





OKLAHOMA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Marshal's Office

AHJ Policies and Guidelines

AHJ #: OKCAHJ-2019-03	Subject of Policy: Hookah Operations	
Code Reference: International Fire Code 2015 section 105.6.34, 308, and 310		
Reviewed By: Prince Morgan 	Title: Assistant Fire Marshal	Effective Date: 11/15/19
Approved By: Harold Thompson 	Title: Fire Marshal	Revision Date:

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification and consistency in what the requirements shall be for permitting, and usage of hookah in establishments labeled as but not limited to “hookah lounges” or “hookah cafes”

Description of Code Reference:

International Fire Code (IFC) 2015 section 105.6.34 Open flames and candles. An operational permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants, or drinking establishments. This type of open flame operational permit shall be renewed and inspected annually.

Policy and Guidelines based on The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ):

1. Coals to be used should be 100% coconut coals or equivalent, to be determined by the Fire Code Official. Only UL listed coal burners shall be used to heat coals, and the coal burner must be surrounded by a non-combustible fire shield approved by the Fire Code Official.
2. Preheating/preparation of coals should be done on a non-combustible surface. The preparation should also be done in a dedicated area with restricted access that only the preparers can occupy. The dedicated area must include 3 ft. clearance from all combustible materials. Reduced clearances may be allowed by the Fire Code Official based on equipment design, heat shielding standards and manufacturers specifications.
3. Whenever hot coals are removed from the preparation area, they shall be placed in a ceramic, metal, or other noncombustible container. Open mesh containers shall not be used.
4. Coal containers shall not be placed on combustible materials, such as tablecloths or furniture. All devices used to transfer coals from the container to the hookah pipe shall be of a non-combustible material.
5. Hookah pipes and related heating devices shall be located on a stable non-combustible base to prevent accidental spill or spread of the open-flame media. The pipe hoses shall not create any fire or trip hazards.
6. Hookah pipes shall not be moved from the designated table during use and shall include the signage “Only to be handled by working staff”. A non-combustible wind cover or approved shield determined by the Fire Code

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Official, shall be applied to the top of the pipe to prevent accidental contact of patrons to exposed coals. The protective shield may be constructed of aluminum foil so that the height is not less than two inches above the top of the coals.

7. Used coals shall not be discarded in such a manner that could cause ignition of combustible materials. Used coals shall be removed and placed into a sealed metal or ceramic container with a lid (no openings other than the lid). The container shall be labeled "Hot Coals Only". The container shall not be placed within ten feet of other combustible materials, including combustible walls, partitions, or within two feet of openings of the building. If the container is placed on a non-combustible floor, ground surface, or stand, the container may be within two feet of the wall or partition. Hot ashes shall be thoroughly cooled (at least 4 hours) before being discarded.

8. 2-A:10-B:C type fire-extinguishers shall be installed in approved locations. A 2-A:20-B:C type fire-extinguisher shall be installed adjacent to the area where the coals are prepared. A sign shall be provided to indicate extinguishers to occupants.

9. Precautions shall be taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials or injury to occupants. The facility will need to also comply with the limitations of IFC section 310 concerning smoking.