



## City of Charleston Fire Inspection Guidelines for Business License Inspection

Welcome to the City of Charleston. The Fire Inspectors are tasked with performing a Fire/Life safety inspection before you can obtain a Business License. We will inspect the following items on the list. The Fire Inspector will explain each item to you. This list is by no means all-inclusive, so other items may be required and will be noted and explained to you. By working together, we can make Charleston the most fire safe city in America.

If you have any questions, please call the Fire Inspector's office at (843) 724-7433 or (843) 724-7431.

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A. **General Business Occupancies** -Requirements for ALL occupancies:

- 5 or 10-pound Fire Extinguishers, depending on the fire load, with current certified inspections tags from a licensed company; the Fire Inspector will designate the number and placement
- The use of extension cords for permanent wiring is prohibited.
- A street address, numbers or letters that are clearly visible from the street; suite numbers/letters also required
- Storage is to be ordered and proper aisles maintained.
- Exit doors must be easily operable from inside and lock/latching devices must operate without the use of keys or any special knowledge or effort.
- Electrical room panels shall be labeled and free of storage.
- Occupancy prohibited before final approval

B. **Residential** –Apartments, Hotels, Rooming Houses, etc.

- Smoke detectors in each bedroom/sleeping room, hard wired with a battery backup
- An approved unobstructed means of egress shall be required.
- Fire escapes, if permitted, must be in good repair and extend to the ground.
- Occupancy prohibited before final approval

C. **Assemblies** –Restaurant, Bars, Theaters, Churches, Dance Halls with occupant load greater than 99

- Panic Hardware required on lockable exits
- Two or more exits required depending on occupant load
- Occupants allowed (load) must be posted
- Fire extinguishing system required on hoods over cooking equipment
- Occupancy prohibited before final approval

\*Sprinkler Systems, Fire Alarms, or Kitchen Suppression Systems, which are in place or are being installed, will require a copy of a report from the licensed company that performed the latest service; Sprinkler/standpipe reports must show the last time a flow test was accomplished