

### 3103.2 Approval required

Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m<sup>2</sup>) shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the fire code official.

#### Exceptions:

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Tents open on all sides that comply with all of the following:
  - 2.1. Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>).
  - 2.2. The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm), not exceeding 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>) total.
  - 2.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to all structures and other tents

### 3103.5 Use period

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

### 3103.6 Construction documents

A detailed site and floor plan for tents or membrane structures with an occupant load of 50 or more shall be provided with each application for approval. The tent 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. The construction documents shall include an analysis of structural stability.

### 3103.7 Inspections

The entire tent, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structure system shall be inspected at regular intervals, but not less than two times per permit use period, by the permittee, owner or agent to determine that the installation is maintained in accordance with this chapter.

**Exception:** Permit use periods of less than 30 days.

#### 3103.7.1 Inspection report

Where required by the fire code official, an inspection report shall be provided and shall consist of maintenance, anchors and fabric inspections.

#### 3103.8.1 Access

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

#### 3103.8.2 Location

Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of lot lines, buildings, other tents 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 or tent.

#### Exceptions:

1. Separation distance between membrane structures and tents not used for cooking is not required where the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet (1394 m<sup>2</sup>).
2. Membrane structures or tents need not be separated from buildings where all of the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure or tent shall not exceed 10,000 square feet (929 m<sup>2</sup>).
  - 2.2. The aggregate floor area of the building and membrane structure or tent shall not exceed the allowable floor area including increases as indicated in the California Building Code.
  - 2.3. Required means of egress are provided for both the building and the membrane structure or tent including travel distances.
  - 2.4. Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with Section 503.
3. *When approved by the enforcing agency, tents may be located in or on permanent buildings provided such use does not constitute an undue hazard.*

### 3103.9 Structural stability and anchorage required

Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be designed and installed to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official.

### 3103.11 Seating arrangements

Seating in tents or membrane structures shall be in accordance with Chapter 10.

#### 3103.12.1 Distribution

Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the tent or membrane structure, and shall be located such that all points are 100 feet (30,480 mm) or less from an exit.

#### 3103.12.2 Number

Tents, or membrane structures or a usable portion thereof shall have not less than one exit and not less than the number of exits required by Table 3103.12.2. The total width of means of egress in inch (mm) shall be not less than the total occupant load served by a means of egress multiplied by 0.2 inches (5 mm) per person.

**TABLE 3103.12.2**

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND MEANS OF EGRESS WIDTHS FROM TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURES AND TENTS**

OCCUPANT LOAD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS	MINIMUM WIDTH OF EACH MEANS OF EGRESS (inches)	
		Tent	Membrane Structure
10 to 199	2	72	36
200 to 499	3	72	72
500 to 999	4	96	72
1,000 to 1,999	5	120	96
2,000 to 2,999	6	120	96
Over 3,000 <sup>a</sup>	7	120	96

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. When the occupant load exceeds 3,000, the total width of means of egress (in inches) shall be not less than the total occupant load multiplied by 0.2 inches per person

### 3103.12.3 Exit openings from tents

Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain. The curtain shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Curtains shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be not less than 80 inches (2032 mm) above the floor level at the exit. The curtains shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtains obstructs the exit.
2. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, that contrasts with the color of the tent.

### 3103.12.5 Aisle

The width of aisles without fixed seating shall be in accordance with the following:

1. In areas serving employees only, the minimum aisle width shall be 24 inches (610 mm) but not less than the width required by the number of employees served.
2. In public areas, smooth-surfaced, unobstructed aisles having a minimum width of not less than 44 inches (1118 mm) shall be provided from seating areas, and aisles shall be progressively increased in width to provide, at all points, not less than 1 foot (305 mm) of aisle width for each 50 persons served by such aisle at that point.

#### 3103.12.5.1 Arrangement and maintenance

The arrangement of aisles shall be subject to approval by the fire code official and shall be maintained clear at all times during occupancy.

### 3103.12.6 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 where the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more.

#### 3103.12.6.1 Exit sign illumination

Exit signs shall be either listed and labeled in accordance with UL 924 as the internally illuminated type and used in accordance with the listing or shall be externally illuminated by luminaires supplied in either of the following manners:

1. Two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all other circuits, for occupant loads of 300 or less.
2. Two separate sources of power, one of which shall be an approved emergency system, shall be provided where the occupant load exceeds 300. Emergency systems shall be supplied from storage batteries or from the on-site generator set, and the system shall be installed in accordance with *the California Electrical Code*. The emergency system provided shall have a minimum duration of 90 minutes when operated at full design demand.

### 3103.12.8 Maintenance of means of egress

The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8 feet (2438 mm). The surface of means of egress shall be maintained in an approved manner.

### 3104.2 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. The certificate shall indicate that the floor coverings, tents, membrane structures and their appurtenances, which include sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins, are composed of materials meeting the flame propagation performance of Test Method 2 of NFPA 701. Additionally, it shall indicate that the bunting and combustible decorative materials and effects are composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2 of NFPA 701, as applicable. Alternatively, the materials shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of the applicable test method of NFPA 701. The flame propagation performance criteria shall be effective for the period specified by the permit.

### 3104.3 Label

Membrane structures or tents shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type.

### 3104.4 Certification

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. The affidavit shall attest to all of the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric:

1. Names and address of the owners of the tent or air-supported structure.
2. Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution.
3. Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment.
4. Name of person or firm treating the material.
5. Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested.

### 3107.2 Combustible materials

Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided that the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time.

***[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §315. (b)] Flame Resistance Standards***

***(b) Sawdust, shavings, or other combustible material used on the floor or ground shall be made flame resistant or when approved by the enforcing authority shall be kept adequately damp when tent is occupied.***

***[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §326. (b)] Hazard Abatement***

***(b) Hay, straw, trash and other similar flammable material shall be stored more than 50 feet from any tent except upon approval of the enforcing authority. Exception: Tents to which the public is not admitted.***

**3107.3 Smoking.** Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted in accordance with Section 310.

### 3107.4 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 or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

### 3107.8 Clearance

There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 feet (914 mm) between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside membrane structures.

### **3107.9 Portable fire extinguishers**

Approved portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be provided and placed in locations as required by *California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 319*

***[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §319. (a) through (c)] Fire Extinguishers and Other Fire Protection Equipment***

**(a)** *One Class 2-A fire extinguisher shall be provided in every tent having a floor area between 500 square feet and 1,000 square feet plus one 2-A fire extinguisher in each auxiliary adjacent tent. One additional extinguisher shall be provided for each additional 2000 square feet or fraction thereof*

**(b)** *At least one Class 10 B-C fire extinguisher shall be provided with each generator or transformer.*

**(c)** *At least one Class 10 B-C fire extinguisher shall be provided in kitchen, dining areas, and at locations where flammable or combustible liquids or flammable gases are used, stored, or dispensed.*

### **3107.11 Occupant load factors**

The occupant load allowed in an assembly structure, or portion thereof, shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 10.

#### **3107.12.1 Installation**

Heating or cooking equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be installed as specified in the *California Mechanical Code* and the *California Fuel Gas Code*, and shall be approved by the fire code official.

#### **3107.12.2 Venting**

Gas, liquid and solid fuel-burning equipment designed to be vented shall be vented to the outside air as specified in the *California Fuel Gas Code* and the *California Mechanical Code*. Such vents shall be equipped with approved spark arresters where required. Where vents or flues are used, all portions of the tent or membrane structure shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the flue or vent.

#### **3107.12.3 Location**

Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of exits or combustible materials.

#### **3107.12.4 Operations**

Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices that do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved.

#### **3107.12.5 Cooking tents**

Tents with sidewalls or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet (6096 mm).

#### **3107.12.6 Outdoor cooking**

Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet (6096 mm) of a tent or membrane structure.

#### **3107.12.7 Electrical heating and cooking equipment**

Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with *the California Electrical Code*.

#### **3107.13.1 General**

LP-gas equipment such as containers, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be approved and in accordance with Chapter 61 and with the *California Plumbing Code*.

#### **3107.16 Separation of generators**

Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

#### **3107.17 Standby personnel**

Where, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in a tent or membrane structure used as a place of assembly or any other use where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, to remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted.

#### **3107.18 Combustible vegetation**

Combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent or membrane structure, and from areas within 30 feet (9144 mm) of such structures.

***[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §326. (a)] Hazard Abatement.***

**(a)** *All flammable vegetation within 50 feet of any tent shall be removed.*

#### **3107.19 Combustible waste material**

The floor surface inside tents or membrane structures and the grounds outside and within a 30-foot (9144 mm) perimeter shall be kept free of combustible waste and other combustible materials that could create a fire hazard. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed from the premises not less than once a day during the period the structure is occupied by the public.

#### **3107.20 Obstructions**

*Exits, aisles and passageways shall not be blocked or have their minimum clear width obstructed in any manner by ticket offices, turnstiles, concessions, chairs, equipment, animal chutes, poles or guy ropes, or anything whatsoever, nor shall they be blocked by persons for whom no seats are available. In occupancies having fixed seating, and on request of the owner or manager, the enforcing agency may permit modifications from the provisions of this code to accommodate seating for handicapped persons using mechanical aids such as, but not limited to, walkers and wheelchairs.*