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ARTIFICIAL VEGETATION IN COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCIES

FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINES

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

To provide guidelines regarding the maximum allowable size of artificial vegetation that does not have proof of meeting the flame spread requirements in commercial occupancies.

CODE AUTHORITY

International Fire Code

OVERVIEW

Per the International Fire Code, unless the vegetation has either been flame-treated or manufactured as a flame-treated material, they are not allowed in any occupancy (with exceptions). However, the intent of the code isn't to ban artificial vegetation. Since finding the flame spread rating of artificial vegetation can be difficult if not impossible for consumers to locate or find. The following guideline shall be used if the vegetation does not have proof that it has been flame treated or was manufactured as a flame-retardant material.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FULLY SPRINKLED BUILDINGS

In fully sprinkled buildings, artificial vegetation that does not have proof of meeting the NFPA 701 standard for flame propagation shall not exceed 3 feet in any dimension. Any additional artificial vegetation shall be a minimum of 5 feet away. All vegetation shall not obstruct exits. If open flames are used in the occupancy, the open flames shall be a minimum of 5 feet away from the artificial vegetation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-SPRINKLED BUILDINGS

In non-sprinkled buildings, artificial vegetation that does not have proof of meeting the NFPA 701 standard for flame propagation is prohibited.