

CRR POLICY 1300: DECORATIVE MATERIALS IN EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS



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Community Risk Reduction Division – 928-204-8926

This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Sections 807.1.1, 807.1.2 & 807.4.3 of the 2012 edition of the IFC.

The following shall apply to decorative materials in new and existing educational buildings:

Section 807.1.1 of the 2012 edition of the IFC reads as follows: "The permissible amount of noncombustible decorative material shall not be limited." Section 807.1.2 of the 2012 edition of the IFC reads as follows: "The permissible amount of decorative material...shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which it is attached." Section 807.4.3.1 of the 2012 IFC reads as follows: "Clothing and personal effects shall not be stored in corridors and lobbies. (Exceptions: 1. Where the corridors are protected by automatic sprinklers or automatic smoke detection 2. Where the storage is in metal lockers.)" Section 807.4.3.2 of the 2012 IFC reads as follows: "Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area." Therefore, it is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that at no time shall the display/storage of decorative material or artwork/teaching materials exceed the maximums as described in this policy. The following is the Sedona Fire District Community Risk Management Division's policy on decorative materials in new and existing educational buildings:

- 1) Decorative materials shall be defined as: a material with a thickness greater than .025 inches.
 - a. Therefore: paper, thin poster board, posters, and other wall coverings less than .025 inches do not contribute to the maximums listed for decorative materials.
- 2) Noncombustible decorative material shall not be limited.
 - a. Example: A non-combustible decorative tin wall covering could cover every square inch of all 4 walls of the classroom or corridor.
- 3) Decorative material in classrooms and other rooms shall not exceed 10 percent of the wall or ceiling area to which the material is attached.
 - a. Example 1: A 20' x 20' class room (400 ft² ceiling area) would be allowed to have 40 ft² of decorative material attached to the ceiling.
 - b. Example 2: A 40' x 8' class room wall (320 ft² wall area) would be allowed to have 32 ft² of decorative material attached to the wall.

The following items do NOT fall under the decorative material provisions:

- 4) Clothing and personal effects shall NOT be stored in corridors or lobbies, unless one of the following exceptions apply:
 - a. The corridor or lobby is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.
 - b. The corridor or lobby is protected by an automatic smoke detection system.
 - c. The clothing and personal effects are stored in metal lockers.
- 5) Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors and lobbies to no more than 20 percent of the wall area.
 - a. **Note:** This refers to artwork and teaching materials which would also include any decorative materials.
 - b. Example: A 100' x 8' hallway (800 ft² of wall on each side, 1600 ft² total) would be allowed to have 320 ft² of artwork or teaching materials attached to the walls.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Community Risk Reduction Division
Sedona Fire District
2860 Southwest Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

crm@sedonafire.org