

CGS Sec. 29-140. Regulations. Revised to January 1, 2005

The commissioner shall make and enforce, and from time to time may amend, reasonable regulations for the prevention or abatement of fire and casualty hazards incident to the assembly of one hundred or more persons in tents, air-supported plastic or fabric or other portable shelters, which regulations shall deal in particular with the character and arrangement of seating, means of egress, fire fighting appliances, fire and police protection, smoking on the premises, lighting and other safety measures for the prevention or abatement of fire, casualty and related Hazards.

9-2.4 Smoking shall not be allowed in any tent or portable structure.

Application for permit shall be made by the owner or lessee of the building or structure, or agent of either. The full names and addresses of the owner, lessee, applicant and the responsible officers, if the owner or lessee is a corporate body, shall be stated in the application.

EXITS: Assembly and Business Occupancies with 50 or more persons OR 75 feet travel distance to the exit shall have two exits.

- **2003 IBC 1018.1** • Maximum exit travel distance of 100 feet

- **2003 IBC 3103.4** • Tents with 10 or more persons shall have 2 or more exits

- **2003 IFC 2403.12.2 Construction** • Tents and Membrane structures shall be constructed as required by the IBC and NFPA 102-1995

• Membrane material shall be approved non-combustible per ASTM E 136 Flame-resistant per NFPA 701-1999, and/or Approved material Labels and certifications required on material Adequately roped, braced and anchored

• All "EXIT" signs shall be illuminated at all times. To assure continued illumination for a duration of not less than 1-1/2 hour In case of primary power loss, the "EXIT" signs shall be connected to an emergency electrical system.

• Exception: Approved self-luminous signs which provide continuous illumination independent of external power source are not required to be connected to an emergency electrical system.

• **2005 NEC 525.10(A) Guarding** Service equipment shall not be installed in a location that is accessible to unqualified persons, unless the equipment is lockable.

• **2005 NEC 525.10(8) Mounting and Location.** Service equipment shall be mounted on a solid backing and be installed so as to be protected from the weather, unless of weatherproof -construction.

• Service equipment and sub-panels may be inside or outside of the tent.

• AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT IS REQUIRED

Wiring Methods

Single-Conductor. Single-conductor cable shall be permitted only in sizes 2 AWG or larger .

Open Conductors. Open conductors are prohibited except as part of a listed assembly or festoon lighting installed in accordance with Article 225.

Splices. Flexible cords or cables shall be continuous without splice or tap between boxes or fittings.

Wiring Methods A box or fitting shall be installed at each connection point, outlet, switch point, or junction point

Portable Wiring Inside Tents and Concessions. Electrical wiring for lighting, where installed inside of tents and concessions, shall be securely installed and, where subject to physical damage, shall be provided with mechanical protection. All lamps for general illumination shall be protected from accidental breakage by a suitable fixture or lampholder with a guard.

Comments

- Keep lighting high enough within a tent as not to make contact with pedestrians

- Tent fabric is considered combustible

- Keep hot lamps from making contact

- Flexible cords and cables must be protected from damage - Sharp corners -doorways

Equipment Grounding.

- All equipment requiring grounding shall be grounded by an equipment grounding conductor of a type and size recognized by 250.118 and installed in accordance with Article 250. The equipment grounding conductor shall be bonded to the system grounded conductor at the service disconnecting means or, in the case of a separately derived system such as a generator, at the generator or first disconnecting means supplied by the generator. The grounded circuit conductor shall not be connected to the equipment grounding conductor on the load side of the service disconnecting means or on the load side of a separately derived system disconnecting means.

Grounding Conductor Continuity Assurance.

- The continuity of the grounding conductor system used to reduce electrical shock hazards as required by 250.114, 250.138, 406.3(C) and 590.4(D) shall be verified each time that portable electrical equipment is connected.

Grounding Electrodes

Resistance of Rod, Pipe and Plate Electrodes, A single rod, pipe or plate electrode that does not have a resistance to ground of 25 ohms or less shall be augmented by one additional electrode at least 6 feet away

IFC on Tents Chapter 24

- Applies only to tents erected for less than 180 days, Section 2404 applies to both permanent and temporary membrane structures
- In addition to Chapter 24 of the IFC, tents, canopies and membrane structures shall comply with 29-140: **The CT Tent and Portable Shelter Code**

• Permit required from the fire official for: Tents and membrane structures over 200 square feet and Canopies over 400 square feet

Exceptions: Tents used for recreational camping

- **Exit openings to remain open - Unless flame resistant curtain**
- Free sliding on a metal support - support minimum 80 Inches
- When open curtain does not obstruct opening
- Curtains shall be of contrasting color
- Doors shall swing in the direction of egress
- **Means Of Egress illumination fixtures**
- Must supply 1 foot-candle at floor level
- When occupied
- Must be supplied from a separate circuit or source of power

- **Required Means Of Egress aisles, passageways and exits shall:**

- Be maintained at all times to a public way
- Be free of guy wires, guy ropes and other support members for a height of 8 feet
- Maintain the surface in an approved manner – i.e. Smoothness, debris, ruts, etc.

- **Open flame, cooking, etc.**

- Prohibited within 20 feet
- Unless approved by the fire official

- **Fireworks prohibited within 100 feet**

- Spot or effect lighting
- Only electric allowed
- All combustible construction within 6 feet shall be protected with approved noncombustible Insulation at least 9-1/4 inches thick

There shall be a clearance of 3 feet between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside the tent or membrane structure

- **Portable fire extinguisher shall be provided per Section 906 and NFPA 10**

- Group A occupancies
- Special hazard areas
- Employees to be trained in use

- **Combustible vegetation to be removed from area to be occupied by the tent and 30 feet around on all sides**

CT TENT CODE

- **Regulation 29-140-Sb**

- Fire and Police Protection
- Municipal Chief of Police and Fire Chief shall assign sworn personnel
- Fire and Police Protection to be paid for by sponsor if 100 or more persons

NFPA 102, 8-4-5

- The AHJ shall require evidence of tent fabric having flame resistance per NFPA 701

- **Minimum of 10 feet between stake lines**

- **Wider Means Of Egress may be required**

- **AHJ may allow less distance for storage**

- AHJ may allow less on fairgrounds if safety precautions are provided

NFPA 102, 9-2

- Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall be flame retardant treated

- Exception for animal bedding and fodders in quantities approved by the AHJ

- **Smoking shall not be allowed in any tent**

- **Lit fireworks shall be prohibited in any tent**

- **Sales or storage is permitted**

- **Open flames shall be prohibited in any tent**

NFPA 102, 9-3

- **Portable fire extinguishing equipment of approved types shall be furnished and maintained in tents by the person operating any assembly occupancy in such amount and locations as directed by the AHJ**

- Exception if a functioning garden hose can reach all portions of private party tent

NFPA 102, 10-2

- **Only labeled heating devices to be used**
- Heaters and their installation shall be approved by the AHJ
- **LPG tanks shall be not less than 5 feet from any tent**
- **Tanks shall be secured in the upright position and protected from vehicular traffic**