Chapter ILHR 54

FACTORIES, OFFICE AND MERCANTILE BUILDINGS

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Note: Chapter Ind 54 was renumbered to be chapter ILHR 54 effective January 1, 1984.

ILHR 54.001 Scope. This classification includes all factories and workshops (including all places where manual labor is employed), office buildings, telegraph and telephone offices, mercantile establishments where commodities are bought or sold, warehouses, railroad stations, exhibition buildings, and places where not more than 100 persons assemble for recreation, entertainment, worship, or dining purposes.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

ILHR 54.01 Construction, height and allowable area. (1) GENERAL. Buildings and structures within the scope of this chapter may not exceed the height and area limitations specified in this section.

Note: See s. ILHR 51.03 for standards of classes of construction.

- (2) LIMITED AREA CH. ILHR 54 BUILDINGS. (a) Chapter ILHR 54 buildings not protected by complete automatic fire sprinkler protection may not exceed the height and area limitations specified in Table 54.01-1.
- (b) Chapter ILHR 54 buildings protected by complete automatic fire sprinkler systems may not exceed the height and area limitations specified in Table 54.01-2.
- (c) Freezer warehouses complying with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.06 (6) (a) 3. b. may be designed and constructed with the allowable floor area as specified in par. (b) and with the allowable increase in exit distance as specified in s. ILHR 54.02 (4) (b) without being protected by a complete automatic fire sprinkler system.
- (3) FIRE DIVISION WALL SEPARATION. (a) No building shall be limited in area when divided into sections which do not exceed the maximum areas tabulated in this section by fire division walls specified in s. ILHR 51.02 (13).
- (b) All openings in such walls shall be protected by fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. ILHR 51.047.

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- 1. Except as provided in subd. 2, doors protecting such openings may be left open if equipped with an automatic closing device activated by products of combustion other than heat.
- 2. a. The automatic closing device may be installed to prevent accidental closing of the fire door in the event of a power outage to the building if it is installed with an approved or listed backup mechanism in addition to the smoke detection release device.
- b. The automatic closing device on doors located in smoke- or contaminant-filled environments, such as but not limited to foundries, chemical plants and similar environments, may be activated by rate-of-rise heat detectors.
- 3. Doors used as required exits shall be standard exit doors and shall comply with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.19 (2).
- (4) UNLIMITED AREAS. (a) The area of buildings completely protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system may be unlimited provided the following conditions are satisfied:
 - 1. The maximum number of stories is limited as follows:
 - a. Type No. 2 construction 9 stories;
 - b. Type No. 3 construction 5 stories;
 - c. Type No. 4 and 5A construction 3 stories; and
 - d. Type No. 5B and 6 construction 1 story.
 - 2. Street access is provided as specified in sub. (5) (b).
- (b) There shall be no area restriction in one-story buildings where the following conditions are satisfied:
- 1. Construction of all building elements listed in Table 51.03-A are of noncombustible materials. Built-up roof coverings may not be used;
 - 2. a. The contents of the building are noncombustible;
- b. Stored materials are not packed or crated in combustible materials; and
 - 3. Street access is provided as specified in sub. (5) (b).

TABLE 54.01-1 -

LOWABLE HEIGHT (STORIES) AND AREA (SQUARE FEET) FOR BUILDINGS WITHOUT COMPLETE AU'A SPRINKLER SYSTEM PROTECTION (MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREA PER FLOOR) NOTE: DO NOT USE FOR BUILDINGS EXCEEDING 60 FEET IN HEIGHT

CLASS OF CONSTUCTION	BUILDING FRONTAGE NUMBER OF STORIES STREET									
	EXPOSURE	ī	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Over 8
I. Fire-Resistive Type A	1 2 3 4	25,000 30,500 36,000 41,500	22,000 27,000 33,000 39,000	19,000 24,000 29,000 34,000	16,000 20,500 25,000 29,500	13,000 17,500 22,000 26,500	11,000 15,000 19,000 23,000	9,000 13,000 17,000 21,000	8,000 12,000 16,000 20,000	6,000 10,000 14,000 18,000
2. Fire-Resistive Type B	1 2 3 4	23,000 28,000 34,000 39,500	20,000 25,000 31,000 37,000	17,000 22,000 27,000 32,000	14,000 18,500 23,000 27,500	11,000 15,500 20,000 24,500	9,000 13,000 17,000 21,000	7,000 11,000 15,000 19,000	6,000 10,000 14,000 18,000	N.P.
3. Metal Frame Protected	1 2 3 4	21,000 26,500 32,000 37,500	18,000 23,000 28,000 33,000	15,000 19,500 24,000 28,500	12,000 16,000 20,000 24,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
4. Heavy Timber	1 2 3 4	17,000 22,000 27,000 32,000	14,000 19,000 24,000 29,000	11,000 16,000 21,000 26,000	9,000 13,500 18,000 22,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
5A. Exterior Masonry Protected	1 2 3 4	15,500 20,000 24,500 29,000	13,500 17,000 21,500 26,000	9,500 14,000 18,500 23,000	8,000 12,500 15,500 19,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
5B. Exterior Masonry Unprotected	1 2 3 4	14,000 18,000 22,000 26,000	11,500 15,000 19,000 23,000	9,000 12,500 16,000 19,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
6. Metal Frame Unprotected	1 2 3 4	14,000 18,000 22,000 26,000	11,500 15,000 19,000 23,000	9,000 12,500 16,000 19,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
7. Wood Frame Protected	1 2 3 4	12,500 16,000 19,000 22,000	7,500 10,000 12,000 14,000	5,500 7,000 8,500 10,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
8. Wood Frame Unprotected	1 2 3 4	10,000 12,000 14,000 16,000	5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.

N.P. MEANS NOT PERMITTED

	CLASS OF CONSTRUCTION	BUILDING FRONTAGE NUMBER OF STORIES STREET										
		EXPOSURI	E 1	2	3	4	5	6	. 7	8	9	Over 9
S	. Fire-resistive Type A tories and area may be unlimited subject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4					NO :	LIMIT				
1	2. Fire-resistive type B to 9 story area may be unlimited subject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	NO LIMIT	69,000 85,500 102,000 118,500	60,000 75,000 93,000 111,000	51,000 66,000 81,000 96,000	42,000 55,500 69,000 82,500	33,000 46,500 60,000 73,500	27,000 39,000 51,000 63,000	21,000 33,000 45,000 57,000	18,000 30,000 42,000 54,000	N.P.
1	3. Metal frame protected to 5 story area may be unlimited subject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	84,000 106,000 128,000 150,000	63,000 79,500 96,000 112,500	54,000 69,000 84,000 99,000	45,000 58,500 72,000 85,500	36,000 48,000 60,000 72,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
1	l. Heavy Timber to 3 story area may be unlimited ubject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	68,000 88,000 108,000 128,000	51,000 66,000 81,000 96,000	42,000 57,000 72,000 87,000	33,000 48,000 63,000 78,000	27,000 40,500 54,000 67,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
1	A. Exterior Masonry Protected to 3 story area may be unlimited ubject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	62,000 80,000 98,000 116,000	46,500 60,000 73,500 87,000	40,500 51,000 64,500 78,000	28,500 42,000 55,500 69,000	24,000 37,500 46,500 58,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
1	B. Exterior Masonry Unprotected story area may be unlimited ubject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	56,000 72,000 88,000 104,000	42,000 54,000 66,000 78,000	34,500 45,000 57,000 69,000	27,000 37,500 48,000 58,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
1	5. Metal Frame Unprotected story area may be unlimited ubject to s. ILHR 54.01 (5) (b)	1 2 3 4	56,000 72,000 88,000 104,000	42,000 54,000 66,000 78,000	34,500 45,000 57,000 69,000	27,000 37,500 48,000 58,500	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
7	7. Wood Frame Protected	1 2 3 4	50,000 64,000 76,000 88,000	37,500 48,000 57,000 66,000	22,500 30,000 36,000 42,000	16,500 21,000 25,500 30,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
3	3. Wood Frame Unprotected	1 2 3 4	40,000 48,000 56,000 64,000	30,000 36,000 42,000 48,000	15,000 18,000 21,000 24,000	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.

N.P. MEANS NOT PERMITTED

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(5) STREET ACCESS TO BUILDINGS. (a) Streets shall be within 50 feet of the adjacent building side with no obstructions between the street and the building which will impede fire-fighting efforts.

Note: See s. ILHR 51.01 (124) for definition of street.

- (b) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., buildings with no area limitations shall have a continuous all-weather, hard-surfaced area 30 feet or more in width for a distance of not less than 50% of the perimeter of the building. These buildings shall have at least one wall facing a street for its entire length. At least 2 of the remaining building walls shall face streets for at least 50% of their respective lengths.
- 2. Unlimited area buildings of fire-resistive type 1 construction and one-story unlimited area buildings of fire-resistive type 2 construction shall be provided with street access as defined in s. ILHR 51.01 (124) to at least one side of the building.
- (6) HEIGHT EXCEPTIONS. Rack storage facilities of noncombustible construction protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA No. 231C—Standard for Rack Storage of Materials, may be of unlimited height.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2) and (3), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, cff. 10-1-59; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, cff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3), cff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) cff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; r. and recr. (1) and (2), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, cff. 1-1-73; r. and recr. (2) and (3), Register, September, 1978, No. 213, cff. 10-1-73; cr. (2) (a) 2 a, Register, December, 1977, No. 254, cff. 1-1-73; am. (2) (b) 2. a. and (2) (c), cr. (4), Register, November, 1978, No. 276, cff. 1-1-79; am. (3), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, cff. 2-1-80; r. and recr. table, am. (2) (b) 2. and (3), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, cff. 1-1-82; reprinted to correct errors in Table 54.01 and (2) (b) 2., Register, February, 1982, No. 314; am. (3), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, cff. 1-1-84; renum. (2) (a) and (c) to be (2) (a) 1. and (d), (2) (a) 2. renumb. and am. from ILHR 54.23, am. (2) (b) 1. and 2., r. and recr. (2) (b) 3., cr. (2) (c), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, cff. 1-1-86; emerg. r. and recr. (1) to (4), cr. (5), and (6) and tables 4-0.1-1 and 54.01-2, r. table 54.01, Register, November, 1986, No. 371, cff. 12-1-86,

ILHR 54.02 Number and location of exits. (1) NUMBER OF EXITS. Every building and every floor level thereof shall have at least 2 exits.

- (2) EXCEPTIONS. One exit will be permitted in the following conditions:
- (a) Floor levels used entirely for storage in buildings 2 stories or less in height and not over 3,000 square feet gross area per floor.
- (b) Interior balconies or mezzanine floors not over 3,000 square feet gross area used entirely for storage.
- (c) Open interior balconies or open mezzanine floors not over 750 square feet gross area used for purposes other than nonoccupied storage.
- (d) One-story office buildings, without a basement or mezzanine, having a gross floor area, per floor, of not more than 1,800 square feet. Only one office operation per floor level shall be permitted. The single exit from the first floor or ground floor(s) shall be an outside exit serving only that floor level.
- (e) Retail establishments not over 750 square feet net area, provided there are 2 directions for exiting from the entrance door of the store.

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- (3) OFFICE SUITE EXITING. One exit will be permitted from office suites having a floor area of not more than 1,800 square feet net area, provided there are 2 directions for exiting from the entrance door of the suite.
- (4)* EXIT DISTANCE. (a) Exits shall be distributed or located so that no part of any building within the scope of this chapter will be more than 150 feet distant from an exit.
- (b) Where an approved automatic fire sprinkler system is provided throughout the building, an increase in exit distance to 200 feet will be permitted for mercantile buildings and an increase in exit distance to 300 feet will be permitted in all other buildings within the scope of this chapter, except high hazard buildings.
- (c) Buildings having contents which are liable to burn with extreme rapidity or from which poisonous fumes may be liberated or explosions occur in case of fire, shall have exits provided so that the maximum distance to exit is limited to 75 feet.

Note: See s. A52.015 of Appendix A for further information relating to "high hazard" occupancies,

(d) All of the above distances shall be measured along public passageways and aisles.

Note: Also see s. ILHR 54.08 (1) for alternate exit distance provisions.

(5) EXIT DISTRIBUTION. Exits in all buildings of this classification shall be so located and distributed so as to afford the best possible egress.

History: 1-2-56; cr. (1) (c), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. (1) (b), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1) (b) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72, and cr. (1) (b) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; am. (1), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; r. and recr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (4), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; am. (4), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; emerg. am. (4) (b), eff. 9-6-86; am. (4) (b), Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

ILHR 54.03 Type of exits. (1) At least one-half of the exits required in accordance with s. ILHR 54.02 shall be stairways or standard exits to grade as specified in ss. ILHR 51.15-51.18. The other exits shall be either stairways, standard exits, or horizontal exits as specified in s. ILHR 51.19, or fire escapes as specified in s. ILHR 51.20. A fire escape will not be accepted as a required exit for any building level more than 5 stories or 55 feet above grade. An outside wooden stairway may be used as an exit for a 2-story building.

- (a) Exception. The width of required exit stairways serving unoccupied areas (i.e., storage areas, equipment mezzanines and similar areas) not exceeding 750 square feet may be reduced to 8 feet 0 inches.
- (b) Exception. Less than 3 risers may be used to elevated work stations (such as pharmacy floors, computer floors and similar areas) or to altars, podiums and similar areas, not in a required exit passageway.
- (c) Exception. A spiral stairway may be used as a nonrequired convenience stairway in addition to all other required exit stairways in places of employment.

^{*}See Appendix A for further explanatory material.

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- (d) Exception. A rescue platform (exterior balcony) of combustible construction may be used as a required second exit for buildings of type 7 and 8 construction, provided the following conditions are satisfied:
 - The exit serves 8 or less people;
- 2. The exit platform is located not more than 10 feet above the adjacent exit discharge grade;
- The platform area is at least 14 square feet, with a minimum dimension of 3 feet;
- 4. The platform is designed for 80 pounds per square foot live load plus dead load;
- 5. Railings are provided in accordance with the provisions of s. ILHR 51.162;
- Platforms having solid floors are provided with a roof equal in area to that of the platform; and
- 7. All wood used in the construction of the rescue platform shall be pressure treated wood satisfying the requirements of the applicable standards specified in s. ILHR 51.27 (6a) unless the wood is inherently resistant to decay.
- (2) Every building which will accommodate more than 50 persons above the second story shall have at least 2 stairways.
- (3) Wherever stairways are required under this classification, ramps with a slope not greater than one foot in 8 feet may be substituted. Ramps shall comply with all the requirements for stairways as to construction, enclosures, width, landing and lighting, and shall be surfaced with an approved non-slip material.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75; cr. (1) (a) to (d), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (b), Register, December, 1978, No.

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2. Filling stations and service stations shall provide at least one toilet room for each sex. A minimum of one water closet (WC) and one lavatory (L) shall be provided for each sex, but in no case shall the ratio of number of fixtures to number of employes be less than those specified in Table 54.12-B.

History: 1-2-56; am. (3) (a) and (b), and (6), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (a) 1, (1) (b) and (e) 1, r. (1) (e) 3, r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2) (intro.) and (2) (a) 2., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; r. and recr. table and (2) (a) 1., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr. (2) (a) 1., Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) (a) 1. and (e) 1., Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. table 54.12 A and B, r. (2) (a) 1. a., renum. (2) (a) 1. intro., b. and c. to be a. d. and e. and am. a., cr (2) (a) 1. b. and c., Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

ILHR 54.13 Change rooms and lunchrooms. (1) CHANGE ROOMS. Change rooms equipped with storage facilities for street clothes shall be provided where employes are required to wear protective clothing due to the nature of the employment and where employes are exposed to toxic materials and industrial poisons. Separate storage facilities for street clothes and work clothes shall be provided for employes who work with industrial poisons.

Note: See also ch. HSS 196, Wis. Adm. Code, rules of the department of health and social services, for requirements for dressing rooms and lockers in restaurants.

(2) Lunchrooms. A space for eating lunches shall be provided in all places of employment where there is exposure to injurious dusts, toxic material and industrial poisons. Such space shall be physically separate from any location where there is exposure to toxic materials. Toilet rooms shall not be permitted to serve as lunchrooms.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77.

ILHR 54.14 Isolation of hazards. (1) GENERAL. (a) Except as provided FP in par. (b), all fuel-fired heating boilers and furnaces, power boilers, fuel rooms and breeching, storage vaults for paints, oils, and similar combustibles and other similar hazards in a building shall be isolated from the rest of the building by at least a 2-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in ss. ILHR 51.04 to 51.049; except that in buildings not more than 2 stories in height and having a floor area of not more than 3,000 square feet per floor, a 1-hour fire-resistive enclosure as specified in ss. ILHR 51.04 to 51.049, or better, shall be provided.

Note: See ch. ILHR 10, for isolation of flammable and combustible liquids.

- (b) Direct vent sealed combustion chamber appliances need not be enclosed with fire-resistive rated construction as specified in par. (a).
- (2) PROTECTION OF OPENINGS. All openings shall be protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in s. ILHR 51.047.
- (3) SUSPENDING EQUIPMENT. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), boilers up to 200,000 Btu input, water heaters up to 200,000 Btu input, gas and liquid fuel-fired space heaters, suspended furnaces, vented and unvented unit heaters may be used without an enclosure where approved by the department. Where suspended furnaces, vented and unvented unit heaters, boilers, and water heaters are used without an enclosure, all such units shall be located at least 7 feet above the floor. The blow-off pipe for suspended boilers and water heaters shall be extended down to within 6 inches of the floor.

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(b) The rated enclosure for heating equipment in factories may be omitted if the burner of the equipment is located at least 7 feet off the floor and the equipment is protected from physical damage.

Note: See s. ILHR 64.21 for additional requirements.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) and (2), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff, 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1) and (2) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (1) and (2) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; renum. from 54.13, Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (3), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; r. and recr. (3), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

FP ILHR 54.145* FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. ILHR 51.22.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

- FP ILHR 54.15 Standpipes. (1) FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDPIPES. Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all buildings exceeding 60 feet in height.
 - (2) STANDPIPES. Dry standpipes shall be provided in all buildings 3 stories or more in height in which the floor area of each story is more than 3,000 square feet, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed. First-aid standpipes may be provided in lieu of dry standpipes in factory occupancies.

History: 1-2-56; renum. from 54.14 and r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; emerg. r. and recr. (2), eff. 9-6-86; r. and recr. (2), Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

- FP ILHR 54.17 Fire alarms. (1) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP. Except as provided in sub. (3), a manual fire alarm complying with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.24 shall be provided in every factory or workshop where more than 10 persons are employed above the second story.
 - (2) OFFICE BUILDINGS. Except as provided in sub. (3), a manual fire alarm complying with the requirements of s. ILHR 51,24 shall be provided in office buildings complying with either of the following conditions:
 - (a) Four stories or more in height; or
 - (b) 15,000 square feet or more on any floor level above or below a floor of exit discharge.
 - (3) EXCEPTION. The installation of a manual fire alarm system may be omitted in buildings where complete automatic fire sprinkler system protection is provided.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; renum, from 54.16, Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; r. and recr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; emerg. r. and recr., eff. 9-6-86; r. and recr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

ILHR 54.18 Floor load signs. (1) In every factory, workshop, warehouse, or other building where material is piled, notices of a permanent character shall be painted or otherwise prominently displayed, stating the live load in pounds per square foot which the floor is designed to carry. Such notices shall be placed in full view, on each floor.

^{*}See Appendix A for further explanatory material.