

Flameproofing Requirement for Curtains



Overview

The 2022 New York City Fire Code requires that all curtains, draperies and hanging fabric in any laboratory, place of public assembly, educational, or common area in any business or residential occupancy be flame resistant as defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 701 Standard.

Compliance with the requirement must be certified by a holder of a current and valid Certificate of Fitness for Flame Retardant Treatment (C-15) issued by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). Evidence of the certification must be filed with the FDNY prior to installation, maintained by the user department, and available for review by any FDNY representative on demand.

Products made of inherently flame-resistant fabric need only undergo a one-time certification. Products made of fabric that is not inherently flame resistant must be treated with a flameproofing chemical by a Certificate of Fitness holder. The material must be re-treated and certified after cleaning or pressing or every three years, whichever is sooner.

Applicability

The requirements of this update apply to **any** curtains, draperies and any other hanging fabric installed in areas of public assembly (lecture halls, classrooms), exam rooms, laboratories, common areas (lobbies, waiting rooms), and any area other than private administrative offices. These requirements do not apply to metal or vinyl blinds.

Responsibilities

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) provides technical assistance and guidance with the requirements of this Update.

User Groups, Departments, and Project Managers are responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the requirements of this Update.
- Filing the Certificate of Flameproofing with the FDNY prior to installation.
- Maintaining documentation showing evidence of compliance with this Update.

Procedures

Users who wish to purchase window treatments, curtains, blackout curtains, cubicle curtains, or draperies should choose products made of an inherently flame-resistant material to avoid the additional cost of treatment and re-certification.

EXISTING CURTAINS, DRAPERIES, AND HANGING FABRIC

In areas where curtains, draperies, blackout curtains, and other hanging fabric exist, documentation must be available and maintained showing evidence of compliance with this Update. If no documentation exists for the material, the user is responsible for obtaining an Affidavit of Flame Resistance from a Certificate of Fitness holder, and for arranging an annual field test of the material. An example of a company currently providing affidavits at WCM is:

- G.M.I. Incorporated
3365 Route 9
Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 265-4911

LABORATORY BLACKOUT CURTAINS

The following are examples of vendors who sell inherently flame-resistant blackout curtains:

- Kentek (<http://www.kenteklaserstore.com>)
- MechoShade (<http://www.mechoshade.com>)

References

- 2022 NYC Fire Code – Chapter 8 Section 805.1
- 2022 NYC Fire Code- Chapter 50 Section 5006.11
- RCNY Title 3 – Chapter 8 Section 805 – 01
- 2018 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code Chapter 10 3.1



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