

**Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority
Standards and Practices**

Name:	PINE STRAW/COMBUSTIBLE LANDSCAPING MATERIALS FOR INTERIOR EXHIBIT SPACE	Identifier:	CMCEHA		
Scope:	CMCEHA	Issuing Department:	Public Safety		
Department:	Public Safety	Effective:	05/01/2024	Superseded:	

Policy Statement:

The requirement is all materials be flame resistive, flame resistant, or flame retardant, there are other regulations for specific materials often used in exhibit space. If your exhibit – or any part of your exhibit – fails to meet code, it may be ordered dismantled and removed from the show floor.

No pine straw or any other landscape cover material with a fire rate of spread more than 24 inches per minute shall be placed, kept, or stored inside the convention center without proper treatment. Shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition by means of an approved flame-retardant solution.

Reason for Policy/Purpose:

You may need special permits and/or written approval from the fire marshal if you plan to use, display, or store the following items in your exhibit. Local fire regulations also may require additional portable fire extinguishers or smoke alarms in your booth to supplement the fire-control equipment provided by the venue. No combustibles of any nature may be brought into the exhibit hall, including untreated pine straw, hay, moss, propane tanks, etc. Mulch must be kept damp.

- Any open flame for product demonstration or decorative purposes
- Flammable liquids
- Liquefied petroleum gases
- Pressurized (i.e., aerosol) containers with flammable propellants
- Compressed gases used for demonstration purposes
- Cryogenic liquids
- Pyrotechnics and explosives
- Indoor cooking/baking appliances, which must be placed on noncombustible surfaces and separated from any combustibles in your display
- Hazardous displays, such as demonstrations of lasers
- Hazardous chemicals, pesticides, or herbicides (quantities generally limited to one quart of liquid chemicals and two pounds of solid chemicals for demonstration purposes)
- Any vehicle or equipment with an internal-combustion engine must have less than a quarter tank of fuel and the battery disconnected. (Electric vehicles are not allowed inside the ballrooms) Public Safety will inspect each vehicle and if the vehicle meets the requirements will complete the vehicle authorization form to be inside the halls. Golf carts are considered vehicles if they are inside the halls. A vehicle key for each vehicle must be left in the Public Safety Office or with an on-site responsible individual for emergencies. The Fire Department must be notified in advance if motorized vehicles are to be displayed during an event. Displayed motorized vehicles shall comply with the rules and regulations required by the Fire Marshal.

Whose job is it to make sure I'm complying with all the fire rules and regulations?

Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority Standards and Practices

Ultimately the responsibility is the show manager to make sure their exhibitors are in compliance with the fire safety regulations. Flame retarding treatments may be obtained from some fire protection companies or Home Depot, Lowes. Any decorative material that is not inherently or manufactured flame retardant (labeled) shall be subject to testing. Materials in violation shall be immediately removed from the building.

What is the difference between flame resistive and flame retardant:

All materials used in your exhibit must be either flame resistive, flame resistant, or flame retardant. (The terms "fireproof" and "flameproof" are considered inappropriate and misleading.) Although these may all sound like the same thing, each has a specific definition. Fire/flame resistive is the highest level of protection and refers to materials that do not burn or support combustion. Flame resistant is the second level of protection and refers to materials that by design, composition, or inherent noncombustible nature do not support a flame from an outside heat source; they self-extinguish. Flame retardant is the third and lowest level of protection and includes materials that have been treated with a noncombustible substance to make them less of a hazard. Fire-retardant substances can be incorporated into the materials during manufacturing, added commercially after manufacturing, or applied in the field by trained professionals.

Placement of landscaping materials:

Any exhibitor using soil, humus, or other landscaping materials must provide a covering between the convention center flooring and the exhibit, to prevent damage to flooring and to ensure safety. Cobb Galleria Convention Centre personnel will inspect all such exhibits.

National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Codes:

NFPA 1 Fire Code

10.13 Combustible Vegetation.

10.13.1 Combustible vegetation, including natural cut Christmas trees, shall be in accordance with Section 10.13.

10.13.1.1 Christmas tree placement within buildings shall comply with Table 10.13.1.1.

10.13.2 In any occupancy, limited quantities of combustible vegetation shall be permitted where the AHJ determines that adequate safeguards are provided based on the quantity and nature of the combustible vegetation.

10.13.3* Provisions for Fire Retardance for Artificial Vegetation.

10.13.3.1 Artificial vegetation and artificial Christmas trees shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being fire retardant.

10.13.3.2 Such fire retardance shall be demonstrated by each individual decorative vegetation item, including any decorative lighting, in an approved manner.

10.13.4 Vegetation and Christmas trees shall not obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress.

10.13.5 Only listed electrical lights and wiring shall be used on natural or artificial combustible vegetation, natural or artificial Christmas trees, and other similar decorations.

10.13.6 Electrical lights shall be prohibited on metal artificial trees.

10.13.7 Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near combustible vegetation, Christmas trees, or other similar combustible materials.

10.13.8 Combustible vegetation and natural cut Christmas trees shall not be located near heating vents or other fixed or portable heating devices that could cause it to dry out prematurely or to be ignited.

10.13.9 Provisions for Natural Cut Trees.

10.13.9.1 Where a natural cut tree is permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall be cut off with a straight fresh cut at least 1/2 in. (13 mm) above the end prior to placing the tree in a stand to allow the tree to absorb water.

10.13.9.2 The tree shall be placed in a suitable stand with water.

10.13.9.3 The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.

10.13.9.4* The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.

International Fire Code (IFC)

**SECTION 806
NATURAL DECORATIVE VEGETATION
IN NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS**

806.1 Natural cut trees. Natural cut trees, where allowed by this section, shall have the trunk bottoms cut off not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) above the original cut and shall be placed in a support device complying with Section 806.1.2.

806.1.1 Restricted occupancies. Natural cut trees shall be prohibited within ambulatory care facilities and Group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 and R-4 occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. Trees located in areas protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 shall not be prohibited in Groups A, E, M, R-1 and R-2.
2. Trees shall be allowed within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies.

806.1.2 Support devices. The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.
3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem not less than 2 inches (51 mm). The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked not less than once daily.

806.1.3 Dryness. The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

806.2 Obstruction of means of egress. The required width of any portion of a *means of egress* shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall not be located within an exit, corridor, or a lobby or vestibule.

806.3 Open flame. Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame or heat-producing devices not less than the height of the tree.

806.4 Electrical fixtures and wiring. The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on natural vegetation, including natural cut trees, shall be prohibited.

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Recommended/Approved Fire Retardant:

FireTect Flame Retardant for Hay and Straw
Local Distributor: Sold at Home Depot

EcoGard B45 Flame Retardant for Hay and Straw

APPROVAL:

Artimesa Evans
Director of Safety and Security

Date

Larry Green
Director of Event Operations

Date