

(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.

**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 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.

(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.

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

**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.

Register, January, 1961, No. 61  
Building Code

(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.
(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.

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**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.