

**WASHINGTON DC FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

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Fire Inspections for Clubs and Entertainment Establishments

Requirements for Clubs and Entertainment Establishments (*Public Assembly Occupancies*)

- The Certificate of Occupancy identifying the Occupant Load for each assembly area is required to be posted near the main entrance to that assembly area.
- Crowds are not allowed to exceed the posted occupant load.
- During hours of operation, all exit doors must remain unlocked.
- Exit doors must easily open without the use of a key or special knowledge. Exit doors shall not be locked, chained, bolted, barred, latched or otherwise rendered unusable.
- All fire protection systems, including fire alarms; fire sprinklers, range hoods, and fire extinguishers have the proper labeling showing they are properly maintained and tested.
- Exit doors and pathways must be visible, illuminated, and unobstructed. Obstacles used for crowd control such as I.D. checkpoints or ropes and stanchions can not block or restrict exits in any way.
- Pyrotechnics are not allowed, except with a valid permit issued by the DCFEMS Office of the Fire Marshal.
- Exit signs are properly installed, illuminated, and not visually obstructed.

- Interior decorations, draperies and sound-proofing materials meet flame spread and flame resistant standards. No decorations or other objects shall be placed to obstruct exits, egress or access.
- Extension cords can not used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Required business license and ABRA License must be on site, and available for inspection.

Flame Resistant Requirements of Decorative Materials

Decorative materials in assembly occupancies are required to be flame resistant in accordance with the International Fire Code 2000 (IFC), Section 806. . Decorative materials include wall hangings, draperies, curtains, banners, and other decorations. Dining tablecloths are not considered decorative materials 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 material. Please consult a professional company for these services.

Emergency Procedures

An emergency plan identifying exit routes, staff duties, and quarterly employee drills as well as fire extinguisher training is required by IFC (2000) Section 404, 405, 406 for all public assembly occupancies, and must be available for review.