



Lake Havasu City Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau

2330 McCulloch Blvd. N.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Phone: (928) 855-1141 www.lhcaz.gov

FD Specification #14
Candles & Other Open Flame Devices

2018 IFC, Ch. 3

Rev. 9/01/2021
Page 1 of 3

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fire department specification is to provide business owners and occupants requirements for the proper use of open flames including candles and for the preparation of flaming foods.

SCOPE

The specification addresses the use of open flame decorative devices, including candles, in buildings and safety requirements for the preparation of flaming foods.

REQUIREMENTS

Operational permits are not required for use of open flames and candles in connection within Public Assembly or Educational occupancies at this time, but may be required in the future. Candles, incense, and similar open-flame-producing items are expressly prohibited in sleeping units in college dormitory occupancies. Extreme care and good judgement must be exercised when using open flames and candles in public places and in adherence to these requirements.

Open-flame devices may not be used in buildings used for Public Assembly use including, but not limited to; banquet halls, community halls, night clubs, taverns and bars, restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities, with the **following exceptions** where approved by the Fire Marshal (FM):

1. Open flames including candles are prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an aisle or exit. They are allowed to be used in the following situations provided approved, precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:
 - a. **Ceremonial or religious purposes** - Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes when, in the opinion of the FM, adequate safeguards have been taken, participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry hand-held candles. Hand-held candles may not be passed from one person to another while lighted.
 - b. **Theatrical performances** - On stages and platforms, as a necessary part of a performance and approved by the FM, where open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used when adequate safety precautions are taken, and in accordance with NFPA 160, *The Standard for the Use of Flame Effects Before an Audience*.
 - c. **Table candles** – Where candles are permitted on tables when securely supported on substantial non-combustible bases and the candle flames are protected, the following regulations must apply:
 1. Class I (flammable) and Class II (highly combustible) liquids and LP-gas may not be used.

2. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8-ounces of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute if tipped over.
3. The device or holder must be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder must be designed so that it will return to its upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45-degrees from vertical.

Exception: Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute if tipped over are permitted.

5. The flame must be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375-inch diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10-seconds.
6. Chimneys must be made of noncombustible materials (e.g. glass), and securely attached to the open-flame device.
Exception: A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.
7. Fuel canisters must be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of *combustible liquids* must be in accordance with 2018 IFC Ch. 57 Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
9. Shades, where used, must be made of non-combustible materials (e.g. glass) and securely attach to the open-flame device holders or chimneys.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles must be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, be located away from occupants using the area, and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

2. **Gas lights** - are allowed to be used provided adequate precautions satisfactory to the FM are taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.
3. **Flaming foods** - The preparation of flaming foods or beverages in Places of Assembly and drinking or dining establishments must be in accordance with the following requirements:
 - a. **Serving of flaming food** - The serving of flaming foods or beverages must be done in a safe manner and must not create high flames. The pouring, ladling or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8-inches above the receiving receptacle.
 - b. **Location** - Flaming foods or beverages must be prepared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They may not be transported or carried while burning.
 - c. **Fire protection** - The person preparing the flaming foods or beverages must have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use to smother the flames in the event of an emergency. A minimum 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher must be located within 75-foot of the operation.

- d. **Dispensing** – Liquid containers must be secured to prevent spillage when not in use. Flammable or combustible liquids used in the preparation of flaming foods or beverages must be dispensed from one of the following:
1. A 1-ounce container; or
 2. A container not exceeding 1-quart capacity with a controlled pouring device that will limit the flow to a 1-ounce serving.

REFERENCE

2018 International Fire Code, Ch. 3, § 308, *Open Flames*
2018 IFC [Ch. 57](#) Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

Note: This FD specification is intended to be a guide only. For full installation, fire-flow, location, distribution, and maintenance requirements, refer to the references above. Where conflicts exist between this document and the applicable codes and standards, the above references must supersede.

APPROVED: _____



Scott Hartman, Fire Marshal

DATE: _____

September 01, 2021