



City of Anaheim
Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau

Specifications and Requirements

Subject: SMOKING LOUNGES

References: California Fire Code, 2007 Edition Sections 310.7, 305.2 and 308.3.2; California Mechanical Code, 2007 Edition; California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 1, and Chapters 1 and 3. Anaheim Municipal Code Titles 4 and 18.

This specification and requirement has been prepared to identify the minimum fire and life safety requirements for Smoking Lounges as defined in the Anaheim Municipal Code, sometimes known as “hookah cafes”. The following is a list of requirements for Smoking Lounges:

1. Adequate ventilation is required when heating coals. A mechanical exhaust hood system that is listed shall be installed to provide ventilation. A building permit is required to install a mechanical exhaust hood system.
2. The mechanical exhaust hood fan shall be on at all times while coals are being prepared.
3. Whenever hot coals are removed from the preparation area, they shall be placed in a ceramic, metal, or other non-combustible container. Open mesh containers shall not be used.
4. Coal containers shall not be placed on combustible materials, such as tablecloths or furniture. All devices used to transfer coals from the container to the hookah pipe shall be of a non-combustible material.
5. Hookah pipes shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning. An approved clasp or hook may be used to secure the pipe to a table or other stationary object. A shield or other approved device shall be applied to the top of the pipe to prevent accidental contact of patrons to exposed coals. A protective device may be a cap constructed of aluminum foil so that the height is not less than two inches above the top of the coals.
6. Used coals shall not be discarded in such a manner that could cause ignition of combustible materials. Used coals shall be removed and placed into a sealed metal or ceramic container with a lid (no openings other than the lid). The container shall be labeled “Hot Coals Only”. The container shall not be placed within ten feet of other combustible materials, including combustible walls, partitions, or within two feet of openings of the building. If the container is placed on a non-combustible floor, ground surface, or stand, the container may be within two feet of the wall or partition. Hot ashes shall be thoroughly cooled (at least 24 hours) before being discarded.
7. The occupant load of a business shall be determined by the Anaheim Fire Department. If an occupant load is 50 or more all requirements of the California Fire and Building Code shall apply for an assembly occupancy. Requirements for assembly occupancies include a second exit, illuminated exit signs, and panic hardware. If a building or suite is not classified as an assembly occupancy, a change of occupancy classification shall be submitted to the City of Anaheim Building Division and shall be approved prior to Fire Department approval of the Smoking Lounge permit.
8. If the occupant load of the lounge is 50 or more, all combustible decorative materials shall be flame resistant. This includes curtains, tablecloths, and all materials hung from ceilings and/or walls. All textile and film materials shall be treated and maintained flame resistant. Certificates indicating the treatments applied, shall be kept at the place of business and be readily available to Anaheim Fire Department personnel upon request. The certificate must state the flame retardant material, the method used for application, and have the approval of the California State Fire Marshal. Flame retardant application services and certificates may be obtained from a licensed company. As a courtesy, a list of licensed companies may be requested from the Anaheim Fire Department.
9. 2-A:10-B:C type fire-extinguishers shall be installed in approved locations. A 2-A:20-B:C type fire-extinguisher shall be installed adjacent to the area where the coals are prepared. A sign shall be provided to indicate extinguishers to occupants.

For further information regarding these requirements contact:

Fire Prevention Bureau at (714) 765-4040 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.