

**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 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 recr. Register, February, 1968, No. 146, eff. 3-1-68.

**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 3 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.

Register, February, 1968, No. 146  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

**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 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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 passage-way 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.

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Building and heating, ventilating  
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