CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LIFE SAFETY SERVICES
GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

GUIDELINE A.04 – Candles and Open-Flames in Assembly Areas

A.04.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to assist business owners and others with understanding the requirements for the use of candles and open flames in assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants and drinking establishments.

A.04.2 SCOPE

The requirements found in this guideline apply to all assembly areas for 50 or more people, the dining areas of all restaurants and all drinking establishments.

An ASSEMBLY AREA is defined in the California Fire Code as: The gathering together of 50 or more persons for such purposes as deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement, and drinking, dining or awaiting transportation.

A.04.3 PROCEDURE

Candles.

A sample candle or candle arrangement shall be brought into the Community Development Department for testing and approval prior to the issuance of a permit. Contact the Building Safety Division at (949) 644-3200 to schedule an appointment. The office is located at 100 Civic Center Drive, Bay C, 1st Floor, Newport Beach. An application can be obtained during your appointment or may be downloaded from the City's website:

http://newportbeachca.gov/home/showdocument?id=28319

General requirements for a candle or candle arrangement:

1.   The candle arrangement shall be secured to its base such that it becomes one complete unit and resists tipping, (i.e. glue, double-stick tape).

2.   Class I and Class II liquids and LPG-gas shall not be used.

3.   The flame shall be enclosed on all sides except as follows:

- Openings on the top and the distance to the top shall be such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.

- Openings on the side shall not be more than 3/8-inch diameter.

4. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials. Such chimneys shall be securely attached to the open-flame device.

    Exception: The chimney need not be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.

5. Shades shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.

6. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

    Exception: Units that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.

7. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than eight ounces must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.

8. The devices or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute when the device or holder is not in an upright position.

9. Elevated or hanging elevated candles will not be approved.

Religious Ceremonies.

When, in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, adequate safeguards have been taken, participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry handheld candles. Handheld candles shall not be passed from one person to another while lighted.

Theatrical Performances.

When approved by the Fire Code Official, candles and other open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used when adequate safety precautions have been taken.

<u>Open Flame Devices</u>.

Open flame devices are defined as:

- Torches, butane and other pressurized gas burners and/or cooking surfaces.
- Fire features and similar heat and/or flame producing equipment.
- Displays which incorporate fire.
- Any other devices which produces, maintains or incorporates flame, heat and other products of combustion.

Open flame devices are prohibited in all assembly areas for 50 or more people, the dining areas of all restaurants and all drinking establishments unless approved by the Fire Code Official.