



Health Act (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992

Requirements for Temporary Structures

Public Buildings

Environmental Health Guide

Temporary structures may be classified as “Public Buildings” by the definition in the Health Act and have to comply with the Health Act (Public Building) Regulations 1992 and any other requirements set by local government.

Local Government administers these regulations. This means that every time a structure is erected in a new local government area then that Local Government will need to assess and approve the structure. A fee of up to \$500 may be charged for each approval.

To assist both operators and local governments and to give some uniformity of standards the Department is prepared to inspect structures and if satisfied provide a letter of compliance to the operator.

This letter should assist local authorities in making their assessments and minimise any administration fees.

To enable an assessment we require:

- Certification of the design of the structure and seating by the manufacturer’s structural engineer, or a certificate from a practising structural engineer to show that the tent and seating is structurally sound.
Note: Assessment certificates should show who, where and when it was done.
- Test reports to show the flammability indexes of the structure and or curtain materials.
- A drawing showing the layout of the structure, should show:
 - The size of the structure.
 - Seating layout.
 - Areas set aside for the public and staff, performers etc.
 - Exits.
- Details of the seating used - ie, bleacher, continental or chairs etc.
- Details and locations of fire fighting appliances.
- Indicate to what wind strength you will operate.
- Details of the electrical installation:
 - Do you intend to use supply authority supplies?
 - Number and size of generators.

Electrical Installation

- Electrical extension leads need to have been tested and tagged by an electrical contractor within the last six months.
- Portable power outlet devices should be equipped with safety switches (residual current devices - RCD’s) and similarly tested and tagged.
- Electrical cords need to be buried or otherwise installed away from the public.
- Lamps etc, need to be out of reach of the public.



Electrical Installation (cont'd)

- If the installation is permanently installed, then it will need to be inspected by an electrical contractor and he will have to certify that it complies with the relevant standards by completing a Form 5 Certificate of Electrical Compliance.

Note: the information sheet titled “Electrical Requirements for Public Events” has additional electrical information.

Exit Signs

Every exit must be identified with an exit sign, they must:

- Be illuminated whenever the public is in attendance.
- Be connected to a central battery supply and not be self contained type.
- Comply with A.S. 3000

Emergency Lighting

Shall be connected to a central battery supply and operate on failure of the normal power supplies. However, if the lighting is distributed between 2 generators or a generator and a supply authority supply, emergency lighting may not be required.

Single point self contained type emergency lights are not acceptable.

Evacuation Plan

An evacuation plan needs to be in place. A minimum requirement is that the staff have set responsibilities to assist in the evacuation of the public.

Further Information

Environmental Health Directorate
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre
Perth WA 6849.

Phone: (08) 9388 4999

Fax: (08) 9388 4955

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