



Corona Fire Department

Guideline for Smoking Lounges per the 2016 California Fire Code

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary to meet the safety and life safety requirements for Smoking Lounges, sometimes known as “hookah cafes”. The requirements are prescribed in 2016 editions of the California Fire Code, California Mechanical Code, California Building Code and Corona Municipal Code Section 17.33.160.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to smoking lounges and hookah cafes within the limits of the City of Corona.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The business owner shall provide evidence that he/she has met the requirements set forth in CMC Section 17.33.160.
2. Adequate ventilation shall be provided for the heating of coals. A listed mechanical exhaust hood system shall be installed to provide ventilation. A building permit shall be obtained for the required hood system installation. The mechanical exhaust hood fan shall be actively providing ventilation whenever coals are being prepared.
3. Coals shall be prepared in a listed and/or approved appliance, such as a charcoal barbecue grill. Whenever hot coals are removed from the preparation area, they shall be placed in a ceramic, metal or other non-combustible container. Open mesh containers are prohibited.
4. Coal containers shall not be placed on combustible materials. Any device used to transfer coals from the container to the hookah pipe shall be made of a non-combustible material. When hot coals are transported inside, appropriate safety measures shall be used, including but not limited to, an escort accompanying the transporter.
5. Hookah pipes shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning. A clasp or hook or other approved means may be used to secure the pipe to a table or stationary object.
6. Used coals shall not be discarded in a manner that could cause ignition of combustible materials. Used coals shall be removed and placed into a closed metal or ceramic container with a lid; no other openings are permitted. The container shall be labeled “Hot Coals Only”. The container shall not be placed within ten feet of other combustible materials, including combustible walls, partitions, or within two feet of openings of the building. If the container is placed on a non-combustible floor, surface or stand, the container may be within two feet of the wall or partition. Hot ashes shall be thoroughly cooled (at least 24 hours) prior to being discarded.

7. The occupant load shall be determined by the Corona Fire Department. When an occupant load is greater than 50 persons, assembly use occupancy requirements shall apply and a place of assembly permit shall be required.
 - The Fire Code Permit Application for the Place of Assembly Permit can be found on our website: www.discovercorona.com
 - Assembly use occupancy requirements include:
 - Additional exit(s)
 - Illuminated exit signs
 - Panic hardware
 - If a building or suite is not classified as an assembly occupancy, a change of occupancy classification shall be submitted to the Corona Building Division and shall be approved by the Fire Department prior to issuance of any permits.
8. If the occupant load of the smoking lounge is 50 or more, all combustible decorative material shall be flame resistant. Combustible decorative material includes curtains, tablecloths and all materials hung from ceilings and/or walls. All textile and film materials shall be treated and maintained flame resistant. Certificates of flame resistance, and/or treatment applied shall be maintained at the business and shall be available to Corona Fire Department staff, upon request. The certificate shall include:
 - The type of flame retardant material
 - The method of application
 - Approval of the California State Fire Marshal
 - The license # and type of the company applying the flame retardant.
9. 2A:10BC type fire extinguishers shall be installed in approved locations. A 2A:20BC type fire extinguisher shall be installed adjacent to the area where the coals are prepared. Signs shall be provided to indicate the fire extinguisher locations for occupants.
10. The business shall comply with all requirements of CMC 17.33.160:
 - Only non-alcoholic beverages may be served or sold on the premises
 - Persons under the age of 18 shall not be permitted
 - No live entertainment shall be permitted, including but not limited to, singers, DJs, dancers, and comedians
 - No admittance fee or cover charge or minimum payment as a condition of entry is allowed
 - No window coverings, including window tints, shall prevent visibility of the interior space from outside the premises during operating hours.
 - Adequate illumination shall be maintained.
11. Private smoking lounges are exempt from CA Labor Code 6404.5 (AB13).