REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF CANDLES AND OPEN-FLAME DECORATIVE DEVICES IN ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES

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California Fire Code Section 308 – Open Flames

308.3.2 – Candles and other open-flame decorative and religious devices shall be in accordance with the following:

A. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.
B. The devices or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid wax at the rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute when the holder is not in an upright position.
C. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.
D. The flame shall be enclosed except as follows:
   1. Openings on the side shall not be more than 3/8-inch diameter.
   2. Opening on the top and the distance to the top shall be such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
E. Candelabras shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains, or other combustibles.

308.3.5 – Religious Ceremonies

A. The fire marshal has determined that <u>participants</u> in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry handheld candles. Members of the congregation are allowed to hold but not carry lighted candles.
B. Handheld candles shall not be passed from one person to another while lighted.

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