

Advice Leaflet 49 Smoking Shelters

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Smoking Shelters

Where smokers are relocated to areas outside premises, the risk of fire goes with them, caused by cigarettes being discarded either in bins or on the floor where there may be combustible materials.

If smoking shelters are provided in public/commercial areas then the responsible person for the premises is required by fire safety legislation to provide a safe area that also minimises the risk of fire.

As well as complying with the relevant legislation relating to design of shelters, it is important that careful consideration is given on the location, construction and management from a property protection perspective.

Smokers using the shelter should be able to escape to a place of safety in the event of a fire in the parent building. Enclosed areas where the only escape route is back through the building should be avoided.

Do

- Carry out a specific risk assessment
- Construct shelters from non-combustible materials
- Where practicable site at least 10m away from any building or structure
- Provide suitable metal ashtrays and a separate metal waste bin with a fitted lid
- Monitor smoking waste and ensure nearby combustible material is removed regularly and safely
- Ensure the lighting and emergency lighting are adequate
- Maintain exit routes non slip and free from trip hazards

Don't

- Site near windows, ventilation intakes or extracts
- Block or restrict entrances and exits from the premises
- Site near hazardous materials, waste storage containers (such as skips or bins) or beneath a canopy or low overhanging eaves
- Use raised, slatted floors and decking with concealed or semi-open voids where combustible debris can collect, where necessary floors should be sealed
- Use combustible curtains, canopies drapes or artificial foliage within the smoking area

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Patio heaters

Patio heater should comply with EN 14543 and are for outdoor use or amply ventilated areas only.

The combustion products leaving the heater are very hot. On no account should they be used in an enclosed space where less than 25% of the walls surface area is directly open to outdoors, or close to umbrellas or other combustible materials

Awnings should not impede the escape of combustion products. Fire retardant and some fabric awnings may be used, only if the manufacturer's instructions permit it.

Care is needed when positioning a heater near terraces or balconies to ensure the products of combustion do not adversely affect people or property at burner level.

Heaters should not be moved when alight. Turn off at the regulator before moving the appliance.

Assembly of heaters should be carried out by a competent person in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Heaters should be regularly serviced by a competent person in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

LPG is odourised to enable accidental releases to be detected by smell. If a persistent gas smell is present, the heater should not be used, or if alight, the gas supply should be turned off at the regulator. The cause should be investigated and rectified before the heater is used again.

Ensure the safe use and storage of cylinders.