



# FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION IN GENERAL RETAIL STORES

## KEEP YOUR RETAIL STORE SAFE AND LEGAL

General retail stores may require a Fire Department Permit and Certificate of Fitness. They include dollar stores, small groceries, pharmacies, discount stores, etc. The amount of dangerous products determines if you require a Fire Department Permit and Certificate of Fitness.

It is important to ensure that your store is safe for both customers to shop and employees to work. There are some dangerous products that may be found in general retail stores. The Fire Department has safety rules for them. For example, improper storing of cleaning products, paints, or aerosol products are possible fire hazards.

The Fire Department issues permits for the location to ensure the products are stored properly. Certificate of Fitness holders are required to make sure the products are safely stored and handled.

## REGULATED AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

### AEROSOLS



WHAT ARE THE **AEROSOL** PRODUCTS YOU MAY SEE IN YOUR SUPPLY STORE?

Shaving cream, window cleaners, rug shampoos, hair sprays, deodorants, antiseptics, spray paint, etc.

WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Aerosol cans are under pressure. When heated, they may explode, burning nearby workers and showering them with steel shrapnel. Also, if the product in the aerosol can is ignitable, it is possible a fire would start.

WHEN DO YOU NEED FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If you have more than 1,280 fluid ounces (ex. 80 aerosol cans of 16 ounces) of aerosols in your supply store, a Fire Department permit and an A-49 Certificate of Fitness are required.

### LIQUIDS THAT COULD EASILY BURN



WHAT ARE THE IGNITABLE (FLAMMABLE) **LIQUIDS** YOU MAY SEE IN YOUR SUPPLY STORE?

Nail polish remover, sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, oil based paint and paint related materials, varnish, waxes and polishes, etc.

WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

The ignitable (flammable) liquids will create vapors that can easily burn at low temperatures by a spark.

## WHEN DO YOU NEED FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If your store has any of the following conditions, a Fire Department permit and a C-92 Certificate of Fitness are required.

1. More than 5 gallons of highly ignitable (flammable) liquids. Examples: nail polish removers, paint removal products, paint cleaning products, varnishes, lacquers, etc.
2. More than 10 gallons of ignitable (flammable) liquids. Examples: windshield washer fluid, spray oil lubricant mineral spirits, such as WD-40, etc.
3. More than 20 gallons of oil based paints.

### Need the 2 Certificate of Fitness together?

Obtain a combined C-36 Certificate of Fitness: Supervision of storage and handling of hazardous materials in retail stores.

## AIR CONDITIONER AND FUEL OIL

There are other items that may require a Fire Department permit. These items include **roof mounted or more than five horsepower backyard or floor mounted air conditioners**. Also if you heat with **fuel oil** you will require a permit. If you have any of these items that are talked about in this brochure or other fire safety questions you can call (718)999-2457 and someone will be able to assist you.



AIR CONDITIONER

## IMPORTANT TIPS

### COMMON VIOLATIONS FOUND IN GENERAL RETAIL STORES

1. Not having fire extinguishers mounted throughout your store, or if the fire extinguishers are not seen.

WALL MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHER

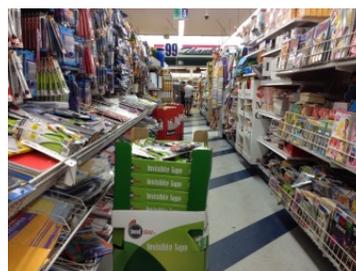


ANNUAL SERVICING TAG

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2. Not having fire extinguishers checked annually, or if they are not checked by a certified fire extinguisher company.

3. Having aisle space that is blocked.



4. Having empty cardboard boxes stacked in back room.



## HOW TO RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

You can receive the Certificate of Fitness if you pass the Fire Department exam. Certificate of Fitness Exams are given at Fire Department Headquarters, 9 Metrotech Center Brooklyn, NY 11201. The Fire Department gives study material free of charge to help prepare for the exam. All exam questions are from the study material. Study material is available online at:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/index.page>

OR

Call 718-999-1988 to request



A SAMPLE OF A CERTIFICATE  
OF FITNESS CARD

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE AN FDNY SUMMONS?

If you receive an FDNY summons, you must return the gold copy of the violation within **35** days. If you have any questions about the FDNY summons that you received, there is a number of the issuing unit on the top right of the FDNY summons.

If you need a copy of the Certificate of Correction it can be found at the following address:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/violation-certificate-of-correction.pdf>

