

**Columbus Division of Fire (CFD) guidelines regarding use of temporary barriers to maintain social distancing.**

**This document is to be used as a guideline and is not exhaustive and does not encompass the totality of all relevant sections of the Ohio Fire Code and Title 25, Columbus Fire Prevention Code.**

The preferred method of creating separation would be physical distance. Seating locations can be moved and or spaced apart to create satisfactory physical separation.

If physical distancing is not an option and barriers are used:

1) Curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and similar combustible materials that are suspended from walls or ceilings are strictly regulated by both the Columbus Division of Fire and the Columbus Department of Building and Zoning. This would include any temporary social distancing installations such as shower curtains, vinyl or plastic separations.

2) Occupancy, square footage, material type, location, method of suspension and other factors can determine whether barrier usage is acceptable, or if it violates Building and/or Fire Code.

3) CFD inspectors will evaluate each use of barriers on a case-by-case basis. In all cases where barriers are in use, the following must be adhered to at all time:

Open flame

- No flaming food/drinks served while barriers are in place
- No candles or other open flame while barriers are in place

Distinct hazards that must be addressed immediately

- Barriers cannot obstruct egress
- Barriers cannot obstruct smoke alarms or any other fire protection devices
- Barriers cannot obstruct sprinkler pattern and must provide a minimum 24” clearance below sprinkler heads
- Barriers cannot obstruct visibility of exit signs/strobes

4) The following will be evaluated for code compliance

- Occupancy classification OBC Section 303 OFC Section 202 (A2-50 or more occupants or B-49 or less occupants)
- Type of material used (fire performance rating) must be non-combustible or satisfy sections of the OBC/OFC 806.3, 806.4. Supporting documentation of fire resistance must be provided.
- Amount of material hung from wall or ceiling:
  - B use group- the amount of **rated (see OFC 806.4) material** used is not limited



- A2 use group-the amount of rated material shall comply with **OFC 806.4 and shall not exceed 10 percent** of the specific wall or ceiling area to which such materials are attached
- Is it supported by the floor?
  - If movable partitions/walls will be utilized, all materials utilized shall meet Class A, B, or C requirements per section OBC/OFC 803.1.1. Prefabricated accordion style partitions that fall within the material guidelines would be acceptable.
  - Acrylic Plexiglass Sheets (without additional supporting documentation) may not be approved.

Below are links of examples of fire-rated materials. These are representative only and similar products are available from other vendors.

#### Shower Curtains

<https://www.suppliesforhotels.com/product/vinyl-8-gauge-regency-flame-retardant/>

<https://www.prodryers.com/asi-1200-v48-vinyl-shower-curtain-flame-retardant/>

#### Welding Curtains

<https://www.grainger.com/product/STEINER-Transparent-Vinyl-Welding-5UZ13>

<https://www.curtain-and-divider.com/industrial-welding-curtains/>

