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DEPT. OF INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS 131
Schools, places of instruction

Chapter Ind 56

SCHOOLS AND OTHER PLACES OF INSTRUCTION

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Ind 56.001 Scope. The requirements of this chapter, sections Ind 56.001 to 56.19, inclusive, shall apply to all public, parochial and private schools, universities, colleges, academies, seminaries, libraries, museums and art galleries; including all buildings or parts of buildings used for the purpose of acquiring knowledge.

Ind 56.01 Maximum height. (1) No building which accommodates pupils below senior or junior high school grades shall be more than 3 stories high, nor shall the topmost floor level be more than 35 feet above the grade at any outside exit door.

(2) No building which is used as a senior or junior high school shall be more than 4 stories high, nor shall the topmost floor level be more than 48 feet above the grade at any outside exit door.

Ind 56.02 Class of construction. (1) Every building not more than one story in height may be of frame construction as specified in section Ind 51.03.

(2) Every building which is more than one story, but not more than 2 stories in height, shall be of ordinary construction as specified in section Ind 51.02, or better, except as provided in section Ind 56.03.

(3) Every building which is more than 2 stories in height shall be of fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.001 except that in a 3 story building ordinary construction, as specified in section Ind 51.02, may be used above the third floor level.

Ind 56.03 First floor fire-resistive. In all 2 story buildings having more than 4 class, study, or recitation rooms of ordinary size (750 square feet in area) on any floor, the first floor shall be of at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.06 unless all of the stairways and corridors throughout the building, including stairs, walls, ceilings and floors are of at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in sections Ind 51.04 to

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51.07 inclusive. In all other 2 story buildings, the basement ceiling shall be of one-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.06, or better.

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Ind 56.04 Subdivisions and fire stops. Every building of this classification which is built in connection with a building of a lower grade of construction shall be separated from such other building by walls of 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05, and all communicating openings shall be protected by fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09 or equal. If such openings are used as a means of egress, they shall be kept normally open during the occupancy of the building.

Ind 56.05 Exposure and courts. No wall containing windows or vision area which light a class, study, recitation room or reading room shall be less than 20 feet away from any opposite building, structure, or lot line or opposite court wall.

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

Ind 56.06 Number, location and type of exits. (1) The number and location of exits shall be such that in case any exit is blocked at any point some other exit will still be accessible through public passageways, from every room used by the public or by the occupants generally. Except that in a high school, university, college, library or museum building not more than 2 classrooms of ordinary size (900 square feet area) may be placed between an exit and the end of the building, provided that the exit doors from such classrooms are not more than 10 feet beyond the exit.

(a) Exits shall be so distributed that the entrance to any room used for educational purposes will not be more than 100 feet distant from an exit measuring along public passageways.

(2) In buildings of more than one story, there shall be at least 2 stairway exits, each leading directly out of doors. The remaining exits shall be either such stairways or horizontal exits as specified in section Ind 51.19. Where such stairways lead to the basement they shall be enclosed below the first floor as specified in section Ind 51.18.

(3) In buildings of more than 2 stories, all stairways shall be enclosed as specified in sections Ind 51.17-51.18.

(4) Fire escapes may only be used as exits from the temporary end of incomplete or unit type buildings, as approved in writing by the department of industry, labor and human relations. Such fire escapes shall be of the "B" type where more than 100 persons can be accommodated above the first story.

(5) Handrails shall be provided on both sides of all exit stairs used by pupils.

(6) No storage closet or storage space shall be placed under any stairway, platform or landing. A room may be placed under a stairway or stair landing of two-hour fire resistive construction or better provided such room does not have any 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.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1), cr. (1) (a), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61.

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Ind 56.07 Total width of exits. (1) The total width of exits from any floor shall be not less than the following rates, based on the total capacity of such floor and of the floors above.

- (a) Fire-resistive buildings, 30 inches per 100 persons.
- (b) Ordinary or frame buildings, 40 inches per 100 persons.

(2) Where permitted under Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 56.06, standard fire escapes may be used for not to exceed one-third of the above total widths.

(3) The capacity of a school building shall be established by the actual number of fixed seats in rooms where such are used or by the number of persons which may be accommodated. (See Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 56.11.) The capacity of a library, museum, or art gallery shall be established on the basis of 100 square feet of total floor area of the building, exclusive of stairways and elevators, to each person, except that for library reading rooms this area shall be reduced to 20 square feet per person for the space so occupied.

Ind 56.08 Exit doors. Exit doors shall comply with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 51.15, except that in elementary schools the width may be reduced to 3 feet. The aggregate width of exit doors shall be as required in section Ind 56.07. No single door or leaf of a double door shall be more than 42 inches wide.

Ind 56.09 Passageways. (1) Corridors and passageways shall be so designed as to prevent congestion and confusion and shall be provided with windows and artificial light so as to maintain a light intensity throughout of not less than 2.5 foot candles at the floor line whenever the building is occupied.

(2) The minimum unobstructed width of corridors and passageways which are used by the public or by the occupants generally, shall be determined in the same manner as specified for stairways in section Ind 56.07, but in no case shall this width be less than 4 feet. Corridors and passageways serving as a means of egress shall be at least equal in combined width to the required width of the stairways or passageways leading to them.

Ind 56.10 Access to attic and roof. Every building more than one story in height shall have permanent means of access to the roof and attic space from inside the building. Where a scuttle opening is provided, the opening shall be not less than 20 x 30 inches, with a permanent enclosure for a stairway or ladder leading thereto.

Ind 56.11 Floor space and ceiling height. (1) All class and recitation rooms shall have a minimum floor space of 23 square feet per person. Rooms used only for study purposes shall have a minimum floor space of 15 square feet per person.

(2) In colleges or universities, classrooms seated with tablet arm chairs or seats without desks shall have a minimum floor space of 10 square feet per person.

(3) All rooms used for educational purposes shall not be less than 9 feet high in the clear except that school buildings which have a sloping ceiling may have a ceiling height of not less than 8 feet on the

low side of the classroom provided the average ceiling height is not less than 9 feet in the clear. Beams, girders, or other structural members spaced not less than 4 feet on centers which support the ceiling construction shall not be less than 7 feet 6 inches above the floor. Toilet rooms, service rooms, store rooms and similar spaces shall not be less than 7 feet 6 inches in the clear.

History: 1-2-56; am. (3), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. Register, January, 1961, eff. 2-1-61.

Ind 56.12 Basement rooms. (1) Where classrooms in school buildings have floors more than 2 feet below the adjoining grade, such rooms shall comply with the following conditions in addition to the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 56.11 and chapter Ind 19, Illumination Code.

(a) All walls and floors which are in contact with the soil shall be moisture-proof and insulated.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (1) (intro. par.) Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67.

Ind 56.13 Assembly rooms. A room which seats, or which can accommodate, 100 or more persons shall conform to the requirements of chapter Ind 55 (Theaters and Assembly Halls) of this code except that the minimum width of any exit doorway used exclusively by elementary school children may be 3 feet; but in any case the aggregate width of such doorways shall be in accordance with Wis. Adm. Code chapter Ind 55.

Ind 56.14 Seats, desks and aisles. (1) Seats, chairs and desks in class, recitation, or study rooms seating more than 50 persons shall be securely fastened to the floor; or seats shall be fastened together in groups of 4 or more, or in groups of 2 seats and 2 desks. Except that this requirement shall not apply to desks and chairs used by teachers, or to chairs, tables and equipment used in kindergarten rooms.

(2) Class, recitation and study rooms shall have aisles along all walls.

(3) In elementary school rooms, the intermediate aisles shall be not less than 18 inches and the wall aisles not less than 30 inches in width.

(4) In high school rooms, and in all other class, recitation and study rooms, the intermediate aisles shall be not less than 20 inches and wall aisles not less than 30 inches in width.

(5) Where rooms are used for assembly purposes, seats and aisles shall conform to the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code sections Ind 55.13-55.17.

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Ind 56.15 Heating plants. (1) In every building more than one story in height, all heating plants and fuel rooms shall be enclosed with not less than 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in Wis. Adm. Code sections Ind 51.05 and Ind 51.06. All openings shall be protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09.

(2) In one story buildings all heating plants and fuel rooms shall be enclosed with not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as

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specified in sections Ind 51.05 and 51.06, except that this requirement shall not apply to buildings where jacketed stoves or school room heaters are permitted. All openings shall be protected by self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09.

Ind 56.16 Sanitary equipment. (1) TOILETS. School buildings shall have the following toilet equipment:

(a) In high schools, one water-closet for every 30 females or fraction.

(b) One water-closet for every 60 males or fraction and one urinal for every 30 males or fraction.

(c) In junior high and elementary schools, one water-closet for every 25 females or fraction, one water-closet for every 50 males or fraction and one urinal for every 25 males or fraction.

(2) **DRINKING WATER.** One drinking fountain shall be installed in each story and basement, for each 6000 square feet of classroom floor area, or fraction. Drinking fountains shall not be installed in toilet rooms.

(3) **WASHING FACILITIES.** Lavatories shall be provided in connection with toilet rooms in the ratio of one lavatory for every 60 persons of each sex in high schools and one lavatory for every 50 persons of each sex in junior high schools and elementary schools.

(4) **WRAPS.** It shall be necessary to provide facilities for the placing and storage of wraps of all occupants in every school building. The above facilities shall be constructed and arranged to facilitate cleaning.

(a) This prohibits the use of corridors and vestibules for cloak room purposes unless ventilated lockers, wardrobes, or open front wardrobes are provided. Open hooks and hangers in the corridors will not be approved.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), (3), (4) and (4) (a), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59, r. and recr. (4), intro. par., Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68.

Ind 56.17 Lighting. (1) ELECTRIC LIGHTING. Every class, study or recitation room shall be equipped with sufficient electrical lighting units to maintain the illumination required in Wis. Adm. Code chapter Ind 19, illumination code.

(2) **GENERAL.** All other rooms and spaces in school buildings shall be equipped with means for supplying electric illumination in the quantity required for the purpose for which the room or space is used. All electrical work shall be installed to conform to the requirements of the Wisconsin state electrical code.

(3) **WINDOWS. (a)** All classrooms and spaces in elementary school buildings used for instruction or study purposes shall be provided with side wall clear glass or other approved transparent material, vision panels or windows opening directly upon a street, alley, or open court as specified in section Ind 56.05 except gymnasiums, auditoriums, cafeterias, lunch rooms, libraries, audio-visual rooms, science rooms, homemaking rooms, art rooms, music rooms, vocational shops and similar areas.

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(b) The windows or vision areas shall have a total glass area of not less than 40 square feet. The sill height shall not exceed 3'6" above the floor and the horizontal width of the vision area shall not be less than 5 feet. A minimum of 10 square feet of the aggregate glass area shall be arranged to open.

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(c) Glass block construction conforming with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 51.11 may be used in classrooms and spaces used for instruction purposes except as specified in (a) and (b).

(d) Glass block wall panels which are exposed to direct sun rays and are 5 feet or more above the floor level shall be of a type capable of directing the light rays horizontally or upward.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; cr. (3), Register, November, 1963, No. 95, eff. 12-1-63.

Ind 56.18 Fire extinguishers. In every building, standard fire extinguishers, as specified in Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 51.22, shall be provided in the proportion of one extinguisher to each 2500 square feet, or fraction, of floor area, but there shall be at least one fire extinguisher on each floor including basement. In addition to the fire extinguishers for general protection there shall be at least one fire extinguisher of appropriate type and size in each laboratory, shop or other vocational room. Every fire extinguisher shall be prominently exposed to view and always accessible.

Ind 56.19 Fire alarms. (1) Every building 2 or more stories in height and every one-story building with 6 or more classrooms and an assembly hall or gymnasium accommodating more than 100 persons shall be provided with a proper alarm system complying with Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 51.24. *Exception:*

(a) A hand-operated alarm if permanently installed and so arranged that it can be operated from any story, including the basement, may be used in school buildings not more than 2 stories in height and having not more than 2 standard size classrooms on the second floor.

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