



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURES, TENTS AND CANOPIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Appendix Chapter 1, section 105 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states that permits required by the Fire Code shall be obtained from the fire code official. An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet (19 m²), or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²). See Chapter 24 for complete requirements. Additional requirements may be applicable.

General. All tents, canopies and membrane structures, both temporary and permanent, shall be in accordance with this section and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 2. Permanent tents, canopies and membrane structures shall also comply with the California Building Code.

Use period. Temporary tents, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structures and canopies shall not be erected for a period of more than 180 days within a 12-month period on a single premises.

Construction documents. A detailed site and floor plan for tents, canopies or membrane structures with an occupant load of 50 or more shall be provided with each application for approval. The tent, canopy or membrane structure floor plan shall indicate details of the means of egress facilities, seating capacity, arrangement of the seating and location and type of heating and electrical equipment.

Access. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided in accordance with Section 503.

Location. Tents, canopies or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of lot lines, buildings, other tents, canopies or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy.

Anchorage required. Tents, canopies or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official on request.

Means of egress. Means of egress for temporary tents, canopies and membrane structures shall be in accordance with Sections 2403.12.1 through 2403.12.8. Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the tent, canopy or membrane structure, and shall be located such that all points are 100 feet (30 480 mm) or less from an exit. Tents, canopies or membrane structures or a usable portion thereof shall have at least one exit and not less than the number of exits required by Table 2403.12.2. The total width of means of egress in inches (mm) shall not be less than the total occupant load served by a means of egress multiplied by 0.2 inches (5 mm) per person.

Exit openings from tents. Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain.

Exit signs. Exits shall be clearly marked. Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to indicate clearly the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more. Exit signs shall be of an approved self-luminous type or shall be internally or externally illuminated by luminaires.

Flame propagation performance treatment. Before a permit is granted, the owner or agent shall file with the fire code official a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory certifying that the tents; canopies and membrane structures and their appurtenances; sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins; floor coverings, bunting and combustible decorative materials and effects, including sawdust when used on floors or passageways, shall be composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, and that such flame propagation performance criteria are effective for the period specified by the permit. Membrane structures, tents or canopies shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type. An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted to the fire code official and a copy retained on the premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located.

Smoking. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted in accordance with Section 310.

Open or exposed flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the tent, canopy or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

Fireworks. Fireworks shall not be used within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of tents, canopies or membrane structures.

Clearance. There shall be a minimum clearance of at least 3 feet (914 mm) between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside the tent or membrane structure.

Portable fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required by Section 906.

Heating and cooking equipment. Heating and cooking equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 2404.15.1 through 2404.15.7.

Display of motor vehicles. Liquid- and gas-fueled vehicles and equipment used for display within tents, canopies or membrane structures shall be in accordance with Sections 2404.18.1 through 2404.18.5.3.

Separation of generators. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet (6096 mm) and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

Additional
Requirements _____
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