



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

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2019 California Fire Code Section 308 – Open Flames, Title 19, Section 3.25

Open Flame Devices

1. Open flame devices are prohibited in every Group A, E, I, R2.1, R3.1 and R-4 occupancies.
Exceptions:
 - 1) Fuel burning elements of approved appliances shall not be considered as open flame devices.
 - 2) Upon approval of the enforcing agency, open flame devices may be used under the following conditions.
 - A. When necessary for ceremonial or theatrical purposes under such restrictions as may be deemed necessary to avoid danger of ignition or combustible materials or injury to occupants.
 - B. In approved and stable candle holders on individual tables of dining establishments.
 - 3) Under no circumstances shall hand held open flame devices such as exposed candles be permitted for any purpose in any occupancy within the scope of these regulations.

Religious Ceremonies

- A. The fire marshal has determined that participants 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.