February 22, 2016

Q: The question has to do with flame-retardant decorations. We have been getting differing information as to whether seasonal decorations all need to be flame retardant or not. Can you tell me what the requirement is and where to find it?

A: To answer your question, the requirement for combustible decorations can be found in NFPA 101-2000, Section18/19.7.5.4, which prohibits the use of combustible decorations unless they are fire retardant. However, S&C Memo 12-21-LSC (click here) dated March 9, 2012, permits the use of a categorical waiver to allow combustible decorations on walls, doors and ceiling in limited quantities spelled out in NFPA 101-2012, Section 18/19.7.5.6.