

Clean Currents 2026: Exhibitor Setup and Labor FAQ

Booth Setup & Dismantling

Do I need to hire union labor to set up my booth?

It depends on who does the work. If your full-time company employees set up your booth, you don't need Freeman labor. If you hire outside help, it must come through Freeman via Stagehand Local #36.

What counts as exhibit installation work under Local #36's jurisdiction, and what doesn't?

Jurisdiction covers wall and floor coverings, pipe and drape, painting, hanging signs or decorative materials from the ceiling, placing signs, and building platforms. It does not cover placing your products on display, opening your own product cartons, or testing, maintaining, or repairing your products, no matter who does them.

How do I order labor?

Online, through Freeman's ordering system.

Material Handling & Freight

Who unloads my freight from the truck?

Local #36 handles all loading and unloading of trucks, trailers, and carriers, plus handling empty containers and operating material handling equipment.

Can I hand carry my own boxes in myself?

Yes. Hand carry means carrying material yourself, in your own hands, with no dollies, hand trucks, carts, or other material handling equipment involved (rolling suitcases are fine). Any wheeled or mechanical equipment moves the work into material handling territory, which requires Freeman.

Where do I bring hand-carried items in?

You can either use attendee entrances on 2nd and 3rd street instead of the dock or freight door areas. If you need to park, you can do so following Convention Center guidelines [here](#). Or, if you want to pull into the loading dock, use the service entry upper entrance off of N 5th St. Let Freeman know you're hand carrying and they'll let you in briefly to unload.

Who's responsible for my freight once it's on the dock?

Freeman manages dock scheduling and move-in/move-out but is only responsible for material it actually handles.

What if my display includes machinery or equipment?

Unloading, uncrating, unskidding, leveling, painting, and assembly of machinery and equipment falls under Local #36's jurisdiction, as does the reverse process at move-out.

Exhibitor Appointed Contractors (EAC)

Can I use my own outside contractor instead of Freeman?

Yes, for the non-exclusive services Freeman would otherwise perform, if you submit a written Intent to Use Non-Official Contractor form (download it from your exhibitor task portal) and a certificate of insurance for your EAC.

Does my EAC still need to hire Freeman labor to do the work?

No. Once your EAC is properly registered, they can perform the work themselves; you don't need to also hire Freeman labor for that scope. Many EACs pull their own labor from the local union anyway, so the work is often still union-staffed either way.

What insurance does my EAC need to carry?

Workers' compensation at the state-required minimum, commercial general liability of at least \$1,000,000 covering all operations, and automobile liability of at least \$1,000,000 covering all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles. The general liability and auto policies must name NHA, the venue, SB Expos & Events, the Official Service Contractor, and all event affiliates as additional insureds.