

# RISK CONTROL CONSULTING

## Combustible Materials in Corridors and Hallways

- A. General.** School building corridors and hallways must remain clear in order to provide safe egress during emergencies. Any time items are placed in corridors or hallways, they must never impede flow of people entering and/or exiting the building, reduce the access width below minimum requirements, or create a fire hazard. In certain situations, items may be placed on walls, in corridors or hallways without adversely affecting exiting requirements.
- B. Regulatory Requirements.** The legal minimum width of corridors and hallways is determined by the applicable Uniform Building Code, Uniform Fire Code, Life Safety Code (NFPA 101). These codes also regulate combustible materials in corridors and hallways.
- C. Guidelines.** School personnel desiring to place objects on walls, in corridors or hallways should follow these guidelines.
- Objects must not reduce the width of the corridor or hallway to less than the legally required minimum. (i.e. never less than 48 inches in a school)
  - The object must be fixed to the floor or wall (e.g., a display case on the wall, a bulletin board) or something considered immovable (e.g., vending machine). Examples of items not allowed include chairs, student desks, tables, etc.
  - Combustible Materials on Walls - Paper, fabric and other combustible materials cannot cover or obstruct exit doors. Paper, fabric and combustible materials may not exceed 20 percent of the wall surface in corridors.
  - The object should not contain flammable materials (e.g., loose cardboard boxes or storage cabinet for flammable liquids).
  - Objects placed in corridors or hallways must not be placed for permanent storage (e.g., unused equipment items).
  - The object must not block the view of an exit or exit sign.
  - The object must not block access to, or the operation of, fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, fire alarm/detector panels, sprinkler systems, smoke or heat detectors, emergency showers, eye wash stations, emergency lighting, circuit breaker panels, etc.
  - The full, legally required width of the exit path must be maintained as a straight path down the length of the hallway.
  - Never place items on or in stairwells.



This Tribal First Risk Control Consulting fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice. For more information on this topic, please contact Tribal First Risk Control Consulting at (888) 737-4752 or [riskcontrol@tribalfirst.com](mailto:riskcontrol@tribalfirst.com).