

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

CANDLEMAKING

Design

1. Candles may be either traditional or original to the maker. Finished pieces must show that the maker has an understanding of design and its application, as well as an affinity for the special characteristics of the materials chosen.
2. Cast works in wax are acceptable if the master, the mold and the casting are the work of a craftsman. The use of commercial molds is permitted only if the mold is so neutral as to have no influence on the aesthetic of the finished piece. Surface decoration must:
 1. Show a high level of understanding and application of design principles
 2. Be original, and show the distinct, personal style of the maker
 3. Show that consideration has been given to the integration of the base form into the finished product
 4. Be consistent with other products that form part of the craftsman's line.
3. Candles should be well proportioned.

Materials

4. Low temperature paraffin wax must not be used.
5. Stearic acid should be used to give paraffin toughness and greater density and to prevent sagging or bending.
6. Only pure pigment of either wax or oil may be used to colour candles.
7. Only oil based fragrances may be used to scent a candle.
8. Lead-free metal core wicks must be used in sand-cast candles.
9. Wicks must be of a diameter appropriate to the size of the candle in order to prevent excessive smoking and dripping.
10. When dried flowers are used to embellish a candle, they must be grown and/or collected and dried by the craftsman. Flowers must be neatly and securely attached with wax and must not affect the function of the candle.

Technique

11. Dipping, pouring, casting, molding and rolling are acceptable methods of candle making.
12. Candles must be free of the following defects:
 - Fractures and cracks
 - Frost marks and mottling
 - Dull surfaces
 - Blisters or pit marks
 - Spots under the surface
13. Candles should stand upright and not droop, and should be made so that they do not drip on one side.
14. Wicks must be centred in the wax.
15. Candles must be even at the bottom.

Other

18. Candles submitted to the Standards Committee will be burned by the Committee as a test procedure.
19. Instructions should be attached to the candle if any special care is required.