

CHAPTER 8 INTERIOR FURNISHINGS, DECORATIONS AND SCENERY

SECTION FC 801 GENERAL

801.1 Scope. This chapter shall govern furnishings, decorative vegetation, decorations and scenery in buildings and structures.

801.2 General. The furnishings, decorative vegetation, decorations and scenery governed by this chapter shall be designed, stored, handled and used in accordance with this chapter.

801.3 Flame-retardant treatments. When a material or item is treated with a flame-retardant chemical to meet the requirements of this chapter for a flame-resistant material, such chemical and its method of application shall be approved. Flame-retardant treatments shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment under conditions encountered in actual use.

801.4 Fire-retardant coating. When a material or item is coated with a fire-retardant coating to meet the requirements of this chapter for a flame-resistant material, such coating and its method of application shall be approved. Flame-retardant coatings shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the coating under conditions encountered in actual use.

801.5 Prohibited decorative vegetation, decorations and scenery. It shall be unlawful in Group A, E and I occupancies to store or use decorative vegetation, decorations or scenery that consists of or is coated with pyroxylin or similarly hazardous base.

801.6 Obstructions. The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by any furnishing, decorative vegetation, decoration or scenery nor shall such furnishing, decorative vegetation, decoration or scenery obstruct any exit or the visibility thereof.

801.7 Supervision. When a material or item is treated with a flame-retardant chemical to meet the requirements of this chapter for a flame-resistant material, the application of the chemical shall be conducted by or under the personal supervision of a certificate of fitness holder.

801.8 Certificate of approval. Any flame-retardant chemical used to render a material flame-resistant to meet the requirements of this chapter shall be of a type for which a certificate of approval has been issued in accordance with FC112 and the rules.

SECTION FC 802 DEFINITIONS

802.1 Definitions. The following terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

CONIFER. Any tree, plant or shrub containing pitch, including hemlock, balsam, pine and fir.

DECORATION. Any item that is used for acoustical, aesthetic or artistic enhancement of an interior space, including artwork, banners, curtains, draperies, decorative greens, fabrics, hangings, and streamers, but not including acoustical materials regulated by the Building Code as an interior finish.

FIRE-RETARDANT COATING. An approved coating that, when applied to the surface of scenery in an approved manner, imparts flame resistance and reduces flame spread.

FLAME-RESISTANT MATERIAL. Material that meets the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, either because it is inherently flame-resistant or because it has been subjected to a flame-retardant treatment.

FLAME-RETARDANT TREATMENT. An approved chemical that, when applied to a material in an approved manner, imparts flame resistance to a material.

FLAME SPREAD. The propagation of flame over a surface.

FURNISHING. Furniture or items other than structural elements, building service equipment or interior finishes that are installed or placed in a building for the human comfort or other use of the occupants.

INTERIOR FINISH. Construction materials that form the exposed interior surfaces of a building and that are part of or affixed to walls, fixed or folding partitions, ceilings, and other construction elements.

NATURAL DECORATIVE GREEN. A bough of a natural tree or part thereof.

NATURAL TREE. Any live tree, plant or shrub, including conifer, that is rooted in soil.

SCENERY. Any or all of those devices ordinarily used on a stage in the presentation of a theatrical, artistic, musical or other similar live performance, such as back drops, side tabs, teasers, borders or scrim, rigid flats, set pieces, and all properties, except costumes.

SECTION FC 803

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE AND MATTRESSES

803.1 Upholstered furniture. Upholstered furniture newly introduced in Occupancy Groups I-1, I-2, I-3 and R-1 college and university dormitories after the effective date of this section shall comply with the resistance to ignition by cigarettes and maximum heat release rate requirements of this section.

803.1.1 Ignition by cigarettes. Newly-introduced upholstered furniture in Occupancy Groups I-1, I-2, I-3 and R-1 college and university dormitories shall be shown to resist ignition by cigarettes as determined by tests conducted in accordance with one of the following standards:

1. Mocked-up composites of the upholstered furniture shall have a char length not exceeding 1½ inches (38 mm) when tested in accordance with NFPA 261.
2. The components of the upholstered furniture shall meet the requirements for Class I when tested in accordance with NFPA 260.

Exception: The requirements of FC 803.1.1(1) and 803.1.1(2) shall not apply to upholstered furniture owned by the resident of a Group I-2 occupancy, provided such furniture is located in the sleeping room of the resident and such sleeping room is provided with a smoke detector in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code.

803.1.2 Heat release rate. Newly-introduced upholstered furniture in Occupancy Groups I-1, I-2, I-3 and R-1 college and university dormitories shall have limited rates of heat release when tested in accordance with ASTM E 1537 or California Technical Bulletin 133, as follows:

1. The peak rate of heat release for the single upholstered furniture item shall not exceed 80 kW, except upholstered furniture in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system.
2. The total energy released by the single upholstered furniture item during the first 10 minutes of the test shall not exceed 25 megajoules (MJ), except upholstered furniture in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system.

Exception: The exceptions set forth in FC 803.1.2(1) and 803.1.2(2) for upholstered furniture in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system shall not apply to Occupancy Group I-3.

803.1.3 Listing and labeling. Upholstered furniture shall be listed and labeled in compliance with the requirements of FC 803.1.1 and 803.1.2.

803.2 Mattresses. Mattresses newly introduced in Occupancy Groups I-1, I-2, I-3 and R-1 college and university dormitories after the effective date of this section shall comply with the resistance to ignition by cigarettes and maximum heat release rate requirements of this section.

803.2.1 Ignition by cigarettes. Newly-introduced mattresses in Occupancy Groups I-1, I-2, I-3, and R-1 college and university dormitories shall be shown to resist ignition by cigarettes as determined by tests conducted in accordance with 16 CFR Part 1632 and shall have a char length not exceeding 2 inches (51 mm).

803.2.2 Heat release rate. Newly-introduced mattresses shall have limited rates of heat release when tested in accordance with ASTM E 1590 or California Technical Bulletin 129, as follows:

1. The peak rate of heat release for the single mattress shall not exceed 100 kW, except mattresses in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system.

2. The total energy released by the mattress during the first 10 minutes of the test shall not exceed 25 MJ, except mattresses in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system.

Exception: The exceptions set forth in FC 803.2.2(1) and 803.2.2(2) for mattresses in rooms or spaces protected throughout by a sprinkler system shall not apply to Occupancy Group I-3.

803.2.3 Listing and labeling. Mattresses shall be listed and labeled in compliance with the requirements of FC 803.2.1 and 803.2.2.

SECTION FC 804 DECORATIVE VEGETATION

804.1 Natural trees and cut natural trees. Natural trees and cut natural trees shall be stored, sold, displayed and maintained in accordance with FC 804.1.1 through 804.1.6.

804.1.1 Indoor display of cut natural trees. Cut natural trees may be displayed in a building, except in Group A, B, E, I, M, R-1 and R-2 occupancies and any building or structure used for a public gathering. Notwithstanding the foregoing occupancy restrictions, cut natural trees may be displayed in houses of worship and dwelling units in Group R-2 apartment house occupancies.

804.1.2 Indoor storage of cut natural trees. It shall be unlawful to store cut natural trees in any building, except in connection with a display allowed under FC804.1.1.

804.1.3 Indoor storage and display of natural trees. Natural trees, except conifers, may be stored and displayed in a building, provided they are maintained in a healthy condition and are not allowed to become dry. It shall be unlawful to store or display natural trees that are conifers in any building.

804.1.4 Support devices. Cut natural trees for display in any building shall have the trunk bottoms cut off at least ½ inch (12.7 mm) above the original cut and shall be placed in a support device. The support device shall be of a type that is stable, holds the tree in an upright position and meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum 2-day supply of water.
3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches (51 mm). The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.

804.1.5 Dryness. Natural trees and cut natural trees shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles

are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. Trees shall be checked daily for dryness.

804.1.6 Retail sale of cut natural trees. Merchants of cut natural trees, including Christmas trees, shall, at the time of retail sale of each such tree, attach to the tree a printed tag containing appropriate instructions for its safe and lawful display and disposal.

804.2 Reserved.

804.3 Open flames. Candles and other open flames shall not be used or maintained on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance at least equal to the height of the tree from heat sources, including fireplaces, portable heaters and vents, and open-flame or heat-producing devices.

804.3.1 Electrical fixtures and wiring. Electrical wiring and lighting used on natural cut trees and decorative vegetation shall be listed. It shall be unlawful to use electrical wiring and lighting on metal artificial trees.

804.4 Artificial vegetation. Artificial decorative vegetation, including artificial trees, shall be flame resistant. Alternatively, the artificial decorative vegetation shall have a maximum heat release rate of 100 kW when tested in accordance with NFPA 289, using a 20 kW ignition source. Such flame resistance or maximum heat release rate shall be certified by a testing laboratory, or by the manufacturer in an approved manner. Documentation of such certification shall be submitted to the department upon request and as required by the rules.

804.5 Natural decorative greens. Natural decorative greens shall be stored and displayed in a building in accordance with FC 804.5.1 through 804.5.4.

804.5.1 Storage. It shall be unlawful to store natural decorative greens in any building, except merchandise for sale or displayed for sale which does not contain conifers.

804.5.2 Display. Natural decorative greens may be displayed in buildings on a temporary basis. The display of natural decorative greens in Group A, E, I, and M occupancies, in common areas of Group R-1, R-2 and B occupancies, and any building or structure used for a public gathering, except display of works of art in museums and houses of worship, shall comply with the restrictions set forth in FC804.5.3.

804.5.3 Restrictions on display. It shall be unlawful to display in any building natural decorative greens that:

1. Contain pitch, such as hemlock, balsam, pine or Spanish moss.
2. Are displayed at a location less than 3 feet (914 mm) from stuffed furniture, rugs, or other combustible material or contain combustible decorations.
3. Are on a combustible framework or displayed in conjunction with combustible material unless such material is flame resistant.

804.5.4 Dryness. Any natural decorative green shall be removed from a building at the first sign of deterioration or dryness. Natural decorative greens shall be checked at least daily for dryness.

SECTION FC 805 DECORATIONS AND SCENERY

805.1 Decorations. Except as otherwise specifically provided for in this chapter, in Group A, E, I, M occupancies, and Group R-1 college and university dormitories, common areas in Group B, R-1 and R-2 occupancies, and any building or structure used as a place of public gathering, decorations shall be flame resistant.

Exceptions:

1. Acoustical or other decorative materials consisting of foam plastics with a maximum heat release rate of 100 kW when tested in accordance with UL 1975.
2. Artwork in a museum or art gallery.
3. Artwork on the walls of building hallway corridors in Group B office and Group R-2 occupancies, provided that the wall area covered by such artwork does not exceed 20 percent of any wall in any occupancy not protected throughout by a sprinkler system or 50 percent of any wall in any occupancy protected throughout by a sprinkler system, and the artwork is affixed in a manner that prevents it from moving freely.
4. Artwork and educational materials in classrooms in Group E and I-4 occupancies, and on the walls of corridors in such occupancies, provided that the corridor wall area covered by such artwork and materials does not exceed 20 percent of any wall, and the artwork and materials are affixed in a manner that prevents them from moving freely.
5. Curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls of sleeping units and dwelling units in Occupancy Group R-1 dormitories protected throughout by a sprinkler system, where the total amount of such materials does not exceed 25 percent of the aggregate area of walls.
6. Decorations displayed for sale.
7. Guest rooms in hotels and motels.
8. Decorations in houses of worship, including wood used for screening or ornamental purposes.
9. Decorations in private offices in commercial buildings.

805.1.1 Fabric partitions. In Group B and M occupancies, fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling and not supported by the floor shall be inherently noncombustible or shall be

treated to meet the flame propagation performance criteria in accordance with FC 805.1.3 and NFPA 701.

805.1.2 Trim and decorative materials. The type and quantity of interior trim allowed shall be as set forth in Chapter 8 of the Building Code. The quantity of flame resistant materials used in decorations when combined with combustible trim shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which it is attached.

805.1.3 Acceptance criteria and reports. Where required to be flame resistant, decorations shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701. Certification of compliance shall be prepared by a certificate of fitness holder and made available to department representatives in accordance with the rules.

805.1.4 Motion picture screens. Motion picture screens and supporting construction shall comply with the requirements of FC306.3.

805.2 Scenery. All scenery in Group A occupancies shall be made of materials that are inherently noncombustible, have a Class A flame-spread rating, or rendered flame resistant by the application of a fire-retardant coating, except that the commissioner may authorize the use of scenery not complying with any of the above requirements where provision is made to ensure an equivalent level of fire safety. Foam plastic materials used for scenery shall comply with the maximum heat release rate set forth in Exception 1 to FC805.1.

SECTION FC 806 INTERIOR FINISHES

806.1 General. The quantity and type of interior finishes shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Building Code.

806.2 Foam plastic signs. Foam plastic signs that are not interior finishes shall have a maximum heat release rate of 150 kW when tested in accordance with UL 1975.