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DEPT. OF INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS 109  
Theaters, assembly halls

Chapter Ind 55

**THEATERS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS**

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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 con-

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struction 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

(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; r. and recr. (2) (a) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) (a) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**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:

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**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.

**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

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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; r. and recr. (1), eff. 8-1-71, and exp. 1-1-72; cr. and (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.30 Lights and lighting.** (1) Electric lights shall be used for lighting where electric current is available. No oil lamps or other open lights shall be used in or about any stage containing scenery.

(2) No gas lighting of any kind shall be used on any stage containing scenery, nor in any property room, storage room, scene dock, or fly gallery, except in localities where electricity is not available.

(3) In all theaters and assembly halls, all stairways, passageways, and exit doors shall be properly lighted and shall remain lighted throughout every performance or entertainment and until the audience has left the building.

**Ind 55.32 Sanitary equipment.** (1) **TOILETS AND URINALS.** Separate toilet rooms in connection with the auditorium shall be provided for males and females. One water-closet shall be installed for each 200 females or fraction, and one water-closet and one urinal for each 300 males or fraction, assuming the audience to be equally divided between males and females; except that in dance halls there shall be provided one water-closet for each 100 females or fraction, one water-closet for each 300 males or fraction and one urinal for each 150 males or fraction.

(2) **NUMBER OF TOILETS WHERE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE SERVED ON PREMISES.** Where stimulating drinks, such as beer, wines and other alcoholic beverages, are served for consumption on the premises, there shall be provided one water-closet for every 40 females, or fraction, one water-closet for every 150 males, or fraction, and one urinal for every 50 males, or fraction; except that where the capacity in such places exceeds 300 persons, the ratio of the number of fixtures

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