

Fire Safety and Retardance

Relevant Legislation and Documents

Building Act 2004

NZ Building code C3

Fire Service Act 1975

Fire safety and evacuation of buildings regulations 1992

AS 1530 Part 2 Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures

Guidelines

- 1) There should be written emergency procedures and a fire evacuation plan.
- 2) There should be routinely scheduled fire drills.
- 3) Emergency exits should be clearly marked and accessible.
- 4) Fire protection systems must be functional and maintained as required including appropriate fire extinguishers. This should also include adequate training in their use.
- 5) If pyrotechnics are used ***refer to pyrotechnics chapter***
- 6) Combustibles, waste materials and rubbish should be stored in approved containers or disposed of properly.
- 7) Oily rags, paint rags, oily waste, or similar materials subject to spontaneous combustion should be kept in approved oily waste cans and emptied daily.
- 8) Keep stored combustible materials away from exits and fire equipment and in a locked metal storage facility.
- 9) All persons should be aware of the type of Fire Safety Curtain (if installed) in the performance space, the operating conditions of this device (both automatic and manual) and the means of activation. The regulations for Fire Safety Curtains in NZ are set by the relevant local authorities and as such vary around the country.

Fire-Retardant

A fire retardant is a substance that significantly delays and can prevent the onset of fire. All flexible fabrics must have a flammability index not exceeding 12 as defined by AS 1530 Part 2.

- 1) All flexible fabrics used or provided by the venue must be fire retarded in accordance with the NZ Building Code.
- 2) All flexible fabrics used on scenery/props must be flame-retarded. If not purchased as such, they can be flame-retarded by applying certain chemicals. Spray on fire retardant can be bought as a pre-made mixture.
- 3) Confirmation should be obtained by the venue for every new show indicating that all materials used in scenery/props has been properly flame retarded in order to comply fully with the NZ Building Code C3.
- 4) Costumes should be fire retarded when there is a risk present by the use of naked flame and or pyrotechnics in the production.
- 5) Approved flame retarding materials and methods of application must be used.

- 6) Cut flowers, fresh cut decorative greens or natural trees shrubs, etc are allowed if kept in soil/water and maintained. Balsam, hemlock or other materials containing pitch are prohibited.
- 7) Fresh cut decorative greens should not be hung on a combustible base or framework or hung by combustible materials. Maximum length of time they are allowed to hang should be no more than 24 hours.
- 8) A register of all items that have been fire retarded, detailing type of fire retardant and when applied, should be maintained and made available to any one upon request.