

FIRE INSPECTION TIP#4

Inspections During Summer Recess

When fire inspections run during the summer season while the buildings are being cleaned, SED allows for practical exceptions to account for classroom furnishings being temporarily placed in the hallways while floors are refinished.

However, there are several basic provisions that need to be maintained at all times.

It has been quite a number of years since the rotating fire inspection schedule has landed fully during the summer months where typical annual cleaning activities may require the temporary placement of classroom furnishings and other material into hallways and corridors. In times past the State Education Dept. has indicated that inspectors can show some degree of flexibility when enforcing portions of the code that would normally restrict placement of such items into hallways and corridors. Keep in mind that the safest (albeit not always most practical) option would be to consider alternate locations as 'staging areas' for relocated material, i.e. Gymnasium, Cafeteria or etc.

Though I can find nothing written on the subject, I have discussed the following guidelines at our internal staff meeting to provide those on my staff who conduct inspections a common framework. To facilitate the inspection process, I would suggest we consider the following when temporarily relocating classroom materials in hallways/corridors:

- 1. Store items neatly to avoid potential for slip, trips, falls and limit height to avoid tip-over potential**
- 2. Always maintain the OSHA minimum of 36" travel width at all times and never create dead-ends.**
- 3. Never obstruct interior fire doors (door swing, if on magnetic holders), interior exit passageways or exterior exits**
- 4. Provide clear unobstructed space leading to an exterior exit, i.e. 10'**
- 5. Never obstruct fire extinguisher boxes or fire alarm pull stations**
- 6. Never obstruct fire alarm/strobe indicating devices**
- 7. Never obstruct exit signage or emergency lights**
- 8. Never store material on stairs or under stairs, and avoid stacking materials on inclined surfaces/ramps**