FACILITY INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS

Animals and Pets

- Domestic animals: If you plan to use a domestic animal (i.e., cat or dog) in your exhibit, be sure to contact your Show Manager for approval. Upon proof of show management approval, an insurance disclaimer will need to be completed. Disclaimer forms can be obtained through the McCormick Place Risk Management Department at (312) 791-7113.
- Non-domestic, endangered, or exotic animals: The use of these animals must be approved by your Show Manager. In addition to the disclaimer form, you must also contact our Risk Management Manager at (312) 791-7113.
- A City of Chicago Application for Temporary Animal Exhibition Permit must be obtained for all animals and pets in your exhibit. An application fee will apply. For more details please call (312) 791-7113

Balloons, Radio-Operated Air Devices, Drones and Aircraft Landing

- Radio-operated blimps and similar devices are permitted on the event floor with pre-approval in writing from Show Management and with a certificate of accident insurance.
- To prevent escape to the ceiling, helium-filled balloons and similar objects must be secured. If they do escape to the ceiling, you may be charged removal fees.
- Helium-filled balloons or any other helium-filled object may not be distributed.
- Mylar balloons are prohibited due to their effect on the fire detection systems.
- Exhibitors are not permitted to use a drone within the Complex for proprietary and safety reasons.
- The City of Chicago does not allow small aircrafts to land within city limits, unless in designated locations.

Smoking

- In accordance with the City of Chicago Fire Department and the City of Chicago, smoking and vaping are not permitted in McCormick Place. Smoking stations are located outside of the facility.

Exhibits in Meeting Rooms

- If a meeting room has been assigned to your company for exhibit or meeting use, please contact the McCormick Place Event Management Department for specific meeting room guidelines.
- Storage of combustible materials in meeting rooms, ballrooms or service corridors is prohibited.
- Crates, cartons, pallets, pallet jacks, forklifts, etc., are not allowed in meeting rooms. All freight must be uncrated or removed from pallets prior to entering the room. Movement of freight should be done using flat trucks dedicated to carpet use. If other flat trucks or dollies are used, appropriate floor protection (Visqueen or Masonite) must be installed.
- Storage of containers, skids, etc. is prohibited inside the facility. These items must be moved to the appropriate crate storage area. Please contact your Contractor or the official event service contractor to assist you. Removal of such items is a Fire Safety regulation and subject to inspection by the Fire Marshal.

Hanging Items

- Hanging items are defined as any materials, including but not limited to, signs and machinery, which are hung from or attached to ceilings, exhibit structures or building supports.
- All requests for hanging items must be reviewed and approved by Show Management.
- The responsibility to hang an item is shared by your general service contractor and the utility provider.
- For Items weighing 500 lbs. or more, drawings must be reviewed, signed and stamped by a licensed structural engineer to certify structural integrity and safety.
- These rules and regulations provide absolute limits which cannot be exceeded under any circumstances or conditions.
- Fire Retardant regulations also apply to hanging items. Refer questions regarding fire retardancy to the Fire & Safety Manager at (312) 791-6079.

- No hanging items are to be hung from any electrical fixtures, raceways, water, gas, air, fire protection, communication lines, piping, supports or hangers.
- All electrical and neon items must conform to City of Chicago Electrical Codes.
- The use of MIS, Octonorm or similar components systems for hanging signs is not permitted in our facility.

Parking and ASUV Programs

Exhibitor Guaranteed Parking

A limited number of guaranteed parking spaces are available by advance order of an Exhibitor Parking Permit. This permit allows access to the garages with in-and-out privileges. Parking spaces are guaranteed even if lots fill to capacity. For more details, please visit: McCormick Place Parking

Self-loading/Unloading

- **Automobile and Small Utility Vehicle (ASUV) Program**
  - McCormick Place allows exhibitors to unload and load small privately-owned vehicles without hiring labor at designated areas in the building. Show management will determine the hours of operation for each event. We encourage exhibitors to participate in the ASUV program using one of the options listed on our website. Please visit us at ASUV for complete details.

- **Hand Carried Items**
  - Park the vehicle in any of the McCormick Place parking lots or garages and transport items using pedestrian building access to the show floor. Only non-motorized, non-hydraulic hand trucks and dollies may be used to transport items from your vehicle to the show floor. Parking fees will apply.

Exhibit Hall Use and Guidelines

McCormick Place Access Regulations (BEEP)

All Event Approved Contractors (EACs) or persons working on show floor must enter through one of the 3 Building Entry and Exit Procedure (BEEP) locations and receive/wear the wristband of the day.

This allows entry into McCormick Place buildings and must be adhered to regardless of credentialing system issued for floor access by event management.

The exception is for official exhibitors wearing show credentials - contractors working on the show floor to assemble and disassemble booths or similar type work should not be issued exhibitor credentials to circumvent this process.

Fire Safety Regulations

- Fire Prevention reserves the right to make any final decisions regarding the outlined requirements, according to Section 2-36-220 of the Municipal Code of Chicago on Fire Prevention.
- Prior to the show opening and at any time during the event, the Fire Marshal may inspect the booths to ensure these requirements are met. If they are not, adjustments can be costly, and if a booth imposes a significant fire hazard, it will be prohibited from exhibiting.
- The Fire & Safety Manager at 312-791-6079 or McpFireMarshal@mccormickplace.com can answer any questions or provide a set of fire code information.

Booth Staging

In addition to equipment and furniture placed within a booth space, exhibitors are allowed to stage the following items:

- Boxed or loose product, materials, or literature.
- Fiber cases used to ship pop-up displays.
- Personal items such as luggage, purses, briefcases, or coats.

The following restrictions must be observed when staging these additional items:

- The amount of product, materials or literature that may be staged within a booth space must not exceed a one-day supply.

- Items may be placed either in a display case, on a counter, on a shelving unit, in a closet, on a table, under a table or stacked neatly within the booth space.
- Items that are placed under a table must not protrude outside the table dimensions.
- Items that are stacked must not create a tripping hazard or hamper easy movement within the booth space.
- Items may not be placed on or within six inches of floor ports, electrical wiring or cabling.
- Pallets, empty crates, cartons and boxes may not be stored in the booth space.
- Staging will not be allowed behind the back wall of the booth and behind the drape within the booth.

Fire Retardancy

Booth construction and decoration materials must be fire retardant. It is suggested that a certificate of retardancy be available at the show to prevent the need for possible on-site testing of the material. Fabrics must pass the NFPA-701 Code, and all other construction and decoration materials must pass the NFPA-703 Code as well as the UL-1975 test. General guidelines for material fire retardancy include:

- Backdrops, tents, canopies, dust and table covers, drapes and similar fabrics: These fabrics can often be made fire retardant by a dry cleaner that can issue a certificate of fire retardancy. Suppliers and/or display manufacturers can also provide a certificate included with the materials.
- Corrugated cardboard/display boxes: These materials can best be made fire retardant at a factory.
- Wood and wood by-products: If wood materials are not sufficiently fire retardant, a certified fire-retardant specialist using pressure impregnation or similar impregnation method must treat them.
- Polyurethane foam, plastic and similar products.

Open Flame Devices

Used for illumination or decoration, such as candles, gelled alcohol fuel fire bowls, firepots or fireplaces must comply with the following:

- Prior notification and review by McCormick Place, Fire & Safety Manager, the Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Marshal, Authority having jurisdiction for each and every display.
- Must be contained inside a non-combustible enclosure that totally encapsulates the flame providing a measure of safety to the public.
- Must be positioned on a non-combustible surface with a 24-inch clearance of the flame device from any combustibles and booth back wall.
- Must have a mechanism available to quickly and safely extinguish the flame.
- Must have at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher rated minimum 2 – A :10- B:C strategically located with the booth.
- Booth personnel should be familiar with the operation of the fire extinguisher.
- Booth personnel must be in attendance whenever the device is in use.
- Maximum one-day supply of the replacement fuel allowed in booth.
- Device must be allowed to cool before refueling.
- Flame must be extinguished ½ hour prior to closing.

Hazardous Demonstration/Display Materials/Pyrotechnics

When designing demonstrations and displays, note that the following devices require pre-approval by McCormick Place and the Chicago Fire Department.

- Lasers, open flames (including candles)
- Smoke-producing devices
- Indoor Pyrotechnics have special permitting procedures through the City of Chicago Fire Prevention Bureau. Contact the Fire & Safety Manager.
- Heating appliances
- Welding, brazing or cutting equipment
- Radioactive materials
- Compressed gas or compressed liquid cylinders if applicable used in the booth must be securely anchored to prevent toppling.

Hazardous Demonstration/Display Materials/Pyrotechnics (continued)

- Gasoline, kerosene or other flammable, toxic liquid, solid or gas
    - A limited supply of these fuels may be stored in the demonstration device but cannot be stored overnight.
    - All fuel transfers must use safety cans.
    - When displaying a flammable or combustible labeled product, the display container shall be empty. Up to two aerosol cans may be used for demonstration purposes only.

Approval requests must be sent in 60 days before move-in of the event. The request must state how the demonstration will avoid hazards to people or nearby objects. Plexiglas or similar protection is required whenever sparking may occur. Fire extinguishers will also be required.

Any chemical, substance or material deemed hazardous by O.S.H.A. requires pre-approval and must be accompanied with the appropriate M.S D S. McCormick Place Fire Safety Office will need copies of the M.S.D.S. before the materials arrive.

Prohibited Materials

The following items are fire-hazardous and prohibited in McCormick Place:

- All flammable compressed gases, such as propane and butane
- Explosives and live ammunition
- Untreated Christmas trees, cut evergreens or similar trees
- Fireplace logs and similar materials
- Charcoal
- Untreated mulch, Hay, Straw, Bamboo and Spanish moss

Cooking and Heat-Generating Devices

- If cooking or heating appliances will be used, they must be powered electrically or by natural gas. Stoves and heaters for booth usage must be UL listed/approved and also be adequately ventilated. Nothing combustible may be placed near any heat-producing appliance. A UL listed/approved, 2 – A :10 – B : C ABC-type fire extinguisher is required in such exhibits.

Exhibits or Product Displays in Meeting Rooms

- Storage of combustible materials in meeting rooms, ballrooms or service corridors is prohibited.

Fire Hose Cabinets, Pull Stations, Aisles and Exits

- Each of these fire safety supports must be visible and accessible at all times. Adjustments to space and equipment may be required.
- Chairs, tables, and other display equipment must be clear of all aisles, corridors, stairways, and other exit areas.

Vehicle Displays

- Any vehicle or other apparatus that has a fuel tank and is part of a display, is required to be equipped with a locking (or taped) gas cap and can contain no more than 1/8 tank of fuel.
- Once the vehicle has been positioned, it cannot be moved until move-out begins, without prior approval by the Fire & Safety Manager or Designee.
- Battery cables must be disconnected once the vehicle is positioned. The engine cannot be operated during show hours.
- Refueling must be done off property.

Multi-Level Booths or Ceilings (including tents)

Double-decker booths or booths with ceilings (including tents) were previously required to be equipped with fire safety devices. However, our Fire Safety Department and major show contractors have worked with the Chicago Fire Department to develop specific codes for the trade show environment that would offer a safe and cost-effective alternative to sprinklers. These specific requirements apply to all exhibits that have a ceiling or second story.

Multi-Level Booths or Ceilings (including tents) continued

Booths fall into one of the five following booth formats:

Format 1: Exhibits with two stories under 225 square feet
Format 2: Exhibits with two stories at or over 225 square feet
Format 3: Exhibits with ceilings under 225 square feet
Format 4: Exhibits with ceilings at or over 225 square feet
Format 5: Multiple-level exhibits, which require automatic sprinklers or any of the above exhibits with installed automatic sprinklers. Separate fire code items apply.

For booth formats 1 through 4, you will need to comply with the fire code items marked yes on the following table:

Fire Code Compliance – Exhibits with Multiple Levels or Ceilings				
Fire Code Item	Booth Format			
	1	2	3	4
1. Maximum Dimensions	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
2. Second Level	Yes	Yes	No	No
3. Exit Stairways	Yes	Yes	No	No
4. Smoke Detectors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Fire Extinguishers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Posted Certificate of Fire Retardancy	No	Yes	No	Yes
7. Certified Approval	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
8. Fire Marshal Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

For exhibits, using automatic sprinklers, the amount and type of sprinkler coverage needed depends on the booth specifications. If automatic sprinklers are preferred, or are required, contact our Fire Safety Office to discuss your options.

Fire Code Items for Multiple Level Booths

- **Maximum Dimensions:** To avoid the sprinkler requirement, your exhibit must be less than or equal to 2 levels high (maximum 30-foot elevation) or 5,000 square feet of enclosed area.
- **Second Level:** Second levels must remain open and uncovered. If they are covered, sprinkler protection will be required. Booths with a third level or more must also have special sprinkler coverage.
- **Staircases:** Staircases between levels must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and meet the following requirements:
    - Minimum of 3 feet in width
    - Provide a handrail on at least one side
    - Provide handrails a maximum of 1-1/2 inches in circumference and turned into walls
    - Not be spiral or winding
    - If the top deck is designed to hold over 10 people, or exceeds 1,200 square feet in area, a second staircase is required which must be remote from the main staircase and meet the same construction requirements.
- **Smoke Detectors:** All areas under the second level or ceiling, including closets, need to be equipped with a UL approved (or similarly approved), battery-operated smoke detector. If this space is enclosed after hours, the smoke detector must be audible outside the enclosed area.
- **Fire Extinguishers:** A UL-approved (or similarly approved) 2-1/2-pound ABC-type fire extinguisher must be posted in a clearly visible and readily accessible area for each 500 square-foot enclosure.
- **Posted Certificate of Fire Retardancy:** A certificate verifying the fire retardancy of your booth construction materials must be posted in a conspicuous place within the exhibit.
- **Certified Approval:** After the booth has been designed, the blueprints must be approved and stamped by a licensed professional structural engineer. These blueprints should include dimensions and an isometric rendering. This approval applies to all booth formats outlined previously.

Fire Code Items for Multiple Level Booths (continued)

- **Fire Safety Review:** Send stamped blueprints to McCormick Place for review with the Fire Safety Division and by the Chicago Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau at least 60 days before the show opens to allow sufficient time for any needed corrections. Be sure that plans show dimensions and an isometric rendering of your exhibit. In addition, all areas requiring sprinkler protection must be highlighted. If plans are not provided on time, it may cause delays or disapproval of your booth to occur during the pre-show fire inspection.
- **Fire Guards:** Once a multiple level booth or a booth with a ceiling is built and completed, and whenever the exhibit or show is closed for business, special fire watch coverage is required. Use of individuals designated as fireguards is subject to prior approval by the McCormick Place Fire & Safety Manager.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act:** All exhibits must comply with the ADA. For information on compliance, contact the McCormick Place Fire Safety Manager.

Hazardous Materials Management

Neither McCormick Place Housekeeping Department nor your official service contractor manages hazardous material removal. However, your Event Manager can provide contractor names specializing in this service. Exhibitors are responsible to make their own arrangements.