

Los Angeles Fire Department Inspection Checklist Line Item Explanations

The following are expanded explanations of the “Los Angeles Fire Department Film Location Inspection Checklist”. It is not intended to be a complete list of all codes but rather those that focus on common hazards encountered at filming location.

I. ACCESS

A. Every building must be accessible to fire department trucks and equipment from roads and streets. There must be at least 20 feet of unobstructed width.

B. Fire lanes, extinguishers, sprinkler and standpipe connections may not be blocked by production vehicles and/or equipment without prior advance approval of the Los Angeles Fire Department (“LAFD”).

II. EXITING

A. This includes aisles, doors, doorways, corridors, stairways, exit courts and yards, which must remain unobstructed. Production equipment may not obstruct any part of the exiting system. On an interior stage set, there must be a 4 foot clear space all around the perimeter of the set for use as an exit way.

B. This includes hallways, passageways, aisles, ramps, and stairways used by cast and crew. Exits must be lit and clearly and easily identified.

C. No hazardous material (such as combustible material, flammable liquids, liquefied petroleum gas and pyrotechnics) may be placed in any exit hallways, passageways, aisles, ramps and stairways.

III. FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS and GASES

A. Containers to store flammable liquids may be no bigger than 5 gallons. In accordance with Section 57.30.03 of the Fire Code, the containers must be made of non-combustible material and must be self-closing metal containers. Containers should be emptied daily. Attached as Appendix 1 is a directive on safe storage of flammable liquids published by LAFD.

B. In accordance with Fire Code Sections 57.41.30 and 57.23.01, containers used to store propane or other flammable liquids must be secured by chains, cables or other noncombustible devices. The containers must be stored OUTSIDE with adequate ventilation so that gas or vapors do not accumulate, and must be protected from

vehicle traffic. "NO SMOKING" signs must be posted in the area of the containers storing flammable liquids.

C. This includes pipes, valves, fittings, hoses, manifolds and similar equipment which must be properly designed and constructed. Hoses should be LPG-rated by the Compressed Gas Association (CGA), the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), and/or Underwriter's Laboratories (UL). High pressure valves and fittings that are purchased off the shelf should be of the ball seat fitting type and be rated for 400 lbs. per square inch of pressure, and rated for liquid or gas. All connections and fittings should be inspected upon initial use and periodically for leaks.

D. Heating surfaces, lighting and any power equipment must be removed from the area containing flammable liquids.

E. Generators or other equipment that require refueling must be shut down before being refilled. No smoking in the vicinity of a refueling process.

F. The transferring fuel or any flammable or combustible liquid should be done at a storage location, in accordance with Fire Code Section 57.30.30, unless approved by L.A.F.D. In transferring fuel to, from or between vehicles, the vehicles must be shut off.

G. The Fire Department must issue a Div. 4 permit for a fuel dispensing tank vehicle.

H. All containers, dispensing and receiving, of flammable or combustible liquids must be connected together with copper bonding wire of at least 6 gauge.

I. Any finishing operation must be done in areas approved by LAFD. See Appendix 2 for guidelines on paint and finishing operations.

J. Spray painting and finishing operations must be done in areas that have proper ventilation.

IV. ELECTRICAL and LIGHTING

A. All electrical cords and connectors must be of the type approved of by the Los Angeles City Building Code. The "S", "SO", "ST", "G" and "W" portable power cables satisfy such requirements. Cables must bear the listing mark of the approved testing laboratory, maximum voltage, rating, type and maximum conductance operating temperature and conductor size. All cabling should be sufficiently shielded with the protection from physical damage due to pedestrians, carts, vehicles, water and other weather hazards. Electrical cords and connectors should not be submerged in water, unless using DC power and approved by LAFD.

B. All electrical boxes must be kept clear of the 4-foot perimeter area specified in II A above.

- C. All electrical equipment, lighting, etc. must be properly grounded.
- D. Generator inspection includes examining for: a proper extinguisher; any leaky fuel hoses; and proper ventilation. Inspection should also ensure that the generator is properly secured and stationary, that there are no frayed cables and that there is a qualified operator present. Generators must be properly placed so they do not block any fire protection system, any entrance or exit, and so they are not near any combustible fuel source.
- E. Generator should be insulated from earth by means of rubber tires, rubber mats around metal stairways and rubber mats under any type of lift gate or jacking device. Metal support for trailers should be insulated by means of wooden blocks. Safety tow chains shall be secured so as to not touch the ground.
- F. Electrical cables must be laid in a neat and orderly manner. Cables should be distributed, ramped with cable trays and/or taped down in an orderly way so as to avoid becoming a tripping hazard. Cables must not obstruct exits. When electrical cables are strung through an exit or fire door, the cables must be monitored carefully (by the Gaffer/Best Boy/appropriate production personnel). Such cables must have connections that can be quickly disconnected in the event of a fire or life safety hazard arises.
- G. Electrical lighting must be separated from combustible or flammable materials. It must also be separated from sprinklers and should not be placed under eaves.
- H. Any and all connections (“tie-ins”) to a building’s electrical panels can only be done with a permit from the L.A. Department of Building and Safety.
- I. Connections (“tie-ins”) must be linked to an emergency fuse box.
- J. The 3-foot clearance must be maintained whether or not the production company is utilizing the electrical panels of a building.

V. SMOKING

- A. The following are examples of the areas in which smoking is prohibited: mountainous, brush area; near any pyrotechnical special effects, near any flammable, combustible or gaseous area; within any tent; near any spray finishing area.
- B. A designated smoking area away from the prohibited areas is required when filming is occurring where smoking is prohibited. The smoking area must be clearly marked and butt cans must be made available. Smoking is not permitted on school properties. California law prohibits smoking in all buildings. Smoking inside a soundstage or other building is only permitted where such activity is required by the script or is part of the action to impart and create the proper mood or scene. The cigarette, cigar or pipe must be lighted and extinguished on stage.

C. "NO SMOKING" signs should be prominently visible where smoking is prohibited.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Existing fire sprinkler systems, standpipe system or other fire protection systems or equipment must be not altered, blocked or restricted in any way, even temporarily, unless a special permit is issued by LAFD. See Appendix 3 regarding procedures for temporary shut off of a sprinkler system.

B. Fire extinguishers must be on site and ready to use and should not be placed more than 75 feet out of reach.

C. Telephone service must be available for immediate reporting to appropriate authorities of any fire, medical or other emergency.

D. The minimum standard fire extinguisher is one 2A-10BC. It must be provided by the catering food service, and any craft service where cooking is performed, for use in the cooking area. See Appendix 4 regarding specifications for portable fire extinguishers.

E. All combustible waste material, including sawdust and wood scrapes, must be removed frequently and must be stored in an approved container, as explained in Section IIIA.

F. Rags used with paints, solvents, and other flammables shall be safely disposed of in safety containers with a tight fitting lid.

G. Tents must comply with Los Angeles Fire Prevention Requirement number 8. The specific requirements are available at www.lafd.org/code.htm, Article 7, Division 115. Tents must be secured with appropriate pins and/or clips. Nails are not acceptable for securing tents.

H. Large tents over 450 square feet can only be used under the authority of a Division 5 permit issued by the Fire Department.

I. Any film production set, including a building, must be at least 20 feet away from any dry brush or vegetation.

J. All curtains, backdrops, window coverings, trees, bushes, hay, etc. must be flame retardant using approved flame retardant materials and methods. Live trees, bushes, plants, flowers are not required to be flame retardant.

K. All portable air conditioners, heaters and related equipment should not be hung or typed to building, plumbing including sprinkler's head or pipes. All portable air conditioners, heaters and related equipment must not block or impede any hallways,

stairway or fire escape. All electric cables and hoses must be covered when crossing any aisles or exit ways.

L. Catering vehicles are not allowed to perform cooking inside any building, tent or other enclosure.

M. Cooking with liquid propane gas is not permitted inside any building utilized for film production.

N. Any motion picture vehicle used inside a building or interior shall have no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fuel tank full with fuel. The vehicle must comply with Fire Prevention Requirement 45.

O. Areas used for set construction must be kept clean and free of debris. "NO SMOKING" signs should be posted where they are clear and visible.

P. No more than 10 persons can occupy a roof, basement or mezzanine area without approval of the LAFD.

Q. The following types of sets require approval by LAFD: interior raised flooring, hard top sets over 600 sq. feet, foam sets, sets where pyrotechnic special effects will be used.

VII. PYROTECHNIC SPECIAL EFFECTS

A. Pyrotechnic special effects operator must hold the appropriate California state license, which must be in the operator's possession while working on film production.

B. No pyrotechnic special effects may be conducted or performed without an LAFD Special Permit issued in advance. A copy of the permit must be maintained at the location site.

C. A safety meeting must be conducted prior to the use of pyrotechnic special effects.

D. The pyrotechnic special effects operator must provide an approved fire extinguisher in storage and use areas. Approved fire extinguishers are specified in Appendix 3.

E. Fire extinguishers must be fully charged and approved with proper certification tags.

F. All pyrotechnic special effects must be used only in the way they have been described on the LAFD Special Permit. Any changes in planned and permitted activities must be approved in advance by LAFD.

VIII. HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

- A. No one should alter, disconnect, block or otherwise restrict existing fire alarms, sprinkler systems, standpipe systems or other fire protection systems or equipment without prior advance approval of LAFD.
- B. All stairway and fire rated hallway doors must be kept clear of cables, equipment, etc. so that the total and complete operation of these doors is not blocked or impeded. (Limited exception at IV-F, above).
- C. Exits to public ways (sidewalks, streets) must be unobstructed at all times, unless LAFD has given prior advance approval. This includes aisles, doors, doorways, corridors, stairways, exit courts and yards.
- D. Fire escapes cannot be used for storage or operational activity and must be kept clear as escape routes.

APPENDIX 1

A. The design and construction of portable tanks, portable shipping tanks, and containers for flammable and combustible liquids used or intended to be used for storage, sales, or shipping shall be as set forth in L.A.F.D. Standard No. 26. Portable tanks, portable shipping tanks and containers that are listed shall be acceptable to the Chief. Polyethylene containers meeting the requirements of and containing products authorized by D.O.T. Specification 34, and polyethylene drums authorized by D.O.T. Exemption Procedures shall be acceptable. Plastic containers meeting the requirements of ANSI/ASTM D3435-80 and plastic containers (jerry cans) used for petroleum products within the scope of that specification, shall be acceptable.

B. The maximum capacity of portable tanks, portable shipping tanks and containers shall conform to Table 30-A of this section.

TABLE 30-A

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SIZE OF CONTAINERS, PORTABLE TANKS AND
PORTABLE SHIPPING TANKS FOR FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS**

Container	Class IA	Class IB	Class IC	Class II	Class III*
Glass	0	1 qt.	1 gal.	1 gal.	5 gal.
Metal or Approved Plastic	1 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.
Safety Cans	2 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.
Metal Drum	60 gal.	60 gal.	60 gal.	60 gal.	60 gal.
Polyethylene	1 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.	60 gal.	60 gal.
Portable Tank	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.
Portable Shipping Tank	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.	660 gal.

* (Title of Column Six Amended by Ord. No. 169,944, Eff. 8/20/94.)

NOTES:

- Class I or II liquids may be stored in glass containers of not more than one gallon capacity if the required liquid purity (such as American Chemical Society Analytical Reagent Grade or higher) would be affected by storage in metal containers or if the liquid would cause excessive corrosion of the metal container.

III

All paint storage and spraying areas shall be approved by LAFD

SEC. 57.80.01. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

No person shall apply or cause or permit the application of any flammable or Combustible liquids to anything in or on any premises through ejection by pressure from any nozzle or orifice, unless the spray application is done in spray rooms, spray booths, or spray tunnels as hereinafter provided.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. A spray room, spray booth, or spray tunnel is not required for decorating or painting the interior surfaces of any building or for the spraying of articles for which the use of a spray room, spray booth or spray tunnel is impracticable, provided:
 - a. Ventilation is sufficient to remove explosive and flammable mixtures from all portions of the building, and,
 - b. The residue of vapors from such spraying will not occasion a fire hazard to life or property.
2. A spray room, spray booth, or spray tunnel is not required when the spraying of anything is done outside of any building or structure, provided:
 - a. Such spraying is done in such a location and manner that the discharge of explosive or flammable vapors or, residues therefrom or a fire in connection therewith will not endanger life or property, and,
 - b. Such spraying does not constitute a violation of any law or regulation.

All spray painting areas must comply with the above law and meet the following requirements:

- a. All paint storage areas shall be identified.
- b. **NO SMOKING** signs shall be posted where required by LAFD.
- c. Hazardous waste removal procedures shall be adhered to.
- d. Provide fire extinguishers.
- e. No paint shall be stored or used in or near any exit or exit way

**Los Angeles Fire Department
Fire Protection Systems Shut-Off Procedures for Filming**

1. Request in writing approval from the Film Unit to shut off fire protection systems (i.e. sprinklers, fire alarm etc.).
2. Upon receipt of the request the Fire Department will review it for approval.
3. If the request is approved, an F-315 will be issued to the requesting film company with the conditions, restrictions and requirements.
4. Anyone shutting the system down or turning the system on must be a certified Regulation 4 tester for that system.
5. The certified person shall print and sign their name and include their certification number and telephone number. The time the system will be taken out of service and the anticipated duration that the system will be inoperative, shall be logged on the F-315.
6. If the building is occupied, a UFSO shall be assigned for vacant buildings, a spot check may be given.
7. A fire watch shall be maintained during the time the system is off (Adhere to Division 13 LA FIRE CODE).
8. If special effects are being used, an alternate means of compliance for fire protection may be required as a condition for shutting all or part of the system down. The acceptable fire protection in this case is 2 – 1 ½ “ loaded lines able to reach all unprotected areas of the building.
9. The Film Unit will fax a copy of the F-315 to OCD (Fire Department Dispatch) for notification and documentation.

For assistance or clarification in this matter, please contact the Film Unit at 213 978-3670

VIII

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

CLASS “A” HAZARDS – Paper, wood, cardboard, cotton, grass, rubber, etc.

CLASS “A” Hazard can be extinguished with H₂O 2 ½ gallon water type.

CLASS “B” HAZARDS - Flammable liquids, gases, oils and grease fires.

CLASS “B” Hazard extinguisher use a dry chemical for active ingredient.

10B rated is lowest rated.

CLASS “C” HAZARD – Electrical, computers, less residue after discharge.

CO₂ extinguisher.

CLASS “B&C” rating will work on two different classes of fire ratings.

1. Minimum rating of extinguishers is 2A and 10B.
2. No more than 75’ of travel to an extinguisher, however, LAFD may reduce this travel distance depending of fire load.
3. CLASS “C” rating, no more than 50’ of travel distance.