

SECHELT FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION BULLETIN

BULLETIN – PUBLIC EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, AND FAIRS

Effective: July 18, 2022

PURPOSE:

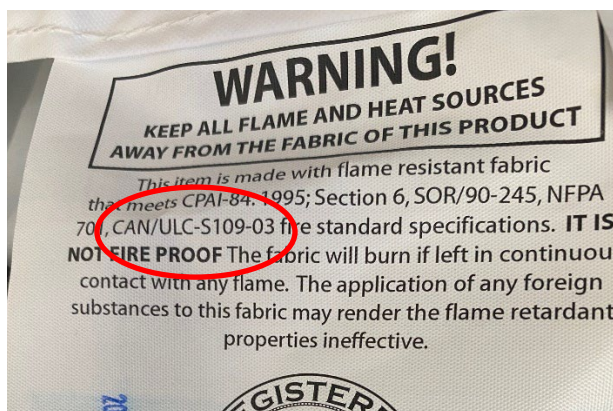
This guideline is intended to inform organizers of the requirements of the British Columbia Fire Code and Building Code regarding public events (Markets, Festivals, Concerts, Fairs, etc.).

SCOPE:

This bulletin is directed at public events. It is not intended to apply to private events or personal use.

Tents, Canopies, and Exhibition Booth Requirements

- Tents, canopies, and tarpaulins used in these events shall meet Canadian standards for flame spread as outlined in CAN/ULC S-109, “*Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films*”. This standard will be listed on a permanently affixed label on the fabric. (BCFC 2.9.2.1.1, BCBC 3.1.6.5.1)



Flame resistant fabrics are tested to many different standards to be used in different applications. CAN/ULC-S109 is the only standard recognized in British Columbia.

- The ground enclosed by a tent and not less than 3m of ground outside the structure shall be cleared of all flammable material or vegetation that will spread fire. (BCBC 3.1.6.4.1)
- All electrical fixtures and appliances must be approved and carry the appropriate ULC or CSA listing. Electrical code stipulations that will be rigidly enforced include: (BCFC 2.9.3.1)
 - Three wire (grounded) cords plugged into two wire extension cords

- Extension cords must be of appropriate gauge and designed to for use in that location (ie: outdoor use)
- There shall be sufficient clearance from lights and other heat sources to any combustible or display materials to prevent any possible ignition or melting.
- All electrical plugs and cords shall be free from defects.
- All combustible gas appliances shall conform to Technical Safety BC regulations
- Pressurized tanks and other similar hazards shall be properly secured to prevent tipping over or damage.
- Smoking and open flame devices shall not be permitted in a tent while it is occupied by the public. (BCFC 2.9.3.3.1)
- Exhaust from generators must be pointed away from the tent and 3m clear from combustibles.
- Tents shall be sufficiently distant from one another to provide an area to be used as a means of emergency egress and firefighting access. (BCBC 3.1.6.2.1)

Cooking or Warming

- Canopies, tents, and tarpaulins shall be CAN/ULC S109 certified.
- Fabrics shall be cleaned prior to setup.
- Canopies and tents used for cooking shall be 3m from a non-cooking tent, canopy, or building.
- A maximum of two cooking appliances that creates grease-laden vapours are permitted per **canopy** space measuring 3m x 3m upon approval by the Fire Department.
- The production of grease laden vapours inside of a **tent** is not permitted unless requirements of NFPA 96 are met.
- There shall be a vertical clearance of 1m from the cooking appliance to the ceiling.
- The public are not allowed to be under canopies being used for cooking and cooking devices shall be isolated from the public by a minimum of 1m from the front of the booth or provide a sturdy mounted separation shield.
- Surfaces on which cooking/warming devices are located shall be constructed and arranged such that their proximity to combustibles will not pose a fire danger. When cooking equipment generates high temperature heat, the surface must be provided with adequate protection.
- Appliances must be placed on a stable base to limit the risk of the appliance tipping.
- Deep-fat fryers are not permitted to be placed on tables with collapsible or folding legs.
- Fire protection shall be provided with any canopy or tent utilizing cooking/warming operations.

- A greater level of fire protection shall be provided with any canopy utilizing devices producing grease-laden vapours. Each device must meet one of these two (2) requirements:

- a “K Class” fire extinguisher and lid for smothering
- an approved automatic extinguishing system.

Note: For multiple devices, one “K Class” extinguisher per canopy is acceptable but each device must have a smothering lid. Extinguishers shall be located immediately adjacent to the cooking area.

- All devices producing grease-laden vapours must maintain 1m clearance to a canopy wall or dropdown side.
- Barbecues must be .5m away from canopy side and 3m from all combustible construction.
- Mobile Food Vendors (Trucks, trailers, and carts) must hold a valid/current Lower Mainland Food Vendor decal and provide a copy of the inspection report to the Sechelt Fire Department. Decals may be acquired through the fire department pending a completed inspection. Please book in advance at:
<https://www.secheltfiredepartment.ca/prevention/> or call (604) 885-7017 ext. 5 or 6.