

Basic Fire Department Inspection Concerns when Inspecting for a Business License

The Following is a list of common requirements that shall be met before a business license is signed off by the Fire Marshal:

- ✓ When occupied, Egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.
- ✓ Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated. 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 battery back-up or equivalent back-up power source.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher (s) is required to be positioned with a maximum travel distance of 75'. Hand-held portable fire extinguishers, that are not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- ✓ Maintenance, servicing, and recharging shall be performed by trained persons having the appropriate servicing manual (s), the proper types of tools, recharge materials, lubricants, and manufacturer's recommended replacement parts or parts specifically listed for use in the fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance at intervals of not more than 1 year. Each fire extinguisher shall have a tag or label securely attached that indicates the month and year the maintenance was performed and that identifies the person performing the service.
- ✓ A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment (Breaker panels).
- ✓ 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. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances.
- ✓ 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 should contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall maintain a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch.

Others items may be required, depending on the type of business or occupancy. The above items are common to a lot of small businesses.