

Fire Safety Inspection Checklist

The following is a partial list of items that the Fire Marshal will be looking for during an inspection. It is not a complete list and other Code violations may be cited. If you notice any missing or incomplete information please let us know by emailing safety@batteries.com and we will update our checklist.

Record Keeping for All Testing & Inspections:

- Keep records. A dedicated 3-ring binder works well. Different things below have specific requirements for monthly & annual testing & inspection. Documentation of these tests and inspections is required by the property owner / tenant for Exit Signs, Emergency Lights, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Alarm Systems, Automatic Sprinkler Systems, and hoods & ducts (for Food and Cooking establishments). See below for more details.

Premises Identification:

- New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

Means of Egress:

- Means of egress and primary means of escape shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.
- No furnishing, decorations, or other objects shall obstruct exits, access thereto, egress there from, or visibility thereof.

Exit Signs

- Exit Signs shall be illuminated at all times including power failures.
- Generally the exit lights shall have a battery back up to maintain illumination.
- Monthly testing and documentation is required by the property owner/tenant.

Emergency Lights

- Emergency lighting is required to illuminate exit paths during a power failure.
- All emergency lights shall be tested once a month for 30 seconds and once a year for 90 minutes.
- Monthly testing and documentation is required by the property owner/tenant.

Exits

- All exits are to be kept clear of obstructions at all times, aisles or corridors shall be kept clear for its full width.
- All exit doors are to remain unlocked while building is occupied.
- All exit doors shall be free of deadbolts, slide bolts, and padlocks. Only one locking mechanism is permitted per door.

Fire Extinguishers

- Fire Extinguishers are required in all occupancies.
- They shall be readily visible and mounted on a wall near an exit.
- Fire extinguishers are required to be inspected monthly and serviced annually by a qualified service company.

Extension Cords

- Extension cords shall not be used as substitute for fixed wiring.
- They shall not be run through walls, ceilings, or attached to building surfaces.
- UL listed surge protectors with a fuse are permitted. However, multiple surge protectors connected together are prohibited.

Electric Panels

- Electric panels shall maintain a 36" clearance to provide access.
- All circuits must be labeled to identify the circuit in an emergency.
- Missing or unused circuits shall be covered with a blank panel cover.

Residential Smoke alarms:

- Approved single station smoke alarms shall be installed in every sleeping room (new apartment buildings only) outside every sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and on all levels of the dwelling unit including basements.

Fire Alarm Systems

- Any fire alarm system shall be inspected and tested annually per NFPA 72 requirements.
- All inspection records shall be available for review by the Fire Marshal.

Emergency Instructions for Residents of Apartment Buildings

- Emergency instructions will be provided annually to each dwelling unit to indicate the location of alarms, egress paths, and actions to be taken, both in response to a fire in the dwelling unit and in response to the sounding of the alarm system.

Automatic Sprinkler Systems

- Any automatic fire sprinkler system shall be inspected and tested annually per NFPA 25 requirements.
- All inspection records shall be available for review by the Fire Marshal.
- No storage or stock shall be permitted within 18" of sprinkler head.

Fuel-Fire Heaters in Apartment Buildings

- Unvented fuel-fired heaters, other than a gas space heater in compliance with the NFPA54 shall not be used.

Storage of LP Tanks on Roofs or Exterior Balconies of Residential Occupancies

- Containers having water capacities greater than 2 1/2 lbs. shall not be located on balconies above the first floor that are attached to a multiple family dwelling of three or more living units located above the other.

Food and Cooking Establishments

- Provide documentation for semi-annual hood and duct cleaning. Hood and duct maintenance shall be in accordance with the NFPA 96.
- Provide documentation that fire suppression system has been tested and serviced. Maintenance shall be in accordance with NFPA 17 & 17A.
- Have a Class K extinguisher installed.

The following recommendations will better facilitate the inspection process:

- 1) Please contact those companies you utilize to provide required annual inspections and testing of Fire Alarm Systems, Sprinkler Systems, Generators, Hoods and Ansul Systems (in establishments cooking foods with grease laden vapors) and Fire Extinguishers so that they are conducted prior to the time of inspection.
- 2) Please ensure that any violations found in part inspections have been corrected.
- 3) Please ensure that the monthly and annual testing and inspection have been conducted on Emergency Lights, Exit Signs, and Fire Extinguishers.
- 4) Please ensure that all exits are clear of storage, debris, and other items which create an impediment to egress, and that all exit doors function properly.
- 5) Please ensure that all required fire doors and their hardware (self-closers, handles, panic bars) operate properly and that the doors meet required ratings, and that they close and latch upon release or operation.
- 6) Please ensure that there is no storage of combustible items in areas such as boiler or furnace rooms, and that there is a minimum clearance of 36" around boilers, water heaters, and electric panels.

- 7) Please remove any and all electrical extension cords being used on any device not classified as a portable appliance by the code and ensure that cords properly used are required size for the appliance they are used with.

This area below is intentionally left blank. Use it to make notes about additional inspection records your facility may have to maintain.