



BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION 2021-02
July 1, 2026

CODE/EDITION: VIRGINIA UNIFORM STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE/2021

SECTION(S): Section 108 Application For Permit

QUESTION:

1. Is a Construction permit required for temporary theatre sets and scenery under the Virginia Construction Code (VCC)?
2. Are temporary theatre sets and scenery exempt from the code requirements listed in the VCC?
3. How is temporary defined in relation to theatre sets and scenery?
4. Can I request a permit for a temporary theatre set and scenery?

ANSWER:

1. No, temporary motion picture, television, and theatre sets and scenery, such as temporary scenic structures, props, scenic walls, flats, and platforms used as part of the temporary theatre sets and scenery, are not treated as part of the permanent regulated building/structure.

Yes, if the temporary theatre sets and scenery alter the regulated buildings/structures' means of egress, any life safety systems, structural components, electrical, plumbing, gas, or mechanical systems.

2. No, temporary theatre sets and scenery still must comply with the requirements of the VCC.
3. Temporary structures are defined by the VCC as structures erected for a period of less than 180 days.
4. Yes, the VCC stipulates that when an owner or owner agent requests a permit to be issued, the locality shall issue the permit, and any related inspections shall be required.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chad S. Roop'.

Chad S. Roop, CBO.
Acting Building Official