

Ceiling fabrics/stand roofs

Scope

This information sheet provides an overview of one and two-storey exhibition stands that are covered by ceiling fabrics or firm ceiling elements.

Other applicable regulations

The Technical Guidelines, 4.4.2 concerning stand roofs

Summary

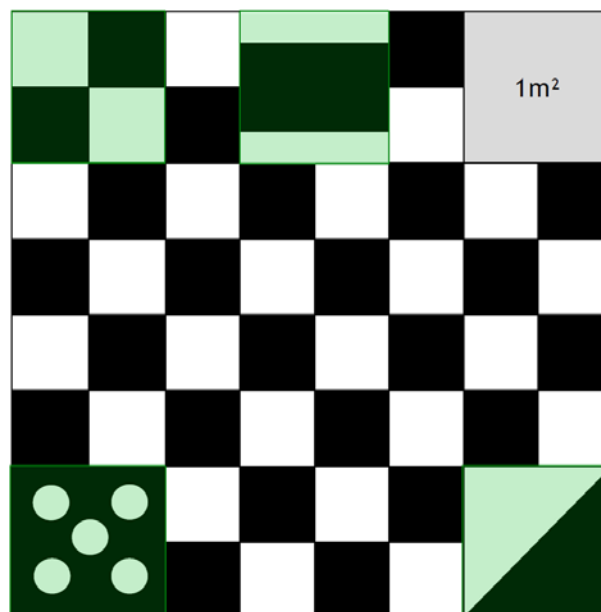
Exhibitor's stands must always have an open top so that the sprinkler protection and the removal of smoke into the trade fair hall are not interfered with.

Ceilings are considered to be open if no more than 50% of the top area is horizontally covered (as a percentage of a single sq. metre) or if appropriate sprinkler-compatible fabrics (VdS certified) are used.

If the ceiling is closed or if the ceiling fabric does not meet the requirements, compensatory measures have to be taken in consultation with Koelnmesse GmbH. In any case, all ceiling fabrics must be B1 fire retardant in accordance with DIN 4102-4 (alternatively: Class B-s1-d0 according to DIN EN 13501-1) and not drip when burning.

Open ceilings – variant 1: actually open ceiling

Ceiling are considered to be open if no more than half (50%) of the top area is covered (as a percentage of a single sq. metre). The following diagram shows four possible variants (green) for a 50% open ceiling. If the ceiling is slanted, the horizontal projection of the surface area applies.



Black: closed; white: open; green: Examples

Open ceilings – variant 2: sprinkler-compatible fabrics

A horizontal covering is possible if the material has internal dimensions (width of the opening) of at least 2x4mm or 3x3mm when it is not stretched open. Ceilings are considered to be open in this case. Alternatively the covering fabric can be demonstrated to be sprinkler-compatible by means of a valid certificate from VDS Schadensverhütungs GmbH. In any case, the fabric must be proven to be B1 fire retardant in accordance with DIN 4102-4 (alternatively: Class B-s1-d0 according to DIN EN 13501-1) and not drip when burning.

Sprinkler-compatible fabrics may only be used horizontally. They may only be used in a single layer and have a field size of $\leq 30 \text{ m}^2$ without any additional construction measures. For larger surfaces, the covering fabric has to be correspondingly supported and secured (e.g. by means of steel cables etc.). The manufacturer's covering instructions have to be complied with.

Closed tops

If parts of the top are closed, this diminishes the effectiveness of the sprinkler system and has to be offset by appropriate measures. Such compensatory measures can include e.g. the installation of additional fire detectors on the underside of the ceiling or the installation of a sprinkler system.

Koelnmesse determines the required fire protection measures in close cooperation with the Cologne Fire Brigade.

Please submit detailed and dimensioned ceiling plans for this purpose.

Procedure for several closed ceiling elements on a single stand area

If several ceiling elements are planned for a single stand area, the areas have to be added together and are considered to be a single ceiling element.

This determination is made by the Event Technology and Approval department at Koelnmesse GmbH in close cooperation with the department for Health Safety Environment and Fire Protection. Please take this into account during stand planning early on.

Documents to be submitted

All documentation must be submitted in German or English. The documentation can be submitted via e-mail (freigabe@koelnmesse.de) or in writing. The responsible department checks the documents to make sure they are correct and complete. Koelnmesse reserves the right to forbid the construction and operation for reasons of safety, missing or inadequate documentation or late submission of documentation.