



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Assembly Bill 267 – Small Tents

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 267 regarding small tents was signed by the Governor and chaptered by Secretary of State on October 13, 2023. This bill increased the occupant load of small tents from nine or less, to 15 or less. This bill defines “flame retardant” as a material resistant to flame or fire to the extent that it will successfully endure standard fire resistive testing approved by the California State Fire Marshal.

Currently, tents or fabric structures used to conduct committal services on the grounds of a cemetery, or tents, awnings, or other fabric enclosures erected and used within a sound stage, or other similar structural enclosure that have an overhead automatic sprinkler system are exempt from the testing requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

All small tents (occupancy of 15 or less) that are designed or manufactured for children’s play, camping, backpacking, or mountaineering that are constructed with fabric made from synthetic fibers shall be classified as inherently flame-resistant fabrics. All small tents, awnings, canopies, and fabric enclosures will be held to the same labeling requirements as specified by the State Fire Marshal.

All small tents made with synthetic fibers used for other purposes than those listed above, small tents made other materials, large tents (occupancy of 16 or more) awning, canopies, and fabric enclosures will be held to the same required testing as inherently flame-resistant fabrics of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 8, Section 1237.1 or Canvas Products Association International (CPAI)-84 for exterior approval. All small tents made with non-synthetic fibers be tested in accordance with CPAI-84 testing standard for exterior use.

If you are planning to use a small tent made from synthetic fibers in an assembly venue (i.e. trade shows, fairs, and vendor booths) these tents shall be held to state requirements for the same testing, approval, and labeling. These tents and fabrics are subject to local jurisdiction ordinances. Tents with an occupant load of 16 or more will require a minimum of two exits per California Building Code Section 3103.2 (Table 3101.12.2).

If you have questions regarding this Informational Bulletin or need any additional Information, please contact us at fr@fire.ca.gov.

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