

Clarification

Design and Erection of a Tent(s)

Issue

In an effort to assist Developers, Owners and professionals with the design and erection of tents, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has developed this clarification, which will assist them in navigating applicable codes and standards. In addition, this will help maintain consistency in the OFM plan review process.

Note: Certain uses of tents may be exempted from the OFM Plan Review, for example; tents for recreational camping, greenhouses, individual subsistence i.e. fishing or hunting. Developers, Owners & professionals are advised to contact the OFM with a description of their intended use pursuant to the Fire Prevention Act to the undersigned.

Clarification on Design and Erection of a Tent

The word “tent” has not been defined in the National Building Code of Canada (Code) or National Fire Code of Canada (NFC), however for the purposes of plan review, the word “tent” as used in the Code refers to a temporary shelter. A tent will normally be constructed of a fabric held by poles and attached by ties and pegs. {1.4.1.1.} Tent as a temporary structure has been prescribed in Subsection 3.1.6. of the Code. It has also been dealt in Section 2.9 of the NFC.

Submission of Drawings and Specifications

The tent falls under Part 3 of the Code and therefore relevant drawings sealed and signed by a professional licensed to practice in Northwest Territories and specifications shall be submitted to the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) for a review prior to buying a fabric for a tent or starting its construction at site. The OFM *may* ask for structural calculations for anchorage, wind load, snow and rain load to confirm the structural integrity of the site to support imposed load.

A tent as a temporary structure will be dealt in conformance with Section 5(1)-(3) of the Fire Prevention Regulations in conjunction with Section 5.1 of the Fire Prevention Act.

The submission shall include the following for the OFM review:

The use of a tent, Maximum Occupant load expected at any given time, interior layout of the tent with all dimensions, the location exits and its width, seating plan showing the location of aisle and aisle dimensions and any other detail necessary to complete the OFM review.

Specification of a Tent Fabric

Every tent and all tarpaulins and decorative materials used in connection with such structures shall conform to ULC-S109, "Standard for Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films" Or NFPA 701, "Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films". **The applicant is required to submit proof that this requirement is achieved.** Test supplier will provide a Certification from an independent testing laboratory that the fabric meets ULC-S109 or NFPA 701.

Additional Requirements

Fire access route, emergency lighting, exit signs, temporary potable water, plumbing facilities, portable extinguishers, spacing or clearances between the tents, duration of the tent including starting and ending dates and other concerns shall be dealt in conformance with the Code and NFC.

No cooking that produces grease/oily vapours are permitted inside a tent without an approved ventilation system. Smoking and open-flame devices are not permitted in a tent. Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment shall be installed as per manufacturer's instructions and under the supervision of a professional.

A permit, review and inspection of the Gas & Electrical department of the GNWT or a building or a development permit from the local municipality may be required prior starting construction.

If you have any question, please feel free to call the undersigned.

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