Oslo

Brann- og redningsetaten

FIRE CHECK

- For employees in the nightlife industry

INTRODUCTION

Fires in nightlife premises can have major consequences. The combination of a high number of people and intoxicated guests increases the risk of major consequences in the event of a fire. Faulty fire safety installations, blocked escape routes and a lack of control over the number of people are recurring issues when the fire department carries out evening and night-time inspections. Through simple measures, your organization can help to reduce the risk and ensure the safety of guests and employees.

It is the building owner's responsibility to ensure that fire safety installations are working as intended,

GUIDANCE SYSTEM

A guidance system can consist of both electrical or luminescent escape route markings that show the way to emergency exits, and emergency lights that illuminate the room or escape route if the power goes out. Remember that escape route markings must be clearly visible and not covered. The guidance system must have a working battery backup.

Escape route markings

Emergency light

FLAMMABLE GAS (F.EX. PROPANE)

Flammable gas must not be stored inside the premises, in escape routes, in attics or basements. Gas must be stored in a good ventilated area in an approved cabinet on the outside of the building.

Propane stored in an approved cabinet

FIRE ALARM

A fire alarm system should ensure that staff and guests are notified early in the event of a fire. Early warning ensures that everyone can evacuate quickly and efficiently. The organization should both have access to and training in the fire alarm system. Check that the alarm panel is operational, that there are no faults or disconnections and that detectors are not covered.

Fire alarm panel

Alarm bell , Manual fire alarm , Fire detector

AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM

Some buildings are equipped with automatic fire extinguishing systems. This may be a sprinkler system, water mist system or similar. Before opening hours, the organization must ensure that the system is in operation and that it is working properly. If employees do not have access to the sprinkler central system room (sprinkler riser room), the business must, in consultation with the building owner, put in place a system that ensures that personnel with access to the sprinkler system carry out regular inspections. If faults are discovered, the building owner must notify you.

Sprinkler head

TRAINING AND DRILLS

Training and drills play a key role in preventing fires and facilitating rapid and efficient evacuation in a fire situation.

All employees in the organization must be given training and practice in dealing with situations that may arise, so that the consequences for guests and employees are minimized as much as possible in the event of a fire.

and that you as an organization have been trained in how these installations work. You must report any faults and defects to the building owner.

With this brochure, we hope to contribute to increased knowledge of important elements of fire safety and to the introduction of important routines, such as a simple «fire check» before opening.

FIRE DOORS

Fire doors must prevent the spread of fire and smoke.

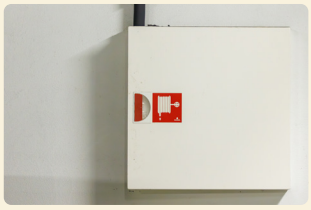
A fire door must either be closed or close automatically if the fire alarm is triggered, f.ex. by using a door magnet. Check that the fire doors can close without being hindered by f.ex. wedges or rubbish bins, and that door pumps are not unhooked.

Sprinkler head

Door closer

MANUAL FIRE EXTINGUISHING EQUIPMENT

Regularly check that fire extinguishers are where they should be and that nothing is blocking the fire hose cabinet. The pressure indicator on fire extinguishers should be in the green zone. There must be no visible damage to fire hoses and fire extinguishers. Extinguishing equipment must be signposted and easily accessible throughout the premises.



Fire hose cabinet

Pressure indicator on a fire extinguisher

ESCAPE ROUTES

An escape route is a safe route from a room or building to the outside. Escape routes are often via corridors or stairwells.

Escape routes must be equipped with escape route markings.

Escape routes must be free of objects, and people must be able to get out unhindered without the use of a key. Objects in escape routes will prevent occupants from evacuating the building.

Always check all escape routes before opening hours.

Escape routes must not be blocked

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

Every premises must have a maximum capacity calculation that specifies the maximum number of guests that can stay in the premises and in the different floors or areas (f.ex. outdoor seating). The owner of the building must ensure that the organization has been made aware of this fact.

The calculation of the maximum capacity is done to ensure quick and efficient evacuation in an emergency. An organization must be able to account that the number of people never exceeds the maximum capacity number.

CHECKLIST FOR FIRE SAFETY

It is important that the organization has good supervision and control routines of the fire safety installations. Below are some examples of specific installations that should be checked before opening. This is not an exhaustive list; the checklist must be adapted to the premises. Faults and defects in fire safety installations must be reported to the building owner.

If serious faults or defects are discovered, you must immediately implement measures to ensure fire safety; if measures do not ensure fire safety, you must consider closing the premises.

A digital version of the brochure can be found at: **www.bre.oslo.kommune.no**

- **Fire alarm control panel**
  Does the control panel show faults, disconnections or are detectors covered?

- **Emergency escape lightning**
  Are escape route markings illuminated? Are escape route markings covered?

- **Escape routes**
  Can doors in escape routes be opened without the use of a key? Are both door panels in the escape door unlocked? Are escape routes free of objects/obstructions?

- **Fire doors**
  Does the closing mechanism (f.ex. door pump and/or door magnet) work, remove wedges or anything else that prevents the door from closing. Are there gaps or leaks in or around the doors that could contribute to the spread of smoke?

- **Flammable gas**
  Is gas stored in an approved cabinet? Remember that flammable gas must not be stored inside the restaurant or nightclub, in escape routes, in the attic or basement.

- **Manual extinguishing equipment**
  Is the extinguishing equipment where it should be, is it damaged and is the cabinet with the fire hose free of obstructions?

- **Automatic extinguishing systems**
  Is there water pressure on the extinguishing system? Are sprinkler heads free from damage and covering? Are there any items stored too close to the sprinkler heads?

- **Training and education**
  Have employees and temporary workers been trained and instructed in what to do in a fire situation? Are employees at work able to assess faults or deficiencies in fire safety installations, such as faults and disconnections at the fire control panel? Also remember to instruct and train employees in handling flammable gas if this is in use on your premises.

- **Maximum capacity**
  Are employees aware of the total maximum capacity for the premises? Do they know the maximum permitted number of people for different floors or parts of the premises? Do you have routines for checking that the number of guests does not exceed the permitted maximum capacity?

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