



SOF WEEK 2027 DOCK SLIP EXHIBITOR RULES & REGULATIONS

To make SOF Week 2027 a successful event for all participants, the SOF Week Dock Slip exhibitors must review and abide by [SOF Week Exhibitor Rules & Regulations](#) and the [Exhibitor Contract Terms and Conditions](#). The rules shown below have been extracted from the Exhibitor Booth Guidelines & General Rules & Regulations for your convenience, as they apply most to Dock Slip exhibitors. Additional rules will apply to exhibitors participating in marine demonstrations at the Tampa Convention Center.

Note: Exhibitors are advised to whitelist all email addresses from “@mapyourshow” as exhibitor notifications and newsletters will be sent from these email addresses.

Exhibitor Schedule

Exhibitor Move-In

Monday, 3 May 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM*

*Earlier move-in will need to be reserved in Dockwa, Tampa Convention Center Marina slip, dock, mooring reservations – Dockwa.

Exhibit Hours

Tuesday, 4 May 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday, 5 May 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday, 6 May 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Exhibitor Move-Out

Thursday, 6 May 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday, 7 May 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Access Control

Exhibitors at the TCC docks should be aware that Show Management will not have checkpoints for attendees wishing to access their exhibits on the docks. It is left to the Exhibitor's discretion if they wish to permit people on board their vessel. Show Management recommends that exhibitors only permit individuals with badges who are SOF Week attendees on board.

Booth and/or Material Abandonment

Exhibitors that leave excessive literature and/or display materials in their exhibit space at the end of the published move-out time will be deemed to be guilty of “material abandonment”. Any charges incurred on behalf of show management to remove the abandoned materials to ensure that show management can comply with the published move-out schedule of the facility as stated in their license agreement for the event will be billed to the exhibitor directly. Show Management and the TCC will NOT be responsible for the recovery of abandoned materials that are left in an exhibitor's exhibit space past the move-out dates/times as published in this document.

Catering

Aramark is the exclusive provider of all food and beverages at the Tampa Convention Center. In compliance with the Tampa Convention Center's policies, outside food and beverages are not permitted on the property of the Tampa Convention Center during SOF Week. This includes the Tampa Convention Center dock slips. The Marriott Water Street is the exclusive caterer for dock slips at their facility.



No outside food and beverages (including Uber Eats or DoorDash) may be delivered to the docks or boats during the show.

For more information or to place food and beverage orders, refer to catering details for Aramark and the Marriott Water Street in the Exhibitor Resource Center.

Co-Exhibitors/Booth Shares

- A co-exhibitor is defined as any company whose name is included on the exhibit space or who has staff working at/from the exhibit space, or any company whose marketing materials are distributed from the exhibit space.
- Co-exhibitors must have an existing corporate relationship with the contracted primary exhibitor.
- Failure to advise Show Management of shared exhibit space in advance – including displaying the advertising of another company's products or services – may result in a minimum additional charge of \$5,600 per company, per exhibit space.
- Once registered, co-exhibitors will have separate company profiles in the online exhibitor directory and the mobile app.
- Once registered, no refunds will be provided for co-exhibitor cancellations.
- Co-exhibitors, like exhibitors, will have access to the Exhibitor Resource Center, where they can update their company information for the mobile app and online exhibitor directory.
- All co-exhibitors must submit the SOF Week Co-Exhibitor Registration Form (located in the Exhibitor Resource Center) and payment of \$1,200 for corporate partners and \$1,500 for non-corporate partner companies.
- Co-exhibitors will receive one complimentary badge (approximate value: \$690.00) per registered co-exhibiting company and will receive their own registration credentials. They may also purchase additional badges at the reduced exhibitor rate through their exhibitor registration portal.

Compliance with Laws

Exhibitors shall observe and abide by all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations, as well as all rules and regulations of SOF Week and the Tampa Convention Center. Exhibitors shall conduct themselves, and shall require their agents, employees, independent contractors, and representatives to conduct themselves, always in accordance with customary standards of decorum and good taste in the industry.

Dock Space

All food and beverages must remain on the boat and may not be placed on the dock.

Due to the limited space on the docks, tents may be erected during the day but must be removed at night. Tents will not be exclusive to the exhibitor as others will have to walk through the tents.

Furniture is not permitted to be placed on the docks.

Electric Power/Utilities

SOF Week exhibitors requiring dedicated power at the Tampa Convention Center's Docks must order utilities from EDLEN Exhibition Services, the Tampa Convention Center's exclusive in-house partner for temporary utilities, including power. Recreational pedestal power at the docks will not be available for SOF Week.

For assistance with ordering marine power for TCC dock space, please contact our Event Managers at tampa@edlen.com to place an order **by April 23** or call EDLEN's General Manager, Michele Cardello, at 407-401-1066.



For ordering marine power for the Marriott Water Street docks, power can be either 30- or 50-amp service only. Ordering details will be available in the Exhibitor Resource Center.

- Electric current may be utilized for the operation of apparatus, provided they do not produce noises of an annoying nature.
- Electrical service is billed directly from Edlen to the exhibitor based on electrical service required. This billing is in addition to, and separate from, SOF Week exhibit space charges.
- All 110-volt wiring should be grounded three-wire.
- Power strips (multi-plug connectors) should be UL-approved, with built-in overload surge protectors.

Exhibit Activities/Demonstrations

All exhibitor activities, including "Live" demonstrations promoting an Exhibitor's products, are permitted only within the Exhibitor's purchased space or designated boundaries of the Exhibitor's boat or booth. Exhibitors may not conduct activities on docks or in any area outside their assigned space without prior approval from show management.

Exhibitor Resource Center

The Exhibitor Resource Center, powered by Map Your Show, provides a full array of resources to help you manage your SOF Week exhibit. The Exhibitor Resource Center includes:

- Portal to update your exhibitor directory listing and product categories
- A checklist of key items and deadlines
- Shipping information
- All booth ordering information and portals for exhibitor services such as electricity, rigging, furnishings, catering, floral, labor and material handling, and more
- A complete list of exhibitor contacts and official service partners
- Information for designating EACs
- Details for submitting booth designs/stand drawings
- Badge registration

The primary contact for each exhibitor will be sent an email from service@mapyourshow.com with the subject "SOF Week Exhibitor Resource Center Login." The primary contact can designate other individuals to have access to the Exhibitor Resource Center.

Firearms Policy

No firearm exhibits are allowed on boats at the TCC boat docks. Firearms intended for SOF Week are only permitted in the Tampa Convention Center (TCC).

Flammable and Toxic Materials

- All materials used in display construction or decorating should be made of fire-retardant materials and be certified as flame retardant.
- Exhibitors should be aware of local regulations regarding fire/safety and environment, which must be adhered to.
- Exhibitors should dispose of any waste products they generate during the exhibition in accordance with guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the facility.

Hanging Signs

Banners and signs may not be hung on dock rails or any part of the dock slip.



Insurance

- Prior to show setup, all exhibitors must comply with SOF Week exhibitor insurance requirements as outlined in the Exhibitor Resource Center.
- While show management will not be responsible for collecting evidence of insurance documentation for exhibitors, it will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to maintain coverage that satisfies the requirements and have a certificate of insurance available on site.
- SOF Week show management reserves the right to request proof of satisfactory insurance coverage, as it deems appropriate.
- Refer to the sample COI in the Exhibitor Resource Center.

ITAR & Export Control

By signing the Exhibitor Terms & Conditions, exhibitor agrees to comply with all U.S. export control laws, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Exhibitor assumes all responsibility for securing necessary licenses for controlled materials and for ensuring that no unauthorized transfers of technical data occur during the event. Failure to comply may result in immediate removal from the exhibition floor without a refund. For more information, visit

https://www.pmddtc.state.gov/ddtc_public?id=ddtc_public_portal_compliance_landing

Literature Distribution

Distributing literature or promotional items outside of the contracted boat/booth space is prohibited.

Official Service Partners

- To ensure orderly and efficient installation, operation, and removal of displays and to eliminate confusion, SOF Week has designated firms listed in the Exhibitor Resource Center, as official service contractors.
- Show Management holds these firms responsible for quality service and fair prices and will intercede on behalf of an exhibitor in the event of faulty work or unfair charges.
- SOF Week encourages all exhibitors to place orders with these firms, unless a permanent arrangement has been established with a display house or outside contractor to set up and dismantle exhibits.

Security

- Perimeter security coverage will be maintained during posted exhibit hours; however, this does not constitute continuous protection of individual booths or exhibitor assets. Exhibitors retain full responsibility for safeguarding their own property at all times.
- Uniformed security personnel will be posted from 18:00 on Monday, May 3, through 18:00 on Thursday, May 6.
- SOF Week, GSOF, MCI USA, the Tampa Convention Center, and the Tampa Airport Authority assume no liability for loss, theft, or damage to exhibitor property. This limitation is governed by the terms set forth in the Exhibitor Contract Terms & Conditions.
- Exhibitors are strongly advised to secure independent insurance coverage prior to the event to protect against theft, damage, or loss of property.
- All valuables must remain locked and secured at all times, with heightened vigilance required during move-in and move-out periods, when asset exposure and foot traffic are highest.
- Exhibitors and EACs are strongly encouraged to remove all high-value assets, including electronics, aircraft models, and fragile equipment, immediately following the close of the show on Thursday, May 6, to eliminate unnecessary exposure during breakdown.



Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all SOF Week 2026 venues. In compliance with the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited within 25 feet of a building. At the TCC, the Sail Bar has designated smoking areas.

Sound

Sound levels within the exhibitor's booth should be kept at a respectful level at all times, must not exceed 75 decibels as determined by show management, and must not disrupt the conduct of business of neighboring exhibits or show management events during posted exhibit hours.

Complaints of sound regulation violations may be made directly to the SOF Week Exhibits team.

The SOF Week sound enforcement procedure is as follows:

- If a second infraction occurs, the exhibitor will receive a written warning from the exhibits team.
- If the exhibitor continues to violate the policy, the electrical power for the sound-producing elements will be shut down.

An exhibitor in violation of this policy will receive a verbal warning from the SOF Week Exhibit Operations team. Event Management reserves the right to remove the Exhibitor from the exhibition and/or close their boat or booth if any terms of this Agreement are violated.

Staffing

- **NEW FOR 2027: Exhibitors who dismantle their exhibits prior to the official show closing will be assessed penalties of \$1,000 per 10-ft by 10-ft space reserved and may forfeit their opportunity to participate in future SOF Week events.**
- Exhibit areas must be fully staffed during official exhibit hours.
- Exhibits at the TCC, the JW Marriott, and Marriott Water Street must remain staffed and in place through 2:00 PM on Thursday, 6 May.
- No activities, except booth preparations, are to be scheduled in the exhibit areas at any time other than official exhibit hours.
- Show management reserves the right to make changes to the exhibit hours schedule with advance notice.

Trash

- Any Exhibitors promoting giveaways from their exhibit space which generate additional trash are required to order porter service for their booth.
- Exhibitors who require porter/cleaning service for their exhibits, but do not order it, will automatically be billed for this service.

Weapons

No weapons of any kind, including edged weapons, firearms, firearm components, and ammunition, are permitted on the docks at the Tampa Convention Center. This prohibition is absolute and applies without exception to all personnel, exhibitors, and vessels present at the dock area.

Inert ordnance and display weapons that have been permanently rendered inoperable are permitted only within the Tampa Convention Center itself, subject to the approval process below, and are prohibited on the docks under the same terms as all other weapons.



- **Approval Process**

Exhibitors must self-certify that all inert ordnance and display weapons are permanently rendered inoperable and submit supporting documentation, including photographs and serial numbers, via email to Sean Mahabir, GSOF Director of Security, at smahabir@gsuf.org no later than March 1st, 2027. Approval must be granted in writing by the GSOF Director of Security before any item will be authorized for display.

In addition, a dedicated team of Weapons Inspection Experts (WIE) will conduct on-site inspections of all display weapons at the event, separate from the advance self-certification and approval process. Any item discovered by WIE without prior written approval on file will be rejected outright. The exhibitor is solely responsible for immediately removing the item from the show floor and from TCC premises at their own expense; WIE and GSOF will not take custody of, store, or transport the item on the exhibitor's behalf. Any approved item that fails on-site inspection will also be removed from the floor immediately under the same terms.

- **Firearms Policy**

Firearms and/or Edged Weaponry are strictly prohibited aboard any vessel moored at the TCC boat docks. All firearms/edged weapons associated with SOF Week are authorized for display and handling exclusively within the confines of the Tampa Convention Center (TCC) itself. No firearm may be transported to, staged at, or displayed on dock property under any circumstances.