

Fire Inspector's Guide

M-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) this may require additional fire extinguishers.CFC Sec. 906.3
- 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.CFC Sec. 906.3
- C. Additional extinguishers shall be provided at fuel dispensing facilities (service stations) so an extinguisher with minimum rating of 2-A:20-B:C is provided and location no more than 75 feet (22.9 m) from pumps, dispensers or storage tank fill-pipe openings.CFC Sec. 2205.5
- D. Extinguishers shall be manually inspected at least monthly by the building owner or occupant, or electronically monitored.T19 Sec. 574.1
- E. 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
- F. Fire extinguisher shall not be obstructed or obscured from view.CFC Sec. 906.6

II. MEANS OF EGRESS

- A. Two exits shall be provided from buildings when the building has more than one story above grade plane, when the number occupants per floor exceeds 49, or when travel distance in the building exceeds 75 feet (25 m).CFC Sec. 1021.1 – 1021.2
- B. 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. 1021.1-1021.2
- C. Four exits shall be provided from any story, basement or individual space when the occupant load of that area exceeds 1000 persons.CFC Sec. 1021.1-1021.2
- D. Means of egress doors shall swing in direction of egress travel where serving an occupant load of 50 or more persons.CFC Sec. 1008.1.2
- E. Exit paths (except aisles) shall be illuminated when the building space is occupied.....CFC Sec. 1006.3
- F. In the event of power supply failure, an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate aisles, stairways, corridors and other egress components in areas that require two or more exits.CFC Sec. 1006.1
- G. Exit signs shall be provided where two or more exits are required from a room or area.CFC Sec. 1011.1

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MEANS OF EGRESS (CONTINUED)

- H. 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
- I. Egress doors shall be readily operable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.
Exception: The main exterior door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key operated locking devices from the egress side provided a sign is posted on the egress side stating "This door to remain unlocked when building is occupied".CFC Sec. 1008.1.9.3
- J. The common path of egress travel shall not exceed 75 feet.CFC Sec. 1014.3
- K. Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted. CFC Sec. 1008.1.9.4
- L. Required exit accesses, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.CFC Sec. 1030.2
- M. Corridors shall not be less than 44 inches (1120 mm) in width for required occupant capacity of 50 or more, and 36 inches (914 mm) for a required occupant capacity of less than 50.CFC Sec. 1018.2
- N. Minimum clear aisle width shall not be less than 36 inches (914mm). CFC Sec. 1017.4
- O. Where seating is located at a table or counter and is adjacent to an aisle, the measurement of required clear width of the aisle shall be made to a line 19 inches (483 mm) away from and parallel to the edge of the table or counter.CFC Sec. 1014 7.4.3

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. 304.3.2
- 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. 304.3.3
- D. Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container.CFC Sec. 304.3.1
- E. Combustible material shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms.CFC Sec. 315.2.3

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HOUSEKEEPING (CONTINUED)

- F. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.CFC Sec. 315.2.1

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 605.4
- D. Relocatable power taps shall be permitted if of the grounded type, listed by and approved testing laboratory, and directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle.CFC Sec. 605.4.1
- E. Appliance cords and extensions cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.CFC Sec. 605.5.3
- F. Power taps and extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor subject to physical impact.CFC Sec. 605.4.3
- G. 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

V. FLAMMABLE & COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS

- A. Storage of Class I-A flammable liquids in wholesale and retail sales areas shall not exceed 60 gallons (227 L) in sprinklered buildings and 30 gallons (114 L) in unsprinklered buildings.CFC Sec. 3404.3.4.1
- B. Storage of Class I-B, I-C, II and III-A liquids shall not exceed 7500 gallons (28 390 L) in sprinklered buildings and 1600 gallons (6060 L) in unsprinklered buildings. CFC Sec. 3403.3.4
- C. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 5 gallons (19 L) of flammable liquid indoors or 10 gallons (38 L) of flammable liquid outdoors.CFC Sec. 105.6.16
- D. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 25 gallons (95 L) of combustible liquid indoors or 60 gallons (227 L) of combustible liquid outdoors.CFC Sec. 105.6.16

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- E. A clearly identified and readily accessible emergency disconnect switch shall be provided at motor fuel-dispensing facilities to stop the transfer of fuel to the dispensers in the event of a fuel spill or other emergency. The switch shall be located within 100 feet (32.8 m) of but not less than 20 feet (6.6 m) from the dispensers.CFC Sec. 2203.2

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group M occupancies having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.CFC Sec. 907.2.7
- B. Fire alarm systems shall be tested and maintained in working condition in accordance with Chapter 14 of NFPA 72, 2010.CFC Sec. 901.6 & Sec. 907.9.5
- C. Fire sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with Chapter 5 of Title 19.T19 Sec. 904
- D. 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
- E. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles.CFC Sec. 503.4
- F. 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. 507.5.4
- G. New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers or building numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible from the street or road fronting the property. Numbers shall be a minimum 4" high and have ¾" stroke.....CFC Sec. 505.1
- H. Material Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials shall be either readily available on the premises as a paper copy, or where approved, shall be permitted to be readily retrievable through electronic access.CFC Sec. 407.2
- I. 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