504 **does not include the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material**. A separate current Seattle Fire Department permit is required. (SFC 105.6.43)
4. These permit conditions for Seattle Fire Department Permit Code 2501/2502/2504 **does not include persons performing with fire**. A separate temporary permit is required. (SFC 308.2)
5. These permit conditions for Seattle Fire Department Permit Code 2501/2502/2504 **does not enable a person to display, operate or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings**. A separate operational permit is required. (SFC 105.6.28)
6. New and existing buildings shall be provided with *approved* address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. (SFC 505.1)
7. A Certificate of Occupancy shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises and shall not be removed except by the building official. (SFC 102.9)
8. The Occupant Load shall be posted in every room or space that is an assembly occupancy. The posting should be of a permanent legible design and remain posted in a conspicuous place near the main exit from the room or rooms. (SFC 1004.9)
9. Overcrowding or admittance of any person beyond the approved capacity of a building or a portion thereof is prohibited. The fire code official, upon finding any overcrowding conditions or obstructions in aisles, passage ways or other means of egress, or finding any condition which constitutes a life safety hazard, is authorized to direct immediate actions be taken to reduce the overcrowding or cause the event to be stopped until such condition or obstruction is corrected. (SFC 108.6)

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10. A fire safety and evacuation plan in accordance with SFC Section 404 shall be prepared and maintained for Group A occupancies having an occupant load of 100 or more, other than those occupancies used exclusively for purposes of religious worship with an occupant load less than 2,000, and for buildings containing both a Group A occupancy and an atrium. Group A occupancies shall comply with SFC Sections 403.2.1 through 403.2.4. (SFC 403.2)
11. Emergency evacuation drills shall comply with SFC Section 405. Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted quarterly. (SFC 403.3.4, SFC 405.2)
12. Employees shall be periodically instructed and kept informed of their duties and responsibilities under the plan. Records of instruction shall be maintained. Such instruction shall be reviewed by the staff not less than every two months. A copy of the plan shall be readily available within the facility for the staff and/or fire code official's review. (SFC 403.3.3, SFC 406.2)
13. *Means of egress* doors shall be readily distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on *means of egress* doors and shall not be placed in or adjacent to any exit in such manner as to confuse the directions of exit. *Means of egress* doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations, or similar materials. (SFC 1010.1, SFC 1031.6)
14. Means of egress illumination shall be provided at every point in the *means of egress*, in accordance with Section 1008.2. The means of egress serving a room or space shall be illuminated at all times that the room or space is occupied. (SFC 1008.1)  
**Exception:** Aisle accessways.
15. Under emergency power, *means of egress* illumination shall comply with Section 1008.3. In the event of power supply failure in rooms and spaces that require two or more means of egress, an emergency power system shall automatically illuminate corridors, exit access stairways, and ramps. (SFC 1008.3)
16. Doors serving rooms or spaces with an occupant load of 50 or more, shall not be provided with a latch or lock other than panic hardware or fire exit hardware. (SFC 1010.1.10)  
**Exceptions:**
  - a. A main exit of an occupancy shall be permitted to be locking in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.4 Item 2.
  - b. Doors shall be permitted to be electromagnetically locked in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.9 or 1010.1.9.10.
17. Buildings with a Group A assembly occupancy having an occupant load of 300 or less, and all places of religious worship, are permitted to have the main exterior door, or doors, equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided:
  - a. The locking device is readily distinguishable as locked.
  - b. A readily visible durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED DURING BUSINESS HOURS". The sign shall be in letters 1 inch (25 mm) high on a contrasting background.
  - c. The use of the key-operated locking device is revocable by the building official for due

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cause. (SFC 1010.1.9.4)

18. Exit accesses, exits and exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency where the building area served by the means of egress is occupied. An exit or exit passageway shall not be used for any purpose that interferes as a means of egress. (SFC 1031.2)
19. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 10 and SFC Section 906. (SFC 906.1 through 906.10)
20. A manual fire alarm system is required when a Group A occupancy has an occupant load of 300 or more, or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge. (SFC 907.2.1)
21. Where alcoholic beverages are consumed in a Group A-2 occupancy having an occupant load of 300 or more, the fire area containing the Group A-2 occupancy shall be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 903.3.1.1. (SFC 1103.5.1)
22. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout A-2 nightclubs as defined in this code. No building shall be constricted for, used for, or converted to occupancy as a nightclub except in accordance with this section. (SFC 1103.5.5 and SFC Chapter 2 Definitions)
  - a. An A-2 Occupancy use in which the aggregate area of concentrated use of unfixed chairs and standing space that is specifically designated and primarily used for dancing or viewing performers exceeds 350 square feet. Excluding adjacent lobby areas. "Nightclub" does not include theaters with fixed seating, banquet halls, or lodge halls.
23. Fire protection systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with the administrative Rule 9.02.19. Records of all system inspections, tests and maintenance shall be maintained with copies (paper or electronic) available to the fire code official upon request. (SFC 901.6 and 901.6.1)
24. Cabinets, containing fire-fighting equipment, such as standpipes, fire hose, fire extinguishers or fire department valves, shall not be blocked from use or obscured from view. (SFC 901.11)
25. Interior finishes are required to meet flame-spread requirements. Required documentation to remain on file and available for inspection. (SFC 803.3)
26. Decorative material and furnishings, curtains, draperies, hangings and other *decorative materials* suspended from walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or other approved standard in accordance with Section 807.3 or be noncombustible. Reports of test results shall be prepared in accordance with NFPA 701 or other approved standard and furnished to the fire code official upon request. (SFC 807.2 through 807.5.1.4)
27. Furnishings or other objects shall not be placed to obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom or visibility thereof. (SFC 807.1)