

**Office of the Fire Marshal
Gwinnett County Department of Fire and
Emergency Services**



ADMINISTRATIVE RULE # 06-0001

SUBJECT:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	October 5, 2006
Artwork and teaching materials	REVIEW DATE:	September 1, 2006
	ISSUE DATE:	August 21, 2006
	PAGES:	2
REFERENCES:	SUPERSEDES:	None
NFPA Life Safety Code – 2000 edition §14.7.3.3 and § 15.7.3.3		
NOTICE: Administrative Rules are established in accordance with Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Section 46-1, Fire Safety Law, and Section 46-4, Appeals; International Fire Code Section 104.7, Approved Materials and Equipment; Section 104.8, Modifications; and Section 104.9, Alternative Materials and Methods.	APPROVED	Date
	<u>(Signature on file)</u>	10/5/2006
	Edward P. Knopick, Jr. CFPS, CCA FIRE MARSHAL	

SCOPE

This Administrative Rule provides criteria for the placement of artwork and teaching materials, as allowed in educational occupancies, on walls and in proximity of exit access doors, in accordance with §14.7.3.3 and § 15.7.3.3 of the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (2000).

REQUIREMENTS

Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted in accordance with the 20% limitations of the code. Placement of artwork and teaching materials adjacent to exit access doors shall be placed at a minimum distance of ten (10) feet, measured from the outer edge of the door frame. EXCEPTION: Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted within five (5) feet, as measured above, in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic fire sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

BACKGROUND and HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Life Safety Code states in both new and existing educational occupancy chapters the following, “ Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted to be attached directly to the walls and shall not exceed 20 percent of the wall area” (§14.7.3.3 and § 15.7.3.3).

Editorial comments in the Operating Features of the handbook speak to the need to permit combustible materials placed on vertical surfaces (walls) but would be prohibited due to interior finish requirements. However, testing has demonstrated that limited use of combustible artwork is acceptable but its use should be limited (Cote, 2000). Artwork displays should be placed away from exit access doors. The combustibility of artwork is inherently difficult to control, unlike interior finishes, the quantity is regulated (percent of wall area). The principal objective of the requirement is to avoid creating a continuous combustible surface that will spread flame across the room (NFPA, 2003).

TECHNICAL REFERENCES

Cote, Ron, (2000), *Life Safety Code Handbook*, 8th edition, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA

NFPA, (2003), *Fire Protection Handbook*, 19th edition, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA: Author