

City of Boston – Fire Prevention Regulations Theatre Draperies Permit Procedure

The Boston Fire Prevention Code (Articles VII, IX, & XXXI) requires that each piece of hanging fabric of an area greater than 6 feet square (2 meters square) be certified as fire retardant by the BFD Chemist.

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All soft goods must be either inherently flame retardant, or treated with flame retardant chemicals (Rosco Flamex, etc.) as specified by the manufacturer. Untreated fabrics will not be approved.

You must provide a one foot square (0.3 meters square) sample for each individual piece of fabric. The samples should be cut from either the actual fabric goods you are bringing, or samples from the same bolt of fabric may be prepared by your paint shop using the same flame retardant and paint treatment techniques as your drops. Most local scenery shops paint their drops and samples at the same time.

Each different material (canvas, muslin, scrim, etc.) and each different paint treatment must be certified separately. Please realize that a change in color between drops will require a different sample even if the fabric, flame retardant, and brand of paint remain the same.

If you have a set of goods (Ex: Border and Legs), from the same lot and type of fabric (Ex: 100% Cotton Medium Weight Muslin), which are painted EXACTLY the same (Ex: Green & Brown Trees), one sample will suffice for the entire set.

The draperies certification process involves the actual burning of fabric samples from each drop. The samples will not be returned to you, and certification is limited to the location and dates specified. If you decide to bring the same show to Boston in the future or have a change of venue, you will need to recertify all of your soft goods. If your sample fails the classification fire test, the drapery must be removed from the theatre and stored offsite prior to any public performance.

All certificates must correspond exactly to the goods hanging in the theatre. Any repainting, spraying, steaming or laundering of the fabrics renders the certificate null and void, and will require recertification.

You can find the Boston Fire Department Application for Theatre Draperies on the web at:
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/pdfs/Theatre%20Drapery%20Installation%20Application.pdf>

The application clearly states the necessary information, as well as the contact information and delivery address of the BFD Chemist. The cost for certification is \$14 for **each** fabric sample. You should plan on providing your samples to the BFD at least three weeks prior to opening night. Also, please request that faxed copies of all certificates be forwarded to the Majestic Theatre (617-824-3209).

If you need assistance filling out the forms, please contact us.

You may also forward your samples to us for certification, but they must arrive no later than 30 days before your first scheduled performance. A check for the total amount, made payable to the Boston Fire Department must accompany your samples. If you do not enclose a check, the Majestic Theatre will submit your samples, but you will be charged a service fee of \$100 in addition to the certification costs.

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