Guidelines for Display Rules & Regulations

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Guidelines for Display Rules and Regulations

- Responsibility of the exhibiting company to comply with SPIE rules and regulations
- Non-compliance may require modifications at the exhibitor’s expense
- SPIE Exhibition Management reserves the right to pursue any action it deems necessary in the best interest of the exhibition and in fairness to all exhibitors
- All open or unfinished sides of the exhibit which may appear unsightly must be covered or the organizer will have them covered at the exhibitor’s expense
- Any portion of the exhibit bordering another exhibitor’s space must have the backside of the exhibit finished and not incorporate any identification signs, lettering or graphics
- Items located in the exhibit space must be in good taste or will be removed at the discretion of the organizer

VIEW SPECIFIC BOOTH REGULATIONS

- Linear and Corner Booths
- Canopy and Ceiling Regulations
- Issues Common to all Booth types

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ORDERED (Booths and Island spaces are required to carpet independently of rented exhibition space):

- Carpet/Flooring

OPTIONAL:

- Cleaning Service
- Electricity
- Internet
- Furniture
- Lead Retrieval
EXHIBITION DISPLAY RULES

Line-of-Sight

Line-of-Sight display rules provide restrictions on certain areas of booths to allow attendees to view neighboring booths in their line of sight as they walk the floor. There are a variety of booth types, and each one is addressed below with specific insight on how to implement Line-of-Sight regulations.

Linear Booth

The ability to have products or services easily seen by attendees as they walk the aisles is essential to all exhibitors, and that is the basis for including a Linear Booth Line-of-Sight setback rule. Linear Booths, also called “in-line” booths, are generally arranged in a straight line and have neighboring exhibitors on their immediate right and left, leaving only one side exposed to the aisle.

Dimensions

For purposes of consistency and ease of layout and/or reconfiguration, floor plan design in increments of 10ft (3.05m) has become the de facto standard in the United States. Therefore, unless constricted by space or other limitations, Linear Booths are most commonly 10ft (3.05m) wide and 10ft (3.05m) deep, i.e. 10ft by 10ft (3.05m by 3.05m). A maximum back wall height limitation of 8ft (2.44m) is generally specified to prevent display materials from imposing on neighboring exhibits behind the back wall.

Corner Booth

A Corner Booth is a Linear Booth at the end of a series of in-line booths with exposure to intersecting aisles on two sides. All other guidelines for Linear Booths apply.

Use of Space

Regardless of the number of Linear Booths utilized, e.g. 10ft by 20ft (3.05m by 6.10m), 10ft by 30ft (3.05m by 9.14m) 40ft by 40ft (3.05m by 12.19m), etc., display materials should be arranged in such a manner so as not to obstruct neighboring exhibitors. The maximum height of 8ft (2.44m) is allowed only in the rear half of the booth space, with a 4ft (1.22m) height restriction imposed on all materials in the remaining space forward to the aisle. Note: When three or more Linear Booths are used in combination as a single exhibit space, the 4ft (1.22m) height limitation is applied only to that portion of exhibit space which is within 10ft (3.05m) of an adjoining booth. No solid side walls are allowed to extend beyond 5ft (1.5m) from the back of booth.

Included:
8ft (2.4m) back wall and 3ft (.9m) side rail pipe and drape, Company identification sign

NOTE: Electricity is NOT included with the booth package. Exhibitors are required to adhere to Union Guidelines.

No overhead hanging signs allowed. Exhibitors are required to carpet their booth area.
Extended Header Booth
20ft (6.10m) or Longer

An Extended Header Booth is a Linear Booth 20ft (6.10m) or longer with a center extended header.

Dimensions and Use of Space
All guidelines for Linear Booths apply to Extended Header Booths, except that the center extended header has a maximum height of 8ft (2.44m), a maximum width of 20 percent of the length of the booth, and a maximum depth of 9ft (2.7m) from the back wall.
Other Important Considerations

Canopies and Ceilings

Canopies, including ceilings, umbrellas and canopy frames, can be either decorative or functional (such as to shade computer monitors from ambient light or to allow for hanging products). Canopies for Linear Booths should comply with Line-of-Sight requirements. (See “Use of Space” for Linear Booths).

The bottom of the canopy should not be lower than 7ft (2.13m) from the floor within 5ft (1.52m) of any aisle. Canopy supports should be no wider than 3 inches (.08m). This applies to any booth configuration that has a sight line restriction, such as a Linear Booth. Fire and safety regulations in many facilities strictly govern the use of canopies, ceilings and other similar coverings. Check with the appropriate local agencies prior to determining specific exhibition rules.
**Issues Common To All Booth Types**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Please share this information with your booth builder**

All exhibiting companies are required to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and are encouraged to be sensitive, and as reasonably accommodating as possible, to attendees with disabilities. Information regarding ADA compliance is available from the U.S. Department of Justice ADA Information Line (800) 514-0301, and from the ADA website at www.ada.gov. Some examples of how to design an exhibit for ADA compliance:

- Make exhibits wheelchair accessible by ramping raised exhibit flooring without extending a ramp into the aisle.  
  **Note:** A standard wheelchair ramp should have a grade no steeper than 1:12. This means that for every inch of rise (change in height), there should be 12 inches of run (change in length)

- Ramp the entry or use hydraulic lifts to trailer exhibits

- Avoid double-padded plush carpet to ease mobility device navigation

- Provide the same attendee experience on both levels of a two-story exhibit

- Offer a signer or other auxiliary hearing-impaired apparatus for sound presentations or have a printed copy of the presentation available

- Run an audio presentation for people with sight problems

- Arrange touch screen displays at a height to accommodate a person sitting in a wheelchair

To avoid heavy fines by the U. S. Department of Justice, exhibitors must adhere to the ADA rules. Exhibits are not exempt from ADA compliance.

**Structural Integrity**

All exhibit displays should be designed and erected in a manner that will withstand normal contact or vibration caused by neighboring exhibitors, hall laborers, or installation/dismantling equipment, such as fork lifts. Displays should also be able to withstand moderate wind effects that may occur in the exhibition hall when freight doors are open. Refer to local building codes that regulate temporary structures.

It is recommended that all 20ft by 20ft (6.10m by 6.10m) and over exhibits require a drawing, plans or renderings, preferably digital, to be submitted to the show organizer, and to the show's general service contractor.

Exhibitors should ensure that any display fixtures such as tables, racks, or shelves are designed and installed properly to support the product or marketing materials to be displayed.

**Flammable and Toxic Materials**

All materials used in display construction or decorating should be made of fire retardant materials and be certified as flame retardant. Samples should also be available for testing. Materials that cannot be treated to meet the requirements should not be used. A flame-proofing certificate should be available for inspection. Exhibitors should be aware of local regulations regarding fire/safety and environment which must be adhered to.

Exhibitors should dispose of any waste products they generate during the exhibition in accordance with guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the facility.
Issues Common To All Booth Types (continued)

Electrical
Every exhibit facility has different electrical requirements. However, minimum guidelines are suggested:

• All 110-volt wiring should be grounded three-wire.

• Wiring that touches the floor should be “SO” cord (minimum 14-gauge/three-wire) flat cord, which is insulated to qualify for “extra hard usage.”

• Cord wiring above floor level can be “SJ” which is rated for “hard usage.”

• Using zip cords, two-wire cords, latex cords, plastic cords, lamp cords, open clip sockets, and two-wire clamp-on fixtures is not recommended and is often prohibited. Cube taps should be prohibited.

• Power strips (multi-plug connectors) should be UL approved, with built-in over-load surge protectors.

• Local code commonly requires access to electrical cords and connections along the back wall of exhibit booths; typically, the back 9 inches of the space should remain accessible for this purpose. (This would apply to all booth types with a back wall.)

Lighting
Exhibitors should adhere to the following suggested minimum guidelines when determining booth lighting:

• No lighting, fixtures, lighting trusses, or overhead lighting are allowed outside the boundaries of the exhibit space. Exhibitors intending to use hanging light systems should submit drawings to exhibition management for approval.

• Lighting, including gobos, should be directed to the inner confines of the booth space. Lighting should not project onto other exhibits or exhibition aisles. A finished hard panel may be required to defuse back lit displays.

• Lighting that is potentially harmful, such as lasers, ultraviolet lights or flashing or strobe lights that can trigger photosensitive epilepsy should comply with facility rules and be approved in writing by exhibition management.

• Lighting that spins, rotates, pulsates, and other specialized lighting effects should be in good taste and not interfere with neighboring exhibitors or otherwise detract from the general atmosphere of the event.

• LED lights can be very bright yet generally generate less heat.

• Currently, some convention facilities are not allowing certain types of quartz halogen lighting fixtures in exhibits due to potential fire hazards. Check with exhibition management.

• Reduced lighting for theater areas should be approved by the exhibition organizer, the utility provider, and the exhibit facility.
Demonstrations
As a matter of safety and courtesy to others, exhibitors should conduct sales presentations and product demonstrations in a manner which assures all exhibitor personnel and attendees are within the contracted exhibit space and not encroaching on the aisle or neighboring exhibits. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to arrange displays, product presentation, audio visual presentations, and demonstration areas to ensure compliance. Exhibitors should be aware of local regulations regarding fire/safety and environment which must be adhered to.

Special caution should be taken when demonstrating machinery or equipment that has moving parts, cooking equipment with an open flame, or any product that is otherwise potentially dangerous. Exhibitors should establish a minimum setback of 3 ft (.91 m) and/or install hazard barriers as necessary to prevent accidental injury to spectators. Additionally, demonstrations should only be conducted by qualified personnel.

Sound/Music
In general, the use of sound equipment in booths is permitted as long as the noise level does not disrupt the activities of neighboring exhibitors. Speakers and other sound devices should be positioned to direct sound inward (to be contained within the booth) rather than outward (toward aisles and other exhibitor booths). Generally, sound and noise should not exceed 85 decibels when measured from the aisle immediately in front of a booth. If an exhibitor or attendee is standing within ten feet of an exhibitor’s booth and cannot carry on a normal voice-level conversation, the noise source is too loud. (Refer to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act [OSHA] at www.osha.gov for more information.)

Exhibitors should be aware that music played in their booths, whether live or recorded, may be subject to laws governing the use of copyrighted compositions. Authorized licensing organizations, including but not limited to ASCAP, BMI and SESAC, collect copyright fees on behalf of composers and publishers of music. It is the exhibitors’ responsibility to be informed of copyright laws and submit fees to the appropriate organizations.

Storage
Fire regulations in most exhibit facilities prohibit storing product, literature, empty packing containers, or packing materials behind back drapes or under draped tables. In most cases, however, exhibitors may store a limited supply of literature or product appropriately within the booth area, so long as these items do not impede access to utility services, create a safety problem, or look unsightly.

Vehicles
Rules vary depending on the facility, but generally it is required that vehicles on display have no more than one fourth tank of gas. The filler cap should be sealed and the batteries disconnected. External chargers are usually recommended for demonstration purposes. Keys should always be surrendered to show management while participating in an exhibition or event.