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Theaters, assembly halls

## Chapter Ind 55

## THEATERS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

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**Ind 55.001 Theaters.** In the theater classification, are included all buildings or parts of buildings, containing an assembly hall, having a stage which may be equipped with curtains or permanent or movable scenery, or which is otherwise adaptable to the showing of plays, operas, motion pictures or similar forms of entertainment.

**Ind 55.01 Assembly halls. (1)** In the assembly hall classification, are included all buildings, or parts of buildings, other than theaters, which will accommodate more than 100 persons for entertainment, recreation, instruction, worship or dining purposes.

(a) Every assembly hall which will accommodate not more than 100 persons shall conform to the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code chapter Ind 54, covering factories, office and mercantile buildings.

**Ind 55.02 Class of construction. (1)** The capacities of buildings or parts of buildings in this classification for the various types of construction shall not exceed, and shall comply, with the following requirements:

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## MAXIMUM CAPACITIES

Type of Construction	With Stage	Without Stage
Fire Resistive -----	No limit	No limit
Mill -----	750	1,500
Ordinary -----	500	1,000
Frame -----	300	750

(a) *Exception.* The fire protection for structural steel supporting the roof may be omitted in one-story buildings in this classification provided the roof and its supports are of incombustible or mill construction throughout.

(2) **Frame construction.** Where a building of this classification is erected of frame construction, the following restrictions shall apply:

(a) Not more than one story in height without a balcony, and with no basement except a heating and fuel room enclosed with fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 55.29, with all interior openings protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09. ✓

Effective January 1, 1972 section (2) (a) is created to read as follows:

(a) Not more than one story in height without a balcony, and with no basement except a heating and fuel room enclosed with fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 55.29, with all interior openings protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.047.

(b) Located at least 20 feet from any other building or adjoining property line.

(c) Is not built in connection with a building used for any other purpose.

(d) Is provided with foundation walls and piers of masonry construction.

(e) Where motion picture booths are required, they shall be enclosed with 2-hour fire-resistive construction.

*Exception:* In places of worship, a full basement and a balcony seating not more than 30 persons may be provided.

(3) Balconies accommodating more than 100. In any theater or assembly hall, balconies which accommodate more than 100 persons shall be of fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.001.

**History:** 1-2-56; (1); (1) (a); (2); (2) (a); (2) (b); (2) (c); (2) (d); (2) (e); (2) (f); (3); am. Register, June, 1956; No. 6, eff. 7-1-56; am. (1) (a), Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9-1-57; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (2) (a), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (2) (a) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) (a) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.03 Height above grade.** (1) **THEATERS.** The height of the sills of the principal entrance doors to any theater, as defined in section Ind 55.001, shall be not more than 18 inches above the outside grade at that point. The floor level at the highest row of seats on the main floor shall not be more than 6 feet above the outside grade at the main entrance; the floor level at the lowest row of seats on the main floor shall be not more than 6 feet below, or above, the grade at the nearest exit.

(2) **ASSEMBLY HALLS AND ROOF GARDENS ABOVE FIRST STORY.** Where assembly halls are provided above the first story, the following limitation of occupancy, type of construction and exit facilities shall apply:

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Type of Construction	Maximum No. of Occupants	Height Above Grade
Fire-resistive -----	No limit	No limit*
Mill, or Ordinary -----	400	2nd story or 22 feet
Mill, or Ordinary -----	200	3rd story or 35 feet

\*One smokeproof stair tower from the level of the assembly hall leading directly to the exterior at street grade shall be provided for every 750 persons capacity, or fraction thereof. These stairways shall be at least 44 inches wide and shall be in addition to other required stairways in the building.

(3) **BASEMENT ASSEMBLY HALL.** An assembly hall may be placed in the basement of a fire-resistive building if the capacity does not exceed 2,500 persons or in the basement of a building of mill or ordinary construction if the capacity does not exceed 400 persons.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59.

**Ind 55.04 Exposure and courts.** (1) Every theater or assembly hall which accommodates more than 600 persons shall have at least 3 walls abutting on streets, alleys, or open courts.

(2) The wall containing the main entrance to any theater or assembly hall shall abut on a street. The lobby or passageway leading from the main entrance doors to the foyer or auditorium shall be direct and unobstructed and of a minimum width equal to the sum of the widths of the main entrance doors. There shall be no openings from other occupancies to such a corridor or passageway.

(3) The width of every exit court shall be at least 6 feet for an occupancy not exceeding 500 persons, and shall be increased at the rate of one foot per each 500 persons additional. Every such court shall lead to a public thoroughfare, either directly, or through a passageway of equal width, not less than 8 feet high enclosed with unpierced 4-hour fire-resistive walls, ceiling and floor as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and Ind 51.06. The floor and ceiling shall be designed for a live load of not less than 150 pounds per square foot. No such court, or passageway shall be used for storage or any other purpose whatsoever.

Effective January 1, 1972 section (3) is created to read as follows:

(3) The width of every exit court shall be at least 6 feet for an occupancy not exceeding 500 persons, and shall be increased at the rate of one foot per each 500 persons additional. Every such court shall lead to a public thoroughfare, either directly, or through a passageway of equal width, not less than 8 feet high enclosed with unpierced 4-hour fire-resistive walls, ceiling and floor as specified in section Ind 51.04. The floor and ceiling shall be designed for a live load of not less than 150 pounds per square foot. No such court, or passageway shall be used for storage or any other purpose whatsoever.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.05 Separation from other occupancies.** (1) Every theater and assembly hall shall be separated from any other occupancy by an absolute occupancy separation as specified in section Ind 51.08, except that a special occupancy separation as specified in section Ind 51.08 may be used between an assembly hall accommodating not more than 750 persons and any other non-hazardous occupancy. Where a special

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occupancy separation is permitted in this section, a single fire-resistive door may be used for the protection of openings.

(2) For assembly halls of unlimited capacity located on upper floors of fire-resistive buildings which are served by elevators, the elevator openings may be permitted under the requirements for special occupancy separation specified in section Ind 51.08, but otherwise, absolute occupancy separation is required.

*Delete* (3) Where a garage which is more than 500 square feet in area, chemical laboratory or other occupancy where flammable or explosive liquids or gases are used or stored is built in connection with a building used for a theater or assembly hall, it shall be separated therefrom by means of 4-hour fire-resistive walls as specified in section Ind 51.05 and unpierced 4-hour fire-resistive floors above and below as specified in section Ind 51.06. All openings in the wall to adjoining parts of the building shall be protected by means of self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09.

Effective January 1, 1972 section (3) is created to read as follows:

(3) Where a garage which is more than 500 square feet in area, chemical laboratory or other occupancy where flammable or explosive liquids or gases are used or stored is built in connection with a building used for a theater or assembly hall, it shall be separated therefrom by means of 4-hour fire-resistive walls and unpierced 4-hour fire-resistive floors above and below as specified in section Ind 51.04. All openings in the wall to adjoining parts of the building shall be protected by means of self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.047.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.06 Capacity.** (1) The following table includes various types of occupancy within the scope of this section, together with the method to be used in determining the capacity.

(2) No greater number of persons than the number thus established shall be permitted in any theater or assembly hall.

Use or Occupancy	Basis of Capacity
(a) Arenas and field houses -----	4 sq. ft. per person. Use seated areas only.
(b) Assembly halls, with stage -----	7 sq. ft. per person.
(c) Banquet halls -----	10 sq. ft. per person.
(d) Churches (auditoriums) -----	7 sq. ft. per person.
(e) Churches (dining rooms) -----	10 sq. ft. per person.
(f) Dance halls -----	10 sq. ft. per person.
(g) Dining rooms -----	10 sq. ft. per person.
(h) Gymnasiums -----	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space. 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(i) Lecture halls -----	7 sq. ft. per person.
(j) Lodge halls -----	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space. 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(k) School auditoriums -----	7 sq. ft. per person.

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(l) Skating rinks -----	15 sq. ft. per person.
(m) Theaters -----	7 sq. ft. per person.
(n) Theater lobbies -----	7 sq. ft. per person.

(3) The capacity of theaters and theater lobbies must be combined to determine the theater capacity.

(4) (a) Every theater or assembly hall having movable seats shall display a sign stating the maximum number of persons permitted by code.

1. The sign shall be placed in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to each theater or assembly hall.

2. The sign shall have the following wording: "Limit (Number) Persons." The maximum number of persons shall be determined by the capacity as permitted by subsection (2) and section Ind 55.12. The lettering shall be white on a dark background. The letters shall be not less than 1½ inches in height and the number shall be not less than 3 inches in height.

**History:** 1-2-56; cr. (4) (a), Register, July, 1966, No. 127, eff. 8-1-66.

**Ind 55.07 Number and location of exits.** (1) Every floor and balcony of a theater and assembly hall shall be provided with not less than 2 exits, placed as far apart as practicable and so located that if any exit is blocked, some other exit will still be available from every part.

*Exception:* In places of worship, only one exit will be required from a balcony seating not more than 30 persons.

(2) Where more than 600 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 3 exits and where more than 1,000 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 4 exits.

(3) Exits shall be distributed on all sides which adjoin streets, alleys or open courts.

**Ind 55.08 Type of exits.** (1) The required exits from any part of a theater or assembly hall shall be exit doorways, stairways or ramps.

(2) All exits to grade from a higher or lower level shall be stairways or approved ramps. In all theaters and in assembly halls having a capacity of more than 400 persons, where the exit rise is not more than 3 feet approved ramps shall be used. By approved ramp is meant an incline located inside the building and having a slope of not more than one foot of rise in 8 feet.

(3) Stairway exits shall be interior stairways, or smokeproof towers as specified in section Ind 51.17; except that "B" type fire escapes may be used as exits from balconies for not more than one-half the required exit width, if located against blank walls.

**Ind 55.09 Stairways.** (1) Every stairway in a theater or assembly hall shall be enclosed as specified in sections Ind 51.17 and 51.18 with the following exceptions:

(a) Stairways from the main floor to the first balcony need not be enclosed.

(b) Stairways from the basement to the first floor of a single story place of worship need not be enclosed if they lead directly to the exits.

(2) No storage closets shall be placed under any stairway, platform or landing. A room may be placed under a stairway or stair-landing of 2-hour fire-resistive construction or better provided such room does not have combustible material or hazardous equipment stored or operated therein. All such rooms shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet and the door thereto shall be a self-closing solid flush type wood door 1¾ inches in thickness or better.

(3) Stairways and steps which have more than 3 risers shall have handrails on both sides.

(4) Every stairway used by the public in a theater or assembly hall shall have a uniform rise of not more than 7½ inches and a uniform tread of not less than 10 inches, measuring from tread to tread and from riser to riser. No winders shall be used and there shall be not less than 3 nor more than 16 risers in any run.

**Note.** See section Ind 51.16 for general stairway requirements.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. and rec. Register, February, 1968, No. 146, eff. 3-1-68; am. (4), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71.

**Ind 55.10 Exit doorways and doors.** (1) Every required single exit doorway shall contain a standard exit door as specified in section Ind 51.15. For double doors, with or without mullions, the width of each door may be reduced to 2 feet 6 inches.

(2) No single door or leaf of a double door, shall be more than 8 feet 6 inches wide, and no 2 doors shall be hinged together.

(3) No rolling, sliding or revolving door shall be counted as an exit from any theater or assembly hall, nor shall any such door be permitted where it would be liable to be used by the public as an exit.

(4) Sills at all exit doorways shall be level and flush with adjacent inside floors and ramps. Where an aisle or passageway leads to an exit from either side of the exit doorway there shall be a level floor space at the doorway subtending the width of the aisle and the doorway.

**Ind 55.11 Exit lights.** (1) In every theater and assembly hall, except church auditoriums, exit lights shall be provided immediately over all exit doorways, and in such other places as may be necessary to direct the occupants to exit doorways and to a street, alley or exit court. The installation of such exit lights shall comply in all respects with the provisions of the Wisconsin state electrical code.

(2) Every light over an exit doorway shall be a red illuminated sign bearing the word EXIT or OUT in plain letters not less than 5 inches in height.

(3) All exit lights shall remain lighted during each occupancy and until the occupants have left the building.

**Ind 55.12 Width of exits.** (1) The total width of exits from every theater and assembly hall, and from every part thereof, shall not be less than the following: Buildings of fire-resistive construction, 36

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inches per 100 persons. Buildings of ordinary construction, 40 inches per 100 persons. Buildings of frame construction, 44 inches per 100 persons.

(2) In theaters, the width of the front entrance shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total required exit width.

**Ind 55.13 Seating.** (1) All seats, chairs and benches shall be placed not less than 32 inches back to back measured horizontally, except that for grandstands and bleachers without back rests this dimension may be reduced to 22 inches. For benches without arms, grandstands, and bleacher seats, the seating capacity shall be established by allowing one sitting or seat to each 18 inches of length. (See section Ind 55.54).

(2) All seats, chairs, and benches, except chairs in boxes or loggias, shall be securely fastened to the floor; or if the floor is level, the seats or chairs may be fastened together in groups of 3 or more. Loose chairs or seats shall not be used unless a special permit is secured from the department of industry, labor and human relations.

(3) There shall not be more than 12 seats in a row between aisles, nor more than 6 seats in a row which has an aisle on one side only except that for grandstands or bleachers without back rests and with a railing along the front, these figures may be doubled. No aisles will be required for such grandstands or bleachers where the seats extend to the floor or ground without a railing along the front.

(a) The number of seats in a row may be increased to 100 where self-raising seats are provided which leave an unobstructed passageway between rows of not less than 18 inches in width leading to a side aisle on each side of the auditorium in which exit doorways are located at not more than 20 feet intervals to an exit corridor or exit court.

(4) No seat bench or platform on which seats are placed shall be more than 22 inches in height of riser.

(5) No seat bench, or other platform or floor area on which seats are placed, or the top seat of any bleachers shall be nearer to the ceiling than 8 feet, nor nearer to the bottom of any truss or girder than 6 feet 4 inches.

(6) The requirements of this section do not apply to restaurants, dining or dance halls.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61.

**Ind 55.14 Width of aisles.** (1) Aisles having seats on both sides shall not be less than 2 feet 10 inches wide at the beginning and shall increase in width toward the exits at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch per foot of run; or the aisle may have a uniform width not less than the average width of the foregoing calculation. No wall aisle shall be less than 3 feet wide and no other straight aisle shall be less than 3 feet 6 inches wide.

(2) There shall be a cross aisle leading to each required side exit. Cross aisles shall not be less than 6 feet 8 inches back to back of adjacent rows of seats.

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**Ind 55.15 Lobbies and foyers.** The width of lobbies and foyers shall be determined on the same basis as required for exits in section Ind 55.12, but shall in no case be less than 5 feet wide, and shall be so designed and apportioned as to prevent congestion and confusion. Lobbies and foyers which serve as means of egress shall be at least equal in combined width to the required width of the stairways, passageways, aisles or exit doorways leading to them.

**Ind 55.16 Inclines and aisle steps.** (1) To overcome any difference in level between courts, corridors, lobbies, passageways or aisles required, or used, in egress from a theater or an assembly hall, approved ramps as specified in section Ind 55.08 shall be employed where the difference in elevation does not exceed 3 feet, except that this requirement need not apply to balconies.

(2) Steps in balcony aisles shall extend the full width of the aisle and shall have a uniform rise and run as specified in section Ind 55.09. No handrails will be required.

**Ind 55.17 Obstruction.** (1) All lobbies, aisles, passageways and doorways shall be kept free from furniture, drapes, display equipment, merchandise, vending machines and other obstructions, and no person except an employee shall be allowed to stand in, or occupy, any of the aisles, passageways, corridors or lobbies during any performance or public gathering. Except that patrons may be allowed to wait in a lobby or similar space if such use does not encroach upon the required clear width of the exits. Such waiting shall be restricted to areas separated from the required exit ways by fixed railings not less than 42 inches high. In entrance lobbies only, the exit space may be divided by railings not less than 36 inches high set up in the direction of travel in an approved manner for the regulation of ingress and egress.

(2) A booth or counter for the sale of package merchandise may be placed in the lobby or foyer of a theater where there is sufficient excess space so that the front of the booth or counter can be located not less than 5 feet back of the line marking the width of the lobby or foyer required for exit purposes.

**Ind 55.18 Mirrors and false openings.** (1) No mirror shall be placed in any part of a theater or assembly hall used by the public for exit purposes, including lobbies, corridors, stairways, ramps or any other exit facility. Where a mirror is used in an auditorium, it shall be placed flush with the wall and with the bottom at least 7 feet above any floor, balcony, gallery or platform.

(2) No false opening or decorative device giving the appearance of a door or window, where none exists, shall be placed in any part of a theater or assembly hall used by the public.

**Ind 55.19 Decorations.** Fabric decorations used in theaters and assembly halls shall be flame proof.

**Ind 55.20 Elevator and vent shafts.** Enclosures for elevator and vent shafts shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified

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in section Ind 51.05 and all openings therein protected by fire-resistive doors or windows as specified in sections Ind 51.09 and Ind 51.10.

Effective January 1, 1972 section Ind 55.20 is created to read as follows:

Enclosures for elevator and vent shafts shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.04 and all openings therein protected by fire-resistive doors or windows as specified in section Ind 51.047.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.21 Stage separation.** (1) In every theater and assembly hall the stage shall be completely separated from the auditorium by a proscenium wall of 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05, except as follows:

(a) In theaters and assembly halls having a capacity not exceeding 500 persons, the proscenium wall shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05, or better.

Effective January 1, 1972 section (1) intro. par. and (a) are created to read as follows:

(1) In every theater and assembly hall the stage shall be completely separated from the auditorium by a proscenium wall of 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.04, except as follows:

(a) In theaters and assembly halls having a capacity not exceeding 500 persons, the proscenium wall shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.04, or better.

(b) In theaters and assembly halls an open stage or platform will be permitted without the proscenium wall separation from the auditorium, provided the stage or platform is not more than 6 feet higher or wider than the proscenium opening.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) intro par., and (1) (a), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1) intro. par. and (a), eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72, and cr. (1) intro. par. and (a), eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.22 Proscenium wall.** (1) The proscenium wall shall extend from an incombustible foundation, or from the lowest fireproof floor below the stage floor, to the highest adjoining roof, except that where a 4-hour fire-resistive wall is required it shall extend at least 2 feet above the highest adjoining roof.

(2) There shall be not more than 2 openings in the proscenium wall below the level of the auditorium floor, and not more than 2 openings other than the proscenium opening, in the proscenium wall above the level of the auditorium floor, except that in addition to the above openings there may be one opening to provide access through the proscenium wall to the orchestra pit.

(3) Each such opening shall not exceed 21 square feet in area and shall be protected by a fire-resistive door as specified in section Ind 51.09, or equal.

**Ind 55.23 Proscenium curtain.** Where a proscenium wall is required for the separation of a stage from an auditorium, the proscenium opening shall be provided with a curtain as approved by the department.

**Note:** The department will accept standards for the design and installation of "Proscenium Curtains" as specified in the 1970 edition of the "Uniform Building Code" published by the International Conference of Building Officials.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

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**Ind 55.24 Automatic smoke outlet.** Where a fireproof proscenium curtain is required, or provided, the stage shall be provided with one or more automatic smoke outlets, constructed of metal or other incombustible material, placed near the center and above the highest part of the stage, and having a combined area equal to not less than 8% of the area of the stage floor. Vertical louver openings shall be placed not less than 3 feet above the roof and shall be not less than twice the area of the shaft. The smoke outlet shall be designed and constructed so as to open by gravity, and so as to effectively overcome the effects of neglect, rust, dirt, frost, snow, heat, twisting, or warping of the frame work. The louvers, or dampers in the openings shall be held closed by cotton or hemp cords running to the stage floor close to each stage door. Fusible links, or other approved heat release devices, shall be inserted in each cord near the outlets.

**Ind 55.25 Stage vestibules.** All entrances to the stage shall be vestibuled in such manner as to protect the curtain, scenery, and auditorium from drafts of air.

**Ind 55.26 Footlight trough.** The footlight trough shall be made of, or lined with, incombustible material.

**Ind 55.27 Fireproof paint.** All stage scenery, properties, curtains, and decorations made of combustible material, and all woodwork in or about the stage, shall be effectively flame-proofed.

**Ind 55.28 Stage accessory rooms.** (1) All dressing rooms, property rooms, and other storage or workrooms shall be built of incombustible material throughout, and shall be separated from the stage by a special occupancy separation as specified in Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 51.08.

(2) No dressing room or employees' room shall be placed more than one story below the grade line, and no dressing room shall be placed above or below the auditorium unless separated therefrom by a special occupancy separation as specified in section Ind 51.08.

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**Ind 55.29 Boiler and furnace rooms.** (1) Every boiler or furnace room, including the breeching and fuel room, shall be enclosed with a 3-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and 51.06, except that in case of an assembly hall accommodating not more than 300 persons, a 2-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and 51.06 may be used. All openings shall be protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09.

Effective January 1, 1972 section (1) is created to read as follows:

(1) Every boiler or furnace room, including the breeching and fuel room, shall be enclosed with a 3-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in section Ind 51.04, except that in case of an assembly hall accommodating not more than 300 persons, a 2-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in section Ind 51.04 may be used. All openings shall be protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.047.

(2) All appliances used for heating water which are fired with solid fuel, liquid fuel or gas shall be located in a boiler or furnace room except that gas fired booster water heaters used exclusively

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for sanitizing dishes and cooking utensils need not be installed in a fire-resistive enclosure.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. (2), Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9-1-57; am. (1), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. (1), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1), eff. 8-1-71, and exp. 1-1-72; cr. and (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.30 Lights and lighting.** (1) Electric lights shall be used for lighting where electric current is available. No oil lamps or other open lights shall be used in or about any stage containing scenery.

(2) No gas lighting of any kind shall be used on any stage containing scenery, nor in any property room, storage room, scene dock, or fly gallery, except in localities where electricity is not available.

(3) In all theaters and assembly halls, all stairways, passageways, and exit doors shall be properly lighted and shall remain lighted throughout every performance or entertainment and until the audience has left the building.

**Ind 55.32 Sanitary equipment.** (1) **TOILETS AND URINALS.** Separate toilet rooms in connection with the auditorium shall be provided for males and females. One water-closet shall be installed for each 200 females or fraction, and one water-closet and one urinal for each 300 males or fraction, assuming the audience to be equally divided between males and females; except that in dance halls there shall be provided one water-closet for each 100 females or fraction, one water-closet for each 300 males or fraction and one urinal for each 150 males or fraction.

(2) **NUMBER OF TOILETS WHERE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE SERVED ON PREMISES.** Where stimulating drinks, such as beer, wines and other alcoholic beverages, are served for consumption on the premises, there shall be provided one water-closet for every 40 females, or fraction, one water-closet for every 150 males, or fraction, and one urinal for every 50 males, or fraction; except that where the capacity in such places exceeds 300 persons, the ratio of the number of fixtures to the number of persons accommodated in excess of 300 need be only one-half of the above.

(3) **TOILETS IN CONNECTION WITH STAGE.** There shall be separate water-closets provided for males and females in connection with the stage of every theater and assembly hall which is equipped for the showing of stage productions.

(4) **TOILETS IN CONNECTION WITH MOTION PICTURE BOOTH.** In theaters where motion picture machines are run continuously for a period of more than 2 hours without at least 10 minutes intermission for the motion picture machine operator for each 2 hour period, toilets shall be provided in direct connection with the motion picture booth.

*Note:* For general toilet room requirements see Wis. Adm. Code sections Ind 52.50 to Ind 52.64, inclusive.

(5) **DRINKING WATER.** Separate drinking fountains of a type approved by the state board of health shall be provided for the stage and auditorium where water supply is available. Drinking fountains shall not be placed in toilet rooms.

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(6) **WASHING FACILITIES.** Washbowls shall be provided in connection with toilet rooms, one for every 2 closets and urinals or fraction.

**Ind 55.33 Standpipes.** Where proper water supply is available, at least one first aid standpipe, as specified in section Ind 51.21, shall be provided on the stage of every theater and assembly hall where a fire curtain is required. Each hose shall be not more than 75 feet long, and where such hose will not reach every part of the stage section additional hose connections and hose, or additional standpipes, shall be provided.

**Ind 55.34 Fire extinguishers.** (1) Standard fire extinguishers of an appropriate type as specified in section Ind 51.22 shall be provided for all theaters and assembly halls as follows:

- (a) Two on stage, if scenery is used.
- (b) One on stage, if no scenery is used.
- (c) One in motion picture booth, or in ticket office if there is no booth.
- (d) One in dressing room section.

(2) Extinguishers shall be properly exposed to view and always accessible.

**Ind 55.35 Automatic sprinklers.** In every theater and assembly hall where a proscenium curtain is required, approved automatic sprinklers, as specified in section Ind 51.23, shall be provided under the stage, under the stage roof, and in the dressing rooms, but not in the automatic smoke outlet.

**Ind 55.39 Use of "safety-base" film.** (1) The requirements of sections Ind 55.40 through 55.49 will not apply in buildings in which movie projectors are used with "safety-base" film provided the conditions of (a) and (b) in this subsection are met.

(a) The owner shall submit an affidavit to the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations stating that "safety-base" film only will be used in all movie projectors.

(b) The affidavit shall be signed by the owner and the signature notarized.

*Note:* For definition of "owner" see section 101.01 (13), Wis. Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5-1-71.

**Ind 55.40 Motion picture machine booths, general.** Every motion picture machine using nitro-cellulose film, together with all auxiliary and associated equipment, shall be enclosed in a booth so arranged as to permit the operator to walk freely on either side and in back of the machine. At least 48 square feet in area shall be provided for one machine, and 24 square feet additional for each machine over one. The ceiling height shall be not less than 7 feet.

**Ind 55.41 Construction of booth.** The floor of each motion picture booth shall be constructed of masonry or reinforced concrete, or shall be covered with not less than 2 inches of fire-resistive material. The walls and ceiling shall be not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05. ✓

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*DATE  
By Dec  
8/1971*

DEPT. OF INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS 121  
Theaters, assembly halls

Effective January 1, 1972 section Ind 55.41 is created to read as follows:

The floor of each motion picture booth shall be constructed of masonry or reinforced concrete, or shall be covered with not less than 2 inches of fire-resistive material. The walls and ceiling shall be not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.04.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.42 Doors.** (1) The door to the booth shall be not larger than necessary for the safe and proper use and maintenance of the booth and equipment, but in no case shall its dimensions be smaller than 2 feet by 5 feet or larger than 3 feet by 7 feet. The top of the door shall be not less than 12 inches below the ceiling of the booth.

(2) The door shall be a tight-fitting self-closing fire door as specified in section Ind 51.09, shall open outwardly, and shall not be equipped with any latch. *delete*

Effective January 1, 1972 section (2) is created to read as follows:

(2) The door shall be a tight-fitting self-closing fire door as specified in section Ind 51.047, shall open outwardly, and shall not be equipped with any latch.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (2) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.43 Openings.** (1) Two openings for each motion picture machine may be provided. The one for the operator's view shall not be larger than 200 square inches and the one for projection not larger than 120 square inches. Where separate stereopticon, spot, or flood-light machines are installed, not more than one opening shall be provided for each such machine for both the operator's view and the projection of light. All such openings shall be as small as practicable.

(2) Each opening shall be provided with an approved gravity shutter set into guides not less than one inch at sides and bottom, and overlapping the top of the opening by at least one inch when closed. Shutters shall be not less than No. 10 U.S. Standard gauge iron or equivalent, arranged to move freely in guides of like material and thickness bolted to the wall. Each shutter shall be suspended by a cord, and shall be so arranged that closing is by gravity action. A fusible link shall be provided in the cord over each shutter. A link shall also be provided over each magazine, which on operating will close all shutters. A manual release shall be provided near each exit door by which all shutters can be closed simultaneously. Shutters shall not be blocked open nor held open in any manner except by the harness of cords and links as herein described.

**Ind 55.44 Ventilation of booths.** Every booth or room housing projection, sound or any other equipment which vitiates good air conditions or requires the attention of an attendant shall be ventilated as required by section Ind 59.43 of the building and heating, ventilating and air conditioning code issued by the department of industry, labor and human relations. Fresh air intakes in booth walls, except for outside air, shall not exceed 72 square inches in area, nor be more than 3 inches above the floor. They shall be equipped with automatic shutters as described for projection openings.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67.

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**Ind 55.45 Relief outlets.** Every booth or room housing projection, sound or other equipment which constitutes a fire, smoke, explosion or fuming hazard shall be equipped with one or more gravity outlets extending upward from the ceiling through the roof. The net area of such gravity relief outlets shall be equal to one per cent of the room or booth floor area, but not less than 12 inches in diameter. Such outlets shall be constructed as sheet metal ducts having double walls with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch air space between, or better construction. Where a relief outlet passes through, or is within 18 inches of any combustible construction, or passes through any other occupancy, approved masonry flues as specified for chimneys, section Ind 52.10, shall be used. The relief outlets shall be equipped, at the booth or room outlets, with a gravity shutter which will open automatically under excessive heat conditions. The automatic shutter shall normally be tightly closed where mechanical exhaust ventilation is required in the same room.

**Ind 55.46 Electric wiring.** All lights and electric wiring, also motors, arc lamps, rheostats, and associated electrical equipment shall conform in type and arrangement to the requirements of the Wisconsin state electrical code.

**Ind 55.47 Motion picture machine.** Every projection machine shall be securely fastened to the floor, and together with sound head and other associated equipment, shall be of safe design. No part of the film shall be outside of a tight metal enclosure during projection, and the feed and take-up reels shall have riveted, flanged, or welded joints. A shutter shall be placed in front of the condenser, arranged so as to be closed except when held open by the operator, or by some mechanical device which will assure immediate closure when operation of the machine is stopped.

**Ind 55.48 Fire protection in booth; care and use of film.** (1) All shelves, furniture and fixtures shall be incombustible. No combustible material shall be permitted to be within such booth, except films and film cement not exceeding one pint. Smoking is prohibited. Heating equipment in booths shall be limited to steam, warm air, hot water or electric convection heaters with low surface temperature elements. Radiators shall be protected by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mesh screen with the top sloped at least 45 degrees to the horizontal.

(2) Films not in process of rewinding, examination or projection shall be kept in metal containers. Up to 40 pounds of film may be kept in the projection booth in interstate commerce commission shipping containers. Excess over 40 pounds shall be kept in an approved film cabinet, but the total quantity of film in any booth shall not exceed 125 pounds.

(3) Rewinding in the projection booth is prohibited unless done in an approved enclosed type rewind machine. An approved can with self-closing hinged cover shall be provided for scrap film.

(4) Up to 125 pounds of film in addition to that permitted in a projection booth, may be kept in containers as specified above, providing this excess is in a rewind room of not less than 80 square feet

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area, and of the construction specified in sections Ind 55.41 and Ind 55.42. Such room shall have a vent of at least 50 square inches area extending upward to the outside of the building, with a clearance to combustible material conforming to section Ind 55.45. Furniture and heating shall be as for the projection booth, and smoking is prohibited.

*Note:* In the foregoing section the weight of a 1000 foot roll of 35 millimeter film is assumed as 5 pounds.

**Ind 55.49 Portable booths.** (1) Every portable booth used to confine the fire hazards of a motion picture machine shall be of approved design conforming to the requirements for permanent booths.

(2) Every booth used for more than 3 consecutive performances in one location will be considered a permanent booth.

**Ind 55.50 Maintenance.** All theaters and assembly halls, and all parts thereof, shall be kept clean, sanitary and in good repair.

#### GRANDSTANDS, BLEACHERS, TENTS AND PLACES OF OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY.

**Ind 55.51 Grandstands.** (1) Grandstands erected of frame construction shall be located at least 20 feet from any other building or adjoining property line unless the exterior walls of such adjacent building are of 2-hour fire-resistive construction or better and all openings therein are protected with fire-resistive doors and windows as specified in sections Ind 51.09 and Ind 51.10. *Debate Reg 2/2 1971*

Effective January 1, 1972 section (1) is created to read as follows:

(1) Grandstands erected of frame construction shall be located at least 20 feet from any other building or adjoining property line unless the exterior walls of such adjacent building are of 2-hour fire-resistive construction or better and all openings therein are protected with fire-resistive doors and windows as specified in section Ind 51.047.

(2) No wood grandstand unit shall exceed 10,000 square feet in ground area or 200 feet in length.

(3) Wood grandstand units shall be placed not less than 20 feet apart or shall be separated by walls of not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction.

(4) The highest level of seat platforms of any wood grandstands shall not be more than 20 feet. Portable grandstands or bleachers within tents shall not be more than 12 feet above the ground or surface at the front of the grandstand.

(5) All grandstands shall be designed and constructed to conform with the structural requirements of chapter Ind 53 of this code.

(6) Seat boards and foot boards shall be designed to safely support a live load of not less than 120 pounds per lineal foot. The width of foot boards shall not be less than 7½ inches.

(7) The space under a grandstand shall be kept free from extraneous flammable materials and shall not be occupied for other than exit purposes except that such space, if enclosed with one-hour fire-resistive construction or better, may be used for non-hazardous purposes if approved in writing by the department of industry, labor and human relations.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

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**Ind 55.52 Exits.** (1) Every grandstand, balcony or tier considered separately shall be provided with at least 2 exits located as remotely from each other as practicable and leading directly to the outside at grade. If the capacity of any such structure, balcony, or tier exceeds 1,000 persons, there shall be at least 3 exits and where the capacity exceeds 4,000 persons, there shall be at least 4 exits.

(2) Exits shall be distributed uniformly to prevent congestion and shall be so located that the line of travel to an exit or to the entrance to an exit passageway is not greater than 150 feet.

(3) The total width of exits from any grandstand, balcony or tier shall not be less than 22 inches per 100 persons, except that for grandstands which are constructed of incombustible material throughout and have a closed incombustible deck under the seats, the total width of exits may be not less than 22 inches for each 500 persons or fraction.

**Ind 55.53 Aisles and passageways.** (1) All ramps, stairs, doorways and doors used for exit purposes shall conform to the requirements of sections Ind 55.08, 55.09 and 55.10 of this code.

(2) Aisles having seats on both sides shall not be less than 3 feet 6 inches in width and aisles having seats on one side only shall not be less than 24 inches wide. Cross aisles shall not be less than 48 inches in width. No aisles will be required for grandstands or bleachers where the seats extend to the floor or to the ground without a railing along the front.

(3) Trailer seating mounted on incombustible decking not exceeding 300 capacity each shall be provided with aisles or stairways not less than 36 inches in width.

**Ind 55.54 Seating.** (1) The seating arrangement shall comply with the requirements of section Ind 55.13 except that for seats without backs the horizontal distance from back to back of seats shall not be less than 22 inches. There shall be a space of not less than 12 inches between the back of each seat and the front of the seat immediately behind it. All measurement is to be taken between plumb lines.

(2) Where the same level is not used for both seat bench and foot rest, independent foot rests shall be provided.

(3) All seat boards and foot boards shall be securely fastened in place in such a manner that they cannot be accidentally displaced.

(4) Where the rise of a seat bench or platform exceeds 11 inches, intermediate steps shall be provided the full width of the aisles. Such steps shall have a rise of not more than 11 inches and a tread of not less than 10 inches *nominal width*. In no case shall the angle of seating exceed 45 degrees.

**Ind 55.55 Guard rails.** A substantial guard rail not less than 42 inches in height and having 2 intermediate rails shall be provided along the back and ends of all grandstands where the seats are more than 4 feet above the ground. Where the front foot rest of any



grandstand is more than 2 feet above the ground, a guard rail extending not less than 36 inches above such front foot rest shall be provided.

**Ind 55.56 Portable grandstands or bleachers.** (1) Portable grandstands or bleachers shall be self-contained units having all necessary parts to withstand and restrain all forces which may be developed during occupancy. They shall be so designed and constructed that if any structural member essential to the strength and stability of the structure is omitted during erection, the presence of unused connections or fittings will make the omission self-evident.

(2) A portable grandstand shall not be used for public occupancy until it has been securely assembled in accordance with this requirement.

(3) Portable grandstands shall be provided with base plates, sills, floor runners, or sleepers of sufficient area and strength to support safely the total live and dead loads.

(4) Where portable grandstands rest directly on the ground, mud sills of suitable material and having sufficient area to prevent dangerous settlement shall be provided under the base plates or sleepers. All mud sills shall be properly anchored to the ground and all bearing surfaces shall be in contact.

(5) A-frames or other supports and seat stringers for portable grandstands or bleachers shall be secured to prevent accidental displacement during occupancy.

(6) Field connections to wood members shall be by means of rivets, bolts, connectors, lag screws, friction or other approved devices. Lag screws shall not be used for direct tension. The use of nails and wood screws is permissible for holding wood posts together except that they shall not be used for demountable connections.

(7) Wood members in tension shall be connected at each end by not less than 2 bolts or lag screws or by approved connectors or other approved devices. Adequate provision shall be made to prevent the splitting or shearing of wood at such connections.

(8) The following requirements shall apply to folding and movable bleachers used in places of assembly in addition to the other requirements of sections Ind 55.56 and Ind 55.57.

(a) Shop drawings, specifications and calculations or a test report made by a recognized testing agency covering each bleacher model