

North Carolina State Science Fair Rules

A Safety and Display Team will check your project for compliance to these rules

Display and Safety Regulations

Unacceptable for Display (please use photographs instead of bringing materials)

1. Living organisms (e.g., plants, animals, microbes)
2. Taxidermy specimens or parts
3. Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals (includes embryos)
4. Human or animal food
5. Human/animal parts or body fluids (e.g., blood, urine) (**Exceptions:** teeth, hair, nails, dried animal bones, histological dry mount sections, and completely sealed wet mount tissue slides)
6. Plant materials (living, dead, or preserved) which are in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state (**Exception:** manufactured, construction materials used in building the project or display)
7. Laboratory/household chemicals including water (**Exceptions:** water integral to an enclosed apparatus or water supplied by the Display and Safety Committee)
8. Poisons, drugs, controlled substances, hazardous substances or devices (i.e., firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices)
9. Dry ice or other sublimating solids (i.e., solids which vaporize to a gas without passing through a liquid phase)
10. Sharp items (e.g., syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
11. Flames or highly flammable materials
12. Batteries with open top cells
13. Awards, medals, business cards, flags, etc.
14. Photographs or other visual presentations depicting vertebrate animals in surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies, or other lab procedures. **No photographs or any other visual depictions may be included in any manner at a project if they are deemed visually offensive by the Display and Safety Committee.**
15. Active Internet or e-mail connections as part of displaying or operating the project.

Acceptable for Display & Operation with Restrictions

1. Soil or waste samples if permanently encased in acrylic
2. Empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids or gases if certified as having been purged with carbon dioxide.
3. Information such as postal, web, and e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers are allowed **only** for student exhibitor(s)
4. All photographs must have credit lines. Acceptable photographs include those of the exhibitor and family or of other human subjects (with appropriate release

forms), or photographs from the Internet, magazines, etc. with credit lines attached. **No photographs will be allowed if deemed offensive by the Display and Safety Committee.**

5. Class II lasers
 - a. must be student operated
 - b. may be operated only during Display and Safety inspection and during judging
 - c. posted sign must read "Laser Radiation: Do Not Stare Into Beam".
 - d. must have protective housing that prevents physical and visual access to beam
 - e. must be disconnected when not operating
6. Large vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices must be properly shielded.
7. Pressurized tanks that contained noncombustibles may be allowable if secured.
8. Any apparatus producing temperatures that will cause physical burns must be adequately insulated.

Electrical Regulations

1. Electrical power supplied to projects, and therefore the maximum allowed for the projects, is 120 or 220 volt, AC, single phase, 60 cycle. Finalists must provide a UL listed 3-wire extension cord (minimum length of 9 feet) to connect to the power source.
2. All electrical work must conform to the *National Electrical Code*. All electrical connectors, wiring, switches, extension cords, etc. must be UL-listed and must be appropriate for the load and equipment.
3. Wiring, switches, and metal parts must have adequate insulation, and over-current safety devices (such as fuses), and must be inaccessible to anyone other than the exhibitor. Exposed electrical equipment or metal that is liable to be energized must be shielded with a non-conducting material or with a grounded metal box to prevent accidental contact.
4. Wiring not a part of a commercially available UL-listed appliance or piece of equipment must have a clearly visible fuse or circuit breaker on the supply side of the power source and prior to any project equipment.
5. There must be an accessible, clearly visible on-off switch or other means of disconnect from the 120 or 220 volt power source.

Acceptable for Display Only (Cannot Be Operated)

1. Any apparatus with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains or moving parts with tension or pinch points.
2. Class III and IV lasers
3. Any device requiring voltage over 125 volts

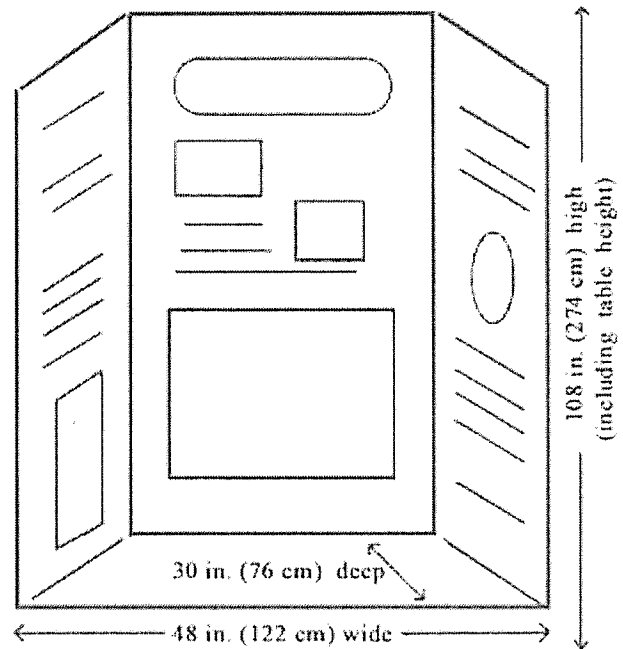
Display Size Requirements and Limits
A Safety and Display Team will check your project for compliance to these rules at registration.

We will measure your display. Please make sure it is not larger than the following sizes. **Your display must be within these boundaries before you leave your project on Friday night or Saturday morning.**

30 in. (76 cm) deep, front to back
48 in. (122 cm) wide, side to side
108 in. (274 cm) high, floor to top including the table -- table height is 30"

The size limitations include all parts of your display and the table.

(NOTE: Backboard is **not** provided.
Display area consists of a covered table.)



Very Important Information

Take Photographs

Many projects involve elements that may not be safely exhibited at the fair, but are an important part of the project. You might want to take photographs of important parts/phases of your experiment to use in your display or notebook. **Photographs or other visual presentations depicting vertebrate animals in other-than-normal conditions (i.e., surgical techniques, dissection, necropsies, running a maze, or other lab techniques) are unacceptable. Photographs or other visual images of human test subjects must have signed informed consent forms.** You must be able to produce a signed consent form if requested at registration. **No photographs may be included in any way in the Finalist's Display if they are deemed visually offensive by the Display and Safety Committee.**

Helpful Hints

Judging

The most important part of judging is the interview. Be confident, know your subject matter, and have fun sharing your research with the judges. Judges have a limited amount of time to spend at each project. Be sure to make your oral presentation concise and meaningful. Do not ramble. Leave enough time for questioning so that the judges can fully understand your project.

Correct Presentation and Construction

Be sure to adhere to the size limitations (see above diagram) and safety rules when displaying your project. Make sure your display is sturdy, as it will need to hold up for quite a while.