
SP 3.2 – TENTS

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Purpose

To ensure *temporary tents* achieve acceptable standards of health and safety.

Application

This standard applies to *temporary tents* that have a plan area more than 100m² but less than 500m².

Referral Agency

There is no referral agency for this standard.

Associated Requirements

- *Standard Building Regulation 1998*
- *Building Act 1975*.

Referenced standards

- AS/NZS 2293.1 – 1998 – Emergency evacuation lighting in buildings - System design, installation and operation.
- AS 1851.1 – 1995 - Maintenance of fire protection equipment - Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets, including Amendments 1 and 2.

Definitions

Note: Italicised words in the text of the standard are as defined below.

Exit – means a point of discharge from the *tent* to open space.

Registered professional engineer - means a person registered as a registered professional engineer under the Queensland Professional Engineers Act 2002.

Required – means required by this standard.

Temporary – means, for a *tent*, the *tent* will remain erected in place not more than four weeks.

Tent - means a temporary structure clad in canvas, plastic or similar material, with or without walls, supported by poles or similar supports and fastened to the ground with ropes and pegs and/or ballast. This term also covers what is commonly referred to as a marquee.

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A1 A *tent* must be structurally sound and must resist the actions to which it may reasonably be subjected, taking into account -

- (a) the wind speed and cyclone category for the site;
- (b) the soil conditions which determine the holding capacity of the pegs or similar restraints; and
- (c) the time it is likely to be erected in any one location.

(Note – *tents* should be certified by a *registered professional engineer*. For older *tents* where manufacturer's information is not available, a documented service history plus assessment by a *registered professional engineer* is acceptable.

Exits

A2 Every *tent* must provide safe evacuation for people in the event on an emergency by meeting the following requirements:

- (a) Every *tent* must have at least one *exit*.
- (b) The distance of travel from any point in the *tent* to an *exit* must not exceed 20m.
- (c) The *exit* must never be blocked and must be available to any person seeking egress from the *tent* at any time.
- (d) The path of travel to the *exit* and the *exit* must be not less than 1m wide and 1.8m high.
- (e) An exit sign must be located above every *required exit* and be visible at all times by any person in the *tent*. The word "EXIT" must be in letters at least 100mm high in white letters on a green background.
- (f) If the *tent* is occupied at night, the exit sign required by (e) must be self-illuminated, have a battery backup in the event of a power failure, and comply with AS/NZS 2293.1.

Fire Safety

A3 Every *tent* must be provided with portable fire extinguishers as follows:

- (a) At least one 4.5kg B (E) dry chemical powder extinguisher must be located adjacent to-
 - (i) any electrical generator or switchboard;
 - (ii) any flammable liquid or gas containers; and
 - (iii) any cooking area.

- (b) At least one 4.5kg AB (E) dry chemical or pressurised water

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type extinguisher for every 100m² of *tent* plan area or part thereof must be provided and-

- (i) where more than one extinguisher is *required* under A3(b), they must be evenly located; and
 - (ii) one extinguisher must be located within 5m of each *required exit*.
- (c) The extinguishers must be kept fully charged and maintained in accordance with AS 1851.1.
(Note: This requires extinguishers to be tested regularly and the test details clearly identified on each extinguisher.)

Sanitary facilities

- A4** *Tents* available for use by the general public must be provided with not less than 1 closet pan and washbasin for every 100 persons or part thereof accommodated in the *tent*, at a location convenient to the *tent*.

Temporary seating and platforms

- A5** Any temporary seating, platforms and the like in the *tent* must be-
- (a) structurally sound; and
 - (b) where more than 1m above the adjacent ground or other surface, provided with a rigid guardrail at least 750mm high; and
 - (c) where there is a change in level for fixed seating or platforms, provided with uniform steps consisting of goings not less than 250mm, and risers between 120mm and 200mm. There must not be any gaps between steps and seating levels to allow a 125mm sphere to pass through.

Ballast

- A6** Where a *tent* relies on ballast for stability to meet the requirements of A1, the ballast must consist of solid weights and not be in the form of drums filled with water.

Condition of equipment

- A7** The *tent* fabric, structural supports, ropes and other equipment associated with the *tent* must be sound and in good working order.