

Chapter Ind 55

THEATERS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

Ind 55.001	Theaters	Ind 55.35	Automatic sprinklers
Ind 55.01	Assembly halls	Ind 55.39	Use of "safety-base" film
Ind 55.02	Class of construction	Ind 55.40	Motion picture machine booths, general
Ind 55.03	Height above grade		
Ind 55.04	Exposure and courts	Ind 55.41	Construction of booth
Ind 55.05	Separation from other occupancies	Ind 55.42	Doors
Ind 55.06	Capacity	Ind 55.43	Openings
Ind 55.07	Number and location of exits	Ind 55.44	Ventilation of booths
		Ind 55.45	Relief outlets
Ind 55.08	Type of exits	Ind 55.46	Electric wiring
Ind 55.09	Stairways	Ind 55.47	Motion picture machine
Ind 55.10	Exit doorways and doors	Ind 55.48	Fire protection in booth; care and use of film
Ind 55.11	Exit lights		
Ind 55.12	Width of exits	Ind 55.49	Portable booths
Ind 55.13	Seating	Ind 55.50	Maintenance
Ind 55.14	Width of aisles	Ind 55.51	Grandstands
Ind 55.15	Lobbies and foyers	Ind 55.52	Exits
Ind 55.16	Inclines and aisle steps	Ind 55.53	Aisles and passageways
Ind 55.17	Obstruction	Ind 55.54	Seating
Ind 55.18	Mirrors and false openings	Ind 55.55	Guard rails
		Ind 55.56	Portable grandstands or bleachers
Ind 55.19	Decorations	Ind 55.57	Inspection
Ind 55.20	Elevator and vent shafts	Ind 55.58	Tents
Ind 55.21	Stage separation	Ind 55.59	Structural requirements
Ind 55.22	Proscenium wall	Ind 55.60	Flame resistance
Ind 55.23	Proscenium curtain	Ind 55.61	Fire hazards
Ind 55.24	Automatic smoke outlet	Ind 55.62	Exits
Ind 55.25	Stage vestibules	Ind 55.63	Electrical installations
Ind 55.26	Footlight trough	Ind 55.64	Fire extinguishing equipment
Ind 55.27	Fireproof paint		
Ind 55.28	Stage accessory rooms	Ind 55.65	Illumination; exit lights and signs
Ind 55.29	Boiler and furnace rooms	Ind 55.66	Boiler and furnace room
Ind 55.30	Lights and lighting		
Ind 55.32	Sanitary equipment	Ind 55.67	Toilet facilities
Ind 55.33	Standpipes	Ind 55.68	Outdoor theaters
Ind 55.34	Fire extinguishers		

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:

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

Register, May, 1971, No. 185
Building and heating, ventilating
and air conditioning code

(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 51.047.

(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.

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:

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.

Register, May, 1971, No. 185
Building and heating, ventilating
and air conditioning code

(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.

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 employe 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 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.

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 51.04, 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.

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.

Register, May, 1971, No. 185
Building and heating, ventilating
and air conditioning code

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 employes' 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.

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 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 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.

Next page is numbered 119