

Daycare Code Compliance

The following is a summary cheat sheet of common regulation violations covered by Reg 418-1.3 (o) and refers to fire code compliance. The violation is followed by the correct section of the fire code and is intended to be reference tool. Subsequent Reg sections and corresponding Fire Code sections follow:

1. Lighted exit signs not operating properly.
 - **§F1012.7.4 Exit sign illumination.** Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated. The face of an exit sign illuminated from an external source shall have an intensity of not less than 5 foot-candles (54 lux). Internally illuminated signs shall provide equivalent luminance and be listed for the purpose.

2. Existing lighted exit signs with backup batteries that are not operating properly. When the test button is pushed, a backup light should light (Some older lighted exit signs do not have this feature, and are grandfathered).
 - **§F1012.7.5 Power source.** Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a duration of not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss, the exit signs shall be connected to an emergency power system provided from storage batteries, unit, equipment or an on-site generator.

3. Egress hallways and stairways are not lighted during the entire time the daycare is open
 - **§F1012.8 Means of egress illumination.** The means of egress, including the exit discharge, shall be illuminated at all times the building space served by the means of egress is occupied.

4. Emergency lighting is not operating properly
 - **§F1012.9 Illumination emergency power.** The power supply for means of egress illumination shall normally be provided by the premises' electrical supply. In the event of power supply failure, illumination shall automatically be provided from an emergency system for the following occupancies where such occupancies require two or more means of egress:
 - 3. Group E in interior stairs, corridors, windowless areas with student occupancy, shops and laboratories.
 - 5. Group I.

5. Exit doors have double sided deadbolt instead on them, or exit doors with crash bars have deadbolts installed on them
 - **§F1012.2 Locks and latches.** Egress doors shall be readily operable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort

6. Stairways do not have proper signage noting that there is an egress stairway
 - **§F1012.7.3 Stairway exit signs.** A tactile sign stating EXIT and complying with ICC/ANSI A117.1 shall be provided adjacent to each door to an egress stairway.

7. Paper, artwork or other combustible items are hung from strings, fishline or wires in exit hallways. Cloth wall hangings must be fire retardant, or treated with a flame retardant chemical. This also includes a room which serves as an exit corridor for the site, such as a large motor skill room where an exit pathway goes to an exterior exit door:

- **§F805.1 General.** In occupancies of Groups A, E, I and R-1 and dormitories in Group R-2, curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall be flame resistant in accordance with §F805.2 and NFPA 701 or be noncombustible.

8. Artwork and other items that obstruct exits or obscure them. This would include exit doors from classrooms to exit hallways, and items such as seasonal decorations:

- **§F806.1.3 Obstruction of means of egress.** No decorations or other objects shall be placed to obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom, or visibility thereof.
- **§F804.2 Obstruction of means of egress.** The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation.

9. Artwork limit in exit corridors cannot exceed 20% of the wall area

- **§F803.3.2 Artwork.** Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area.

10. Missing street numbers on the outside of buildings:

- **§F505.1 Address numbers.** New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers, or approved building identification placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).

11. Emergency vehicle access roads must be maintained. This means a driveway may not be narrowed by cars parking on both sides to limit emergency access if needed:

- **§F503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads.** Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles.

12. Records must be maintained onsite of staff in attendance during evacuation drills.

This is in addition to our Regulation requirement:

- **§F405.5 Record keeping.** Records shall be maintained of required emergency evacuation drills and include the following information:

4. Staff members on duty and participating.

13. Evacuation plans must be kept up to date:

- **§F404.4 Maintenance.** Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be reviewed or updated annually or as necessitated by changes in staff assignments, occupancy, or the physical arrangement of the building.

14. Equipment such as lawn mowers, weed wackers or gas cans with fuel cannot be stored in buildings:
- **§F315.2.5 Fueled equipment.** Fueled equipment, including but not limited to motorcycles, mopeds, lawn-care equipment and portable cooking equipment, shall not be stored, operated or repaired within a building.
15. Extension cords used in place of permanent fixed wiring. With the exception of decorative short term temporary holiday lighting or decorations, and surge suppressor plug strips, extension cords may not be used. This does not mean connect 3 plug strips together in line. This includes refrigerators, lamps, calculators, and similar items:
- **§F605.5 Extension cords.** Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.
 - **§F605.9 Temporary wiring.** Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days.
16. Combustible storage has certain limits on how close to the ceiling it may be stored. This includes art supplies, cardboard boxes, and other items:
- **§F315.2.1 Ceiling clearance.** Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.
17. Items are stored in egress hallways. These may be hard to move such as tables and displays, or items such as car seats and strollers. Anything which may narrow or obstruct the hallway (aside from bye-bye buggies which are hard to move sideways, may not be stored in exit pathways:
- 418-1.4 (e) All corridors, aisles, and approaches to exits must be kept unobstructed at all times.
 - **§F1012.10 Exit or exit access arrangement.** Exits shall be unobstructed at all times.
 - **§F315.2.2 Means of egress.** Combustible materials shall not be stored in exits or exit enclosures.
18. Storage of combustibles may never be in boiler, furnace or equipment rooms:
- 418-1.4 (i) Trash, garbage and combustible materials must not be stored in the furnace room or in rooms or outdoor areas adjacent to the facility that are ordinarily occupied by or accessible to children.
 - **§F315.2.3 Equipment rooms.** Combustible material shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms.
 - **§F605.3 Working space and clearance.** A working space of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment.