

Fire and Life-Safety Group (FLS)

Candle Safety Code Review

This document was prepared to list some but not all of the requirements based on the latest edition of adopted codes in 2011. Please ensure that all requirements are verified and met.

Section 305.1 of the 2009 edition of the *International Fire Code* (IFC) requires clearance from ignition sources, including flame-producing devices such as candles.

Section 305.4 of the IFC states that it is unlawful to deliberately, or through negligence, set fire to or cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

Section 308.1.1 of the IFC prohibits utilization of open flames in a structure where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored.

Section 308.2 of the IFC prohibits utilization of open flames in connection with a public meeting or gathering for the purposes of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation, or similar purpose in assembly or educational occupancies without first obtaining a permit.

Section 308.3.1 lists the following requirements for decorative open-flame devices.

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas are not to 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 when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
3. The device or holder is to 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 is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder is to be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical, unless the device is designed to self-extinguish.
5. The flame is to be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch diameter or where openings are on the top of and the distance to the top is such that a piece of paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
6. Chimneys are to be made of noncombustible material and securely attached to the open flame device.
7. Fuel canisters are to be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of combustible liquids is to be in accordance with Chapter 34 of IFC.
9. Shades, where used, are to be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles are to be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and are to be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains, or other combustibles.

Section 308.1.5 of the IFC states that open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters are not to be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

Section 308.1.7.1 of the IFC prohibits the use of candles in areas where occupants stand and in aisles and exits.

Section 308.1.7 of the IFC states that handheld candles may be used in religious ceremonies when the fire code official has determined that adequate safeguards have been taken. Handheld candles are not to be passed from one person to another while lighted.

Section 308.3.2 of the IFC states that, where approved, open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used when adequate safety precautions have been taken in accordance with NFPA-160, *Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience*.

Section 308.3 of the IFC states that open-flame devices are not to be used in Group A occupancies, with the following exceptions:

1. Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes in accordance with Section 308.3.5.
2. On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with Section 308.3.6.
3. Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.
4. Heat-producing equipment complying with Chapter 6 and the *International Mechanical Code* .
5. Gas lights are allowed to be used provided adequate precautions satisfactory to the fire code official have been taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.