

Ontario Building Code – Tent Requirements

The following part comes from Division C 1.3.1.1. It indicates when a tent needs a permit or group of permits:

- (5) A tent or group of tents is exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under section 8 of the Act and is exempt from compliance with the Code provided that the tent or group of tents are,
- (a) not more than 60 m² in aggregate ground area,
 - (b) not attached to a *building*, and
 - (c) constructed more than 3 m from other structures.

Division B Section 3.14. Tents and Air-supported Structures:

3.14.1 Tents

3.14.1.1 Application

(1) Except as provided in this Subsection, tents are exempted from complying with the requirements of this Division.

3.14.1.2. General

(1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), the requirements of this Subsection shall apply to all tents.

(2) Articles 3.14.1.3, 3.14.1.7 and 3.14.1.8 apply to tents that,

- (a) do not exceed 225 m² in ground area,
- (b) do not exceed 225 m² in aggregate ground area and are closer than 3 m apart,
- (c) do not contain bleachers, and
- (d) are not enclosed with sidewalls.

3.14.1.3 Means of Egress

(1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3), tents shall conform to Sections 3.3 and 3.4.

(2) A tent need not conform to Article 3.4.6.12 except where swing type doors are provided.

(3) Where the area between adjacent tents or a tent and the property line is used as a *means of egress*, but not less than 3 m.

3.14.1.4 Clearance to Other Structures

(1) Tents shall not be erected closer than 3 m to the property line.

(2) Except as provided in Sentences (3), (4) and (5), tents shall not be erected closer than 3 m to other tents or structures on the same property.

(3) a *walkway* between a *building* and a tent occupied by the public is permitted provided,

- (a) the tent is not closer than 3 m from the *building*, and
- (b) the *walkway* conforms to Article 3.2.3.19.

(4) Tents not occupied by the public need not be separated from one another and are permitted to be erected less than 3 m from other structures on the same property, where such closer spacing does not create a hazard to the public.

(5) Tents located on fair grounds or similar open spaces, need not be separated from one another provided such closer spacing does not create a hazard to the public.

3.14.1.5 Clearances to Flammable Material

(1) The ground enclosed by a tent and for not less than 3 m outside of such structure shall be cleared of all flammable or *combustible* material or vegetation that will carry fire.

3.14.1.6 Flame Resistance

(1) Every tent and tarpaulins, decorative materials, fabrics and films used in connection with tents shall be certified to CAN/ULC-S109 "Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films", or NFPA 701 "Fire Tests for Flame-Resistant Textiles and Films".

3.14.1.7. Bleachers

(1) Where bleachers are provided in tents, they shall be designed in conformance with Articles 3.3.2.8, 3.3.2.10 and Subsection 4.1.5.

3.14.1.8 Sanitary Facilities

(1) Except as provided in Sentence (3), the minimum number of water closets for tents shall be determined in accordance with Table 3.7.4.3.E.

(2) Article 3.7.4.16 applies to sanitary facilities in Sentence (1).

(3) Sanitary privies, chemical closets or other means for the disposal of human waste may be provided in lieu of toilet fixtures.

3.14.1.9 Provision for Fire Fighting

(1) Access shall be provided to all tents for the purpose of fire fighting.

NOTE: All information is subject to change with the Ontario Building code updates. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Chief Building Official for clarification.