

Fire risk affecting licensed premises using artificial foliage



During a recent fire safety visit of a licensed premises, it was identified that the business owner had fixed artificial foliage which was flammable to the walls and ceiling within the bar area. They had used a fire retardant product on this material but this was not effective in this application.

The business owner was advised of the potential fire risk that this posed, and they took immediate action by removing the material.

When ignited, this material will rapidly cause the development and spread of fire. This may stop people from making a safe escape.



This picture shows how the material burns when exposed to flame; the material melts and droplets fall from above (potentially on to people trying to escape).

There are too many tragic fire incidents where a great many lives have been lost because of flammable wall and ceiling linings, drapes and decorations. These incidents stretch back in time and regrettably still occur today.

Fire Safety law requires the Responsible Person, or any person in control of a premises to undertake, or review, their fire risk assessment to determine in advance whether what they propose to apply to walls and ceilings, will be safe and acceptable.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service strongly advises all business owners who use, or are considering using this type of decoration, review their fire risk assessment. Where it is identified that it will aid the spread and development of fire, remove it.

Further fire risk assessment advice and guidance is available <https://www.gov.uk/workplace-fire-safety-your-responsibilities>



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