

MAINTAINING ARTWORK AND TEACHING MATERIALS IN CLASSROOMS, CORRIDORS

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2016 California Fire Code (CFC) Section 803, 805 and 807; California Code of Regulations, Title 19

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide artwork, teaching material and upholstered furniture requirements for both Group E (Education) and Group R.2 college and university dormitory occupancies.

Decorative Materials:

In every E occupancy, all drapes, hangings, curtains, drops and all other decorative material, including Christmas trees that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from a non-flammable material, or shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition by means of a flame-retardant solution (product shall bear the California State Fire Marshal seal) or process approved by the State Fire Marshal, as set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8., Article 3, Section 3.08

If using a solution to treat fabric, it shall be labeled for use on fabric or for that specific material to be treated. The material shall be dipped into the liquid to provide maximum coverage. Spraying the solution onto the material does not provide complete coverage.

Exit, exit lights, fire alarm pull stations, wet standpipe hose cabinets, and fire extinguisher locations shall not be concealed, in whole or in part, by any decorative material. Title 19, Article 3, Section 3.08.

Table 803.3 Interior wall and ceiling finish requirements for Group E occupancies:

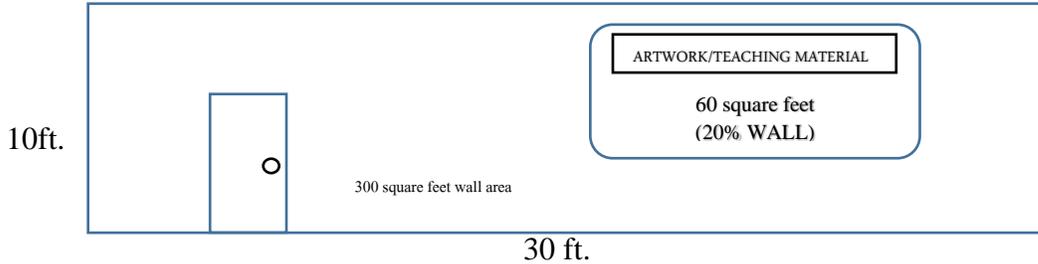
For buildings with fire sprinkler system the flame spread index for corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways, ramps, rooms and enclosed spaces shall be Class C: flame spread index 76-200; smoke-developed index 0-450.

For buildings without fire sprinkler system the flame spread index for corridor and enclosure for exit access stairways and ramps shall be Class B: flame spread index 26-75; smoke-developed index 0-450. Rooms and enclosed spaces shall be Class C: flame spread index 76-200; smoke-developed index 0-450.

Corridors – Artwork and teaching materials:

2019 CFC, Section 807.5.2.2 is adopted by the State Fire Marshal and states: “Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area”.

Educational occupancies tend to display various artwork and related educational materials on the wall of classrooms and corridors. This section limits the potential combustibility levels of artwork in critical areas of the means of egress system; therefore, decorations or artwork can cover no more than 20 percent of the corridor walls. The requirement applies only to corridors and not artwork within classrooms. (Reference: 2018 International Fire Code Commentary)



Classrooms- Artwork and teaching materials:

2019 CFC, Section 807.5.2.3 is adopted by the State Fire Marshal and states: “Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached”.

Furnishings:

Group E Occupancy -

Furnishings are personal property and includes, among others, such as furniture, appliances, rugs, cooking utensils and art objects.

Upholstered furniture/chairs located in the classrooms or assembly areas shall bear the California label complying with NFPA 260 cigarette test and the CA Tech Bulletin 117, Section E is the updated flame test that complies with upholstered furniture sold here in California. The CA Tech Bulletin 117, replaces the old flame test with the smoldering cigarette test.

Labeling: Articles of upholstered seating furniture, uncovered mattresses and mattress pads sold in the state of California will require a flammability/FR chemical statement label and a law label. Articles that are exempt from requirements of TB 117-2013 (for outdoor use, certain baby products and bedding items – review exemptions on page 3) will only need a law label. The flammability/FR chemical statement label and law label may be combined on one label, either horizontally or vertically.



Furnishings: (Continued)

Information on the TB-117-2013 and SB 1019 requirements for upholstered furniture sold in California can be found on the following websites:

https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/TB_117_2013.pdf

https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/about_us/sb_1019_faq.pdf

For more information regarding all references to the California State Fire Marshal's Office please visit their website: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>