

CHECKLIST FOR CELLULOSE NITRATE FILM STORAGE

Definition of Cellulose Nitrate Film: Motion picture or sound recording film that is coated on a support or base consisting essentially of cellulose nitrate. This includes unexposed film, positive prints, negatives, or used film. (NFPA 40:1.6)

All code references are to NFPA 40 unless otherwise noted.

- 1) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Maximum occupant load for any room storing cellulose nitrate film is 15 (40:4.4.2)
- 2) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Tables may not have racks or shelves beneath them. (40:4.5.2)
- 3) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Tables and racks must be at least 4" way from any radiator or heating apparatus. (40:4.5.3)
- 4) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Film may not come into contact with any electric motors (40:4.6.2)
- 5) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Steam pipes penetrating walls, partitions, racks or near woodwork must be protected by insulation (40:4.7.2)
- 6) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
For radiators, heating coils, pipes and returns near the floor or that may come into contact with combustible material, waste or dirt must be guarded and protected with ¼" mesh or galvanized steel wire cloth.
The guards must:
 - Be able to be lifted for cleaning
 - Have tops that are sloped so that they can't be used for storage
 - Must keep film 4" from heated surfacesMust be built of substantial metal framework so they can't be forced into proximity with heated surfaces. (40:4.7.3)
- 7) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Water based fire extinguishers are required in every room in which nitrate film is stored EXCEPT in film vaults. (40:5.3)
- 8) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Film must be stored in approved cabinets or vaults if between 25-750 lbs. If over 750 lbs., must be stored in vaults. (40:6.1)

- 9) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Cabinets with capacity to store over 75 lbs. of film must be protected by at least one sprinkler head. (40:6.2.5.1)
- 10) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
At least 12 sprinkler heads in vaults. (40:6.3.7.2)
- 11) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
The film in cabinets must be in individual cans/DOT containers unless insulated cabinets provided within cabinets. (40:6.2.6.1)
- 12) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Door openings must have automatic, self-closing fire assemblies greater than or equal to 3 hours. If held open, they must close automatically upon activation of smoke detectors. (40:6.3.2)
- 13) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
All nitrate film shall be kept in closed, individual cans or DOT-approved containers unless in active use. (40:7.2)
- 14) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Film may not be shielded from sprinklers. (40:7.3)
- 15) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Scrap film must be kept separate from other rubbish. (40:7.4.1)
- 16) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Scrap film must be collected at least daily and placed under water in steel drums or containers in a dedicated room. (40:7.4.2)
- 17) Pass _____ Fail _____ N/A _____
Scrap or discarded film must be disposed of frequently but **not baled or burned.** (40:7.4.4)