

Chapter ILHR 56

SCHOOLS AND OTHER PLACES OF INSTRUCTION

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Note: Chapter Ind 56 was renumbered to be ch. ILHR 56, effective January 1, 1984.

Subchapter I—General Requirements

ILHR 56.001 Scope. The requirements of this chapter shall apply to all public and private schools, universities, colleges, academies, seminaries, libraries, museums and art galleries; including all buildings or parts of buildings used primarily for instructional purposes.

Note: Section 101.02 (15) (a), Stats., exempts rural school buildings from the provisions of this code. See s. ILHR 51.01 (114b) for definition of a rural school building.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; am. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80.

ILHR 56.01 Maximum height. (1) Buildings occupied primarily by pupils up to and including grade 12 shall not exceed 4 stories or 48 feet in height.

(a) *Exception.* Buildings provided with complete automatic sprinkler or automatic smoke detection systems, occupied primarily by students of grades 9 through 12, shall be no more than 6 stories or 72 feet in height.

Note: Also see requirements for classes of construction.

History: 1-2-56; r. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; cr. Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73.

ILHR 56.02 Classes of construction. (1) Every building not more than one story in height may be of type 7 or 8 construction as specified in s. ILHR 51.03.

(2) Every 2-story building shall be not less than type 6 construction as specified in s. ILHR 51.03 with the exception that all floors and their supports shall be at least noncombustible one-hour fire-resistive rating.

(3) Every building 3 or more stories in height shall be of type 1 or 2 construction as specified in s. ILHR 51.03.

(4) Auditoriums, gymnasiums or field houses, or those parts of buildings similarly used, shall comply with the following:

(a) Limitations when occupancy is restricted to first story or ground floor only.

Type of Construction	Maximum Number of Occupants in Any Room Used for Auditorium, Gymnasium, or Field House Purposes	
	With Stage	Without Stage
Type 1 and 2	No limit	No limit
Type 3 and 4	750	1500
Type 5 and 6	500	1000
Type 7 and 8	300	750

1. Exception. For unlimited capacity, the fire protection of structural steel supporting the roof may be omitted for one-story buildings meeting type 1, 2 and 3 construction provided the building has no ground or basement floors. Heavy timber columns and roof framing may be substituted for structural steel framing. The roof decking shall be of noncombustible or heavy timber construction.

(b) Limitations when occupancy is above the first story.

Type of Construction	Maximum Number of Occupants	No. of Stories
Type 1 and 2	No limit	See s. ILHR 56.01 †
Type 3 thru 6	400	2nd story
Type 3 thru 6	200	3rd and 4th story

† 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.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; am. (1) and (2) and r. and recr. (3), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; cr. (4), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; r. and recr. (4) (a) 1., Register, May, 1974, No. 221, eff. 6-1-74; am. (4) (a) 1., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

FP ILHR 56.03 Protection of basement levels. (1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT. Buildings with basements shall at such levels be protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system as specified in s. ILHR 51.23 or an approved automatic smoke detection system, as specified in s. ILHR 51.245, either of which shall be electrically connected to the required fire alarm system.

Note: See s. ILHR 51.245 for additional requirements pertaining to smoke detectors.

Note: See ss. ILHR 52.015 (3) (a) 6. and 52.02 for additional requirements pertaining to basements.

FP (2) RETROACTIVITY. Existing buildings which do not conform to the requirements specified in sub. (1) on or after the effective date of this subsection shall comply with the following:

(a) The corridors in the basement shall be protected by an approved smoke detection system.

(b) Such systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA No. 72E-1978, Standard on Automatic Fire Detectors or NFPA No. 74-1980, Household Fire Warning Equipment, but in no case shall smoke detectors be spaced more than 30 feet apart on center or more than 15 feet from any wall.

Note: See s. ILHR 51.01 for definitions of "automatic" and "basement".

History: Cr. Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; cr. (2), eff. 1-1-83, am. (1), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

ILHR 56.05 Exterior wall openings. (1) **ONE-STORY BUILDINGS.** One-story buildings with no floor levels below the first floor need not be provided with exterior wall openings other than required exits.

(2) **MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS.** (a) Except as provided in par. (b), buildings more than one story shall be provided with fire department access openings as specified in s. ILHR 52.02 (2).

(b) Fire department access openings are not required provided the building is protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system and that system is connected to the required fire alarm system.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. and recr., Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; r. and recr., Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; r. (2) and renun. (3) to be (2), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. and recr. Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83.

ILHR 56.06 Exits. (1) **TOTAL NUMBER OF EXITS.** The total number of exits from each floor level and each building shall be determined on the basis of total aggregate exit width and distances to exit. Each building and each floor level shall be provided with at least 2 exits. **FP**

(2) **TYPE OF EXITS.** At least 2 exits from all floor levels shall lead directly to grade through standard exit doors, stairs, interior enclosed stairs, smokeproof stair towers, fire-rated exit corridors, passageways, or ramps. One-half of the remaining required exits may be horizontal exits or fire escapes. Fire escapes are prohibited as required exits in pre-school, elementary, middle, and high schools. In no case will fire escapes be permitted above the second story.

(a) *Standard exit doors.* Standard exit doors shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of ss. ILHR 51.15 and 56.08.

(b) *Exit stairs.* Stairs shall conform to the requirements of s. ILHR 51.16, except that the stairs shall have a uniform rise of not more than 7½ inches, measured from tread to tread, and a uniform tread of not less than 10 inches, measured from nosing to nosing of tread. Handrails shall be provided on both sides. All stairs serving basements shall be in accordance with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.02 (11). No closets or rooms may be placed under a stairway or landing.

(c) *Interior enclosed stairs and smokeproof stair towers.* Interior stairs and smokeproof stair towers shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements of ss. ILHR 51.17 and 51.18.

(d) *Fire-rated exit corridors.* All rated exit corridors required to satisfy limitations on exit distance shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resis-

tive construction, unless the fire-resistive ratings indicated in Table 51.03-A for required exit corridor enclosures are more restrictive.

(e) *Exit ramps.* The minimum width of exit ramps shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of s. ILHR 56.07. The minimum width shall be not less than 3 feet 8 inches. Exit ramps, other than those required for the physically disabled, shall have a slope not exceeding 1:8. Ramp slopes exceeding 1:12 shall be provided with handrails. Ramps shall be provided with a slip-resistant finish. Ramps shall be provided from areas noted under sub. (3) (c) involving a change of elevation between floor levels or platforms not exceeding 3 feet.

(f) *Fire escapes.* Fire escapes shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.20.

(g) *Horizontal exits.* Horizontal exits shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.19 and shall be of at least 4-hour rated construction.

(3) LOCATION OF EXITS. (a) *Exit distance.* Travel distance to an exterior exit door, a required fire-resistive rated exit corridor, interior enclosed stairs, smokeproof stair tower, horizontal exit, or fire escape, from any point in a building accessible to the public, shall not exceed 150 feet. Building service areas, including pipe chases and tunnels, catwalks, ducts or similar spaces not accessible to the public, shall not exceed 300 feet from an exit.

(b) *Distribution of exits.* All exits shall be distributed to provide the best possible means of egress. The exits shall be located so that in case any exit is blocked at any point some other exit is accessible through public passageways at all times. Locked security gates and doors shall not be placed so as to block required exit passageways or create dead-end corridors.

(c) *Auditorium, gymnasium and field house exits.* This rule shall apply only to auditoriums, gymnasiums and field houses which have a capacity exceeding 600 persons. One-half of the required exits shall discharge directly to a street, alley or open court connected with a street, unless a 2-hour rated exit corridor is provided, wide enough to accommodate one-half of the occupants, which extends from the interior wall of the auditorium, gymnasium or field house to an exterior exit. The remaining required exits shall discharge directly to the exterior or to a public passageway which permits 2 directions of travel to the exits at the exterior of the building. The exiting shall be direct and unobstructed.

(4) CLASSROOM EXITS. (a) *Exits serving 50 persons or less.* At least one exit shall be provided from all rooms serving a capacity of 50 persons or less. The exit shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building or to a public passageway which permits 2 directions of travel to the exterior.

(b) *Exits serving 51-100 persons.* At least 2 exits shall be provided from all rooms serving a capacity of 51-100 persons. One exit shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building or to a public passageway which permits 2 directions of travel to the exterior. One exit may discharge through an adjacent room provided a clear passageway is maintained from the connecting door to a required exit serving the adjacent room.

(c) *Exits serving more than 100 persons.* At least 2 exits shall be provided from all rooms serving a capacity of more than 100 persons. The

exits shall discharge directly to grade or to a public passageway which permits 2 directions of travel to the exterior.

(5) **WIDTH OF EXITS.** The total required exit width shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of s. ILHR 56.07.

(6) **EXIT LIGHTS.** All required exits indicated in s. ILHR 56.06 (2), and exits from areas serving a capacity of more than 100 persons, shall be identified by an approved exit light. Directional exit lights shall be provided to direct occupants to an exit. Exit lights and directional exit lights shall be as specified in s. ILHR 51.15 (5). **FP**

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; r. and recr. (1) (a), renum. (2) to be (3), (3) to be (4), (4) to be (5), (5) to be (6) and (6) to be (7), and cr. (2) and (8), Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; r. and recr., Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; am. (1) (a) 2., Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75, r. and recr. Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76; am. (2), intro. and cr. (2) (g), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (6), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

ILHR 56.07 Required exit width. (1) The total required exit width from a building level shall be in accordance with the requirements of ss. ILHR 51.15 (6) and 51.16 (3). **FP**

(2) The capacity of educational buildings or any individual story or section thereof for the purpose of determining exits shall be the maximum capacity designated on approved plans.

(a) The maximum capacity shall not exceed the requirements of par. (b).

(b) The maximum capacities of all rooms and spaces as listed below shall be determined on the basis of the minimum net square feet area per person shown for that occupancy unless otherwise designated on the plans.

	Minimum Square Feet Per Occupant
1. Academic classrooms—Regular.....	20
2. Administrative and office space.....	75
3. Arts, crafts, drafting.....	30
4. Bleachers (one seat per 18 inches of bench length)	
5. Gymnasiums, field houses, auditoriums, theatres, lecture rooms (fixed seating).....	6
6. Gymnasiums, field houses, multipurpose rooms, cafeterias, study halls, commons and other level floor areas with nonfixed individual seating.....	10
7. Home economics, business education.....	30
8. Industrial arts-vocational shop.....	50
9. Laboratories-Science (fixed lab. tables).....	30
10. Libraries and resource centers.....	20
11. Museums and art galleries.....	40
12. Music	
a. Vocal.....	10
b. Instrumental.....	20
13. Special education	
a. Mentally retarded, physically handicapped, etc.....	35

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. (3), Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; am. (1), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; r. and recr., Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; r. and recr. (1), r. (2), (3) and (4), renum. (5) to be (2), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75.

ILHR 56.08 Exit doors. (1) **STANDARD EXIT DOORS.** Exit doors shall comply with the requirements of s. ILHR 51.15. The aggregate width of Register, August, 1985, No. 356

exit doors shall be as required in s. ILHR 56.07. No single door or leaf of a double door shall be more than 42 inches wide.

(2) **CLASSROOM EXIT DOOR WIDTH AND SWING.** (a) *Classroom doors serving 50 persons or less.* Classroom doors serving classrooms with a capacity of 50 persons or less shall be not less than 3 feet 0 inches in width. The doors may swing into the classroom.

(b) *Classroom doors serving more than 50 persons.* Classroom doors serving classrooms with a capacity of more than 50 persons shall be standard exit doors and shall swing outward toward the means of egress.

(3) **ALL OTHER EXIT DOORS.** Doors serving areas other than classrooms shall comply with s. ILHR 54.06.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76; am. (2) and cr. (3), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) and (2) (b), r. (2) (c), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80.

FP ILHR 56.09 Passageways. (1) 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 s. ILHR 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.

History: 1-2-56; r. (1) and renum. (2) to be (1), Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

ILHR 56.13 Assembly seating. All assembly seating in auditoriums, gymnasiums, field houses and other large group occupancy areas shall comply with the requirements of subch. V, Assembly Seating Facilities, of ch. ILHR 62. Where any area of a building in this category has a stage loft in excess of 25 feet 0 inches in height above the stage floor and is equipped with permanent or movable scenery, it shall comply with ss. ILHR 55.21 through 55.30.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr., Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

ILHR 56.14 Seats, desks and aisles. (1) Seats, desks, tables and other loose equipment need not be fastened to the floor or to each other provided that any seating arrangement use, will maintain during occupancy, free and unobstructed intermediate, cross and wall aisles leading to the exit.

(a) Stepped floors or tiered platforms shall be no less than 48 inches in width to permit the above arrangement.

(b) Seats, desks, tables and other loose equipment used in instructional occupancies shall be of a durable type of construction to assure safety and stability.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr., Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

FP ILHR 56.15 Isolation of hazards. (1) **GENERAL.** Except for direct vent sealed combustion chamber appliances and suspended heating equipment as specified in Table 64.21, all fuel-fired heating boilers and furnaces, power boilers, fuel rooms, and breeching, storage vaults for paints, oils and similar combustibles, fuel-fired kilns and dryers, and other similar hazards, shall be enclosed as follows:

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(a) In every building more than one story in height, the enclosure shall be not less than 4-hour fire-resistive rated construction as specified in s. ILHR 51.04.

(b) In one-story buildings, the enclosure shall be not less than 2-hour fire-resistive rated construction as specified in s. ILHR 51.04.

(2) PROTECTION OF OPENINGS. All openings shall be protected by fire-rated door assemblies equipped with self-closing devices as specified in s. ILHR 51.047.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; r. and recr., Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; am. (1) (intro.), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (intro.), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

ILHR 56.16 Sanitary facilities. (1) TOILET ROOMS. Separate toilet rooms for each sex shall be provided for all occupancies included under the scope of this chapter. The toilet rooms shall be completely enclosed and arranged to ensure privacy, except that in elementary schools (kindergarten through grade 8) the doors to the toilet rooms may be eliminated if the entrance to the toilet room is located in the wall of a public corridor.

(2) SANITARY FIXTURES. The following tabulated groups or combinations thereof shall be provided with one fixture of each type in accordance with the ratio given in chart to serve the total number of persons designated on the plans.

Type of Fixture	K-6	7-12	Post High School	Large Group Occupancy Areas	Administrative Areas
Water Closets (F).....	35	50	100	200	10
Water Closets (M).....	75	100	200	300	15
Urinals.....	35	50	100	150	40
Lavatories.....	75	100	100	150	15
Drinking Fountains.....	1 per 6,000 sq. ft. floor area or 1 per floor or both				

(a) When fixtures required for a designated group are not available to another designated group the number of fixtures shall be provided according to the ratio indicated in the chart and independent of other group requirements.

(b) Where a theatre is a part of an educational facility the requirements listed under "large group occupancies" shall apply.

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; r. and recr. Register, May 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; am. (1) (intro.), r. and recr. (1) (a), cr. (1) (b), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; renum. (1) to be (2) and cr. (1), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77.

ILHR 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 ch. 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, vol. 2, ch. ILHR 16.

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; am. (3) (c), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

FP ILHR 56.18* Fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. ILHR 51.22.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71; am. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

FP ILHR 56.19 Fire alarms. Every building shall be provided with a proper alarm system complying with s. ILHR 51.24.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

FP ILHR 56.20 Standpipes. (1) **FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDPIPES.** Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all buildings exceeding 60 feet in height.

(2) **FIRST-AID STANDPIPES.** First-aid standpipes shall be provided in all buildings 3 stories or more in height, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed.

Note: See s. ILHR 52.015 for requirements pertaining to automatic sprinkler systems for museums, art galleries and libraries.

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

Subchapter II—Relocatable Classrooms

ILHR 56.30 Scope. This part provides the minimum requirements for the design and construction of relocatable classrooms as defined in s. ILHR 56.31.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

ILHR 56.31 Definitions. "Relocatable classrooms" mean mobile home type structures located on permanent foundations and equipped and used for educational instruction.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

ILHR 56.32 General. Relocatable classrooms shall comply with the applicable sections of this code except as otherwise specified in this part.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

ILHR 56.33 Anchoring requirements. Provisions acceptable to the department for the prevention of overturning of the relocatable classroom as a result of wind pressure shall be made.

Note: The department accepts provisions such as ground anchors installed in accordance with ANSI standard A 119.1.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

FP ILHR 56.34 Exit doors and exit lights. (1) **EXIT DOORS.** Exit doors shall be at least 3 feet 0 inches in width.

*See Appendix A for further explanatory material.