

School buildings: the new Italian fire prevention decree

Franco Prete

With the D.M. 07-08-2017, published in the Italian Gazzetta Ufficiale no. 197 of 24-08-2017, the Italian Home office has issued new fire prevention rules for school activities that define the rules for the application of the New Prevention Code (MD 03-08-2015).

The latter measure, by introducing the so-called “performance approach”, is different from the prescriptive model based on the ministerial decrees published in recent decades, such as the D.M. 26-08-1992 relating to school buildings.



The new Fire Prevention Rule (D.M. 07-08-2017) is an alternative to D.M. Fire Prevention Rules. 26-08-1992 and does not apply to kindergartens. However, the legislator will decide by 31 December 2013 whether to repeal the 1992 decree.

The legislative framework

Legislative measure	Field of application	Type of approach
D.M. 16-07-2014	Kindergartens	Prescriptive
D.M. 26-08-1992	Schools of any type, order and degree	Prescriptive
D.M. 07-08-2017	Schools of any type, order and degree with over 100 occupants	Performance

Requirements of fire reaction required by the legislator

Legislative measures	Field of application	Fire reaction requirements
D.M. 16-07-2014	Kindergartens	See CATAS Newsletter of 3-10-2017
D.M. 26-08-1992	Schools of any type, order and degree	Tents: class 1
D.M. 07-08-2017	Schools of any type, order and degree with more than 100 occupants	In the vertical exits and in the communication passages of the horizontal exits (corridors, aisles, etc.), GM2 group materials must be used. In the same environments, the use of materials belonging to the GM3 group is admitted with the addition of a level of stopover of the measures required for fire control and for revelation and alarm.

School buildings: the new Italian fire prevention decree

Franco Prete

Descrizione materiali	GM1		GM2		GM3	
	Ita	EU	Ita	EU	Ita	EU
Mobili imbottiti (poltrone, divani, divani letto, materassi, sommier, guanciali, topper, cuscini)	1IM	[na]	1IM	[na]	2IM	[na]
Bedding (coperte, copriletti, coprimaterassi)	1		1		2	
Mobili fissati e non agli elementi strutturali (sedie e sedili non imbottiti)						
Tendoni per tensostrutture, strutture presso- statiche e tunnel mobili						
Sipari, drappeggi, tendaggi						
Materiale scenico, scenari fissi e mobili (quinte, velari, tendaggi e simili)						
[na] Non applicabile						

Tabella S.1-4: Classificazione in gruppi per arredamento, scenografie, tendoni per coperture

Descrizione materiali	GM1		GM2		GM3	
	Ita	EU	Ita	EU	Ita	EU
Rivestimenti a soffitto [1]	0	A2-s1,d0	1	B-s2,d0	2	C-s1,d0
Controsoffitti						
Pavimentazioni sopraelevate (superficie nascosta)	1	B-s1,d0	1	C _r -s1	2	C _r -s2
Rivestimenti a parete [1]						
Partizioni interne, pareti, pareti sospese	1	B _r -s1	1	C _r -s1	2	C _r -s2
Rivestimenti a pavimento[1]						
Pavimentazioni sopraelevate (superficie calpestabile)						
[1] Qualora trattati con prodotti vernicianti ignifughi, questi ultimi devono avere la corrispondente classificazione indicata ed essere idonei all'impiego previsto.						

Tabella S.1-5: Classificazione in gruppi di materiali per rivestimento e completamento

As outlined in the tables, the legislator has provided requirements only for products installed and used in escape routes, not considering other environments or those intended for school activities. Therefore, the gaps of D.M. 26-08-1992 that for furnishings only quotes curtains, were not solved.

In consequence, typical school furnishings (non-upholstered chairs, benches and chairs) continue to be exempted to any requirement with the only exception of chairs used in escape routes.

In any case, it is necessary to take into account the specifications issued by public and private committees that may voluntarily require requirements even where the legislator has not prescribed anything.

The above mentioned decrees can be downloaded at www.catas.com - Download Area - Prevenzione incendi.

Contacts:

Franco Prete
tel. +39 0432 -747221
e-mail francoprete@catas.com