

takeform

Partitions, Plastics, and Fire Code Requirements

COVID-19 has organizations working to make their spaces safer for the people that move through them. Partitioning is an effective way to provide infection control, but there may be fire codes to take into consideration. When selecting partition materials, here are some code-related observations to consider:

- **There are no clear plastics on the market that are Class A fire rated** under *Chapter 8 of IBC*. Not acrylic. Not polycarbonate. Not PETG. The material doesn't exist (at least at any practical thickness to use for partitions). So, *if* a project requires that panels must be Class A fire rated, then clear plastic materials are not viable options – regardless if from Takeform or another source. Moxie or Oomph is the appropriate Class A material to specify.
- **Partitions defined as “furnishings”** The consensus is that temporary desktop and panel top partitions are classified as “*furnishings*.” That's an important detail, because furnishings do not show up in the building codes and aren't subject to *Class A fire rating*. Acrylic may be used for these specific temporary applications without issue.
- **Light Transmitting Plastics** If the code officer doesn't consider clear acrylic partitions as “*furnishings*”, this should not be of concern because the appropriate code is in *Chapter 26 IBC – Plastics. Specifically, Section 2606.4* for Light Transmitting Plastics, to which both Polycarbonate and Acrylic meet the required self-ignition temperature, smoke density, and burn rates.
- **Freestanding Partitions** Generally, free standing partitions *fall into Chapter 8* and may need to be Class A fire rated. However, size, weight, and the discretion of the local code enforcement authority will all be factors in the code requirements for Adjoin Freestanding partitions. Adjoin products are not affixed or ground mounted barriers – portability is inherent to their design and purpose. When looking for an all-acrylic/transparent partition, consideration should be given to the aforementioned factors. If Class A fire rating is preferred/required Moxie or Oomph should be the material specified.