



**BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION 2018-11**

**July 1, 2021**

**CODE/EDITION: VIRGINIA CONSTRUCTION CODE 2018  
NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE 2017**

**SECTION(S): VCC/2018, Section 108 Application for Permit  
NEC/2017, Article 525 Carnivals, Circuses, and Similar Events**

**QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:**

1. If a tent is exempt from application for a Building Permit, is the associated proposed trade work (e.g., mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and gas) also exempt from application for a trade permit?

No. The VCC/Section 108.2 Exemptions from Application for Permit, #4 only applies to the tent structure and does not apply to any proposed trade work. However, based on other provisions of the Code, the proposed trade work may be exempt from application for permit.

2. Is an Electrical Permit required to install temporary electrical lights in a tent?

Yes, with the following exception: If the electrical power is less than 50 volts for the temporary electrical lights, an Electrical Permit is not required.

3. Is a guard for lamps required for temporary electrical lights in a tent?

Yes, with the following exception:

- A. If the lamp is ten (10) feet or higher above the walking surface, a guard is not required.
- B. If the temporary electrical lights are Listed LED Lights with impact resistant lamps or covers, a guard is not required.

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