

## INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2002 - 02

To: Licensed Architects  
Licensed Engineers  
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors  
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors  
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors  
Felicia Cooper, Administrator - Inspections  
Stephen Gogreve, Manager  
Boyd Petty, Manager  
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections  
Plan Review Staff

From: Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor  
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor  
Don Zeringue, Architect Supervisor  
Fidel Fremin, Architect Supervisor

Approved: Mark Gates,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

Date: January 28, 2002

Re: **Tents and Canopies in Industrial Facilities**

### **General Requirements:**

- Tents **shall** comply with the most recently adopted edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, unless modified by the following.
- All tent and canopy fabric shall be flame resistant as demonstrated by testing in accordance with NFPA 701. The requirements of NFPA 102 for 'tension membrane structures' will not apply to tents in industrial facilities.
- There shall be at least a 15 ft. separation between the walls of adjoining tents. Tents with less than 15 ft. of separation shall be considered as a single tent for the purposes of review exemptions and submittals.
- Electrical facilities associated with tents and canopies shall comply with NFPA 70. Fully enclosed tents and tents used at night shall be provided with interior illumination. Tents shall not require emergency lighting if occupied only during daylight hours.
- All tents larger than 300 sq. ft. in area shall have at least two remote exit doors, openings, or flaps. Flaps secured with ties or zippers on the opening closures will be acceptable and must remain unfastened or must be secured in the open position when the tent is occupied.
- Due to the use of fabrication, storage, and lunch tents located within industrial facilities by able-bodied personnel, these facilities will not be required to meet the ADAAG requirements

of the State of Louisiana. However, in the event that a disabled person is required to access any of these facilities or if a complaint is received, then compliance with the ADAAG shall be provided.

### **Submittal Requirements:**

- Tents with less than 50% of the perimeter wall area open (canopies) shall require a plan review submittal.
- Tents with 50% or more of the perimeter wall area open (canopies), and tents with a floor area less than 500 sq. ft. shall not require a plan review submittal or a request for plan review exemption.
- Tents with a floor area greater than 500 sq. ft. but less than 4500 sq. ft. shall require a plan review exemption request be submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Tents greater than 4500 sq. ft. in area shall require an individual plan review by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Tent inspections may be expedited by the State Fire Marshal's office upon request.

### **Site Specific Plan Review Exemption:**

- Owners of tents that are located within a given facility and are 500 sq. ft. but less than 4500 sq. ft. may submit an annual plan review exemption letter to the Office of the State Fire Marshal requesting a single approval to erect a specific number of tents to be located at the site during the calendar year.
- The plan review exemption letter shall document the compliance of all tents having a floor area greater than 500 sq. ft. but less than 4500 sq. ft. with the general requirements stated above. Tents having a floor area greater 500 sq. ft. but less than 4500 sq. ft. that do not meet all of the general requirements stated above shall be individually submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for review.
- The plan review exemption letter shall state the specific number of tents that the owner expects to erect during the calendar year at the particular site, and include payment for that number in accordance with the fee schedule provided by the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- The Office of the State Fire Marshal **may** allow the specific number of tents approved in the above manner to be increased at any time during the calendar year by and after review of a letter of addendum to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, documentation that additional tents having a floor area greater 500 sq. ft. but less than 4500 sq. ft. comply with the general requirements stated above and payment of additional fees as appropriate.
- Tents shall not be required to meet the six-month definition of temporary as given in NFPA 102. However, tents will be classified as "temporary" if expected to be in place for less than one year.
- **All tents shall be subject to periodic inspections by the State Fire Marshal's staff.**
- **Tents utilized more than one year shall be re-submitted for a plan review exemption. The owner shall maintain records regarding the number of tents erected and the location of each.**