

the requirements of chs. Ind 55 and 56. Where these 2 chapters differ, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

(5) Every theater and assembly hall shall be separated from a storage garage or a repair garage as specified in s. Ind 59.22.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; am. (2), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; cr. (4), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) and (3), cr. (6), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.06 Capacity.** (1) The following table includes various types of occupancy within the scope of this section, together with the method to be used in determining the capacity.

(2) No greater number of persons than the number thus established shall be permitted in any theater or assembly hall.

Use or Occupancy	Basis of Capacity
(a) Arenas and field houses.....	4 sq. ft. per person. Use seated areas only.
(b) Assembly halls, with stage .....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(c) Banquet halls .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(d) Churches (auditoriums) .....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(e) Churches (dining rooms) .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(f) Dance halls .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(g) Dining rooms.....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(h) Gymnasiums.....	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space. 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(i) Lecture halls.....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(j) Lodge halls .....	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space, 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(k) Skating rinks.....	45 sq. ft. per person.
(l) Theaters.....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(m) Theater lobbies .....	7 sq. ft. per person.

(3) The capacity of theaters and theater lobbies must be combined to determine the theater capacity.

(4) (a) Every theater or assembly hall having movable seats shall display a sign stating the maximum number of persons permitted by code.

1. The sign shall be placed in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to each theater or assembly hall.

2. The sign shall have the following wording: "Limit (Number) Persons." The maximum number of persons shall be determined by the capacity as permitted by sub. (2) and s. Ind 55.12. The lettering shall be

Register, October, 1982, No. 322  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

white on a dark background. The letters shall be not less than 1½ inches in height and the number shall be not less than 3 inches in height.

History: 1-2-56; cr. (4) (a), Register, July, 1966, No. 127, eff. 8-1-66; r. (2) (k), renum. (2) (l) (m) (n) to be (k) (l) and (m), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; am. (2) (k), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP Ind 55.07 Number and location of exits.** (1) Every floor and balcony of a theater and assembly hall shall be provided with not less than 2 exits, placed as far apart as practicable and so located that if any exit is blocked, some other exit will still be available from every part.

(a) *Exception:* In places of worship, only one exit will be required from a balcony seating not more than 30 persons.

(2) Where more than 600 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 3 exits and where more than 1,000 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 4 exits.

(3) Exits shall be distributed on all sides which adjoin streets, alleys or open courts.

**FP Ind 55.08 Type of exits.** (1) The required exits from any part of a theater or assembly hall shall be exit doorways, stairways or ramps.

(2) All exits to grade from a higher or lower level shall be stairways or approved ramps. In all theaters and in assembly halls having a capacity of more than 400 persons, where the exit rise is not more than 3 feet approved ramps shall be used. By approved ramp is meant an incline located inside the building and having a slope of not more than one foot of rise in 8 feet.

(3) Stairway exits shall be interior stairways, or smokeproof towers as specified in s. Ind 51.17; except that "B" type fire escapes may be used as exits from balconies for not more than one-half the required exit width, if located against blank walls.

**FP Ind 55.09 Stairways.** (1) Every stairway in a theater or assembly hall shall be enclosed as specified in s. Ind 51.18 with the following exceptions:

(a) Monumental stairways from the main floor to the first balcony need not be enclosed provided the balcony is served by additional enclosed stairways as specified in ss. Ind 51.02 (11) and 55.07.

(b) 1. In a place of worship, a monumental exit access stairway from the main floor to the first balcony having an occupant load of not more than 30 persons need not be enclosed.

2. In a place of worship, a monumental exit access stairway from the main floor to the first balcony having an occupant load of 31 to 100 persons need not be enclosed provided the balcony is served by an additional open stairway.

3. In a place of worship, stairways from the main floor to the first balcony having an occupant load greater than 100 persons shall be enclosed to the outside as specified in ss. Ind 51.02 (11) and 51.18.

Register, October, 1982, No. 322  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

4. Stairways from the basement to the first floor of a single story place of worship need not be enclosed if they lead directly to the exits.

(2) A room may be placed under a stairway platform landing of 2-hour fire-resistive construction or better provided such room does not have combustible materials or hazardous equipment stored or operated therein. The partitions shall be constructed of noncombustible materials. All openings shall be protected with 20-minute fire door assemblies, or equivalent.

(3) Stairways and steps which have more than 3 risers shall have handrails on both sides.

(4) Every stairway used by the public in a theater or assembly hall shall have a uniform rise of not more than 7½ inches and a uniform tread of not less than 10 inches, measuring from tread to tread and from riser to riser. No winders shall be used and there shall be not less than 3 nor more than 16 risers in any run.

(a) *Exception.* Less than 3 risers may be used to elevated altars, podiums and similar areas in churches provided the elevated area is not part of a required exit passageway.

**Note.** See s. Ind 51.16 for general stairway requirements.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. and recr. Register, February, 1968, No. 146, eff. 3-1-68; am. (4), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; am. (2), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75; am. (1) (intro.) and cr. (4) (a), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (a), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82.

**Ind 55.10 Exit doorways and doors.** (1) Every required single exit doorway shall contain a standard exit door as specified in s. Ind 51.16. For double doors, with or without mullions, the width of each door may be reduced to 2 feet 6 inches. **FP**

(2) No single door or leaf of a double door, shall be more than 3 feet 6 inches wide, and no 2 doors shall be hinged together.

(3) No rolling, sliding or revolving door shall be counted as an exit from any theater or assembly hall, nor shall any such door be permitted where it would be liable to be used by the public as an exit.

(4) Sills at all exit doorways shall be level and flush with adjacent inside floors and ramps. Where an aisle or passageway leads to an exit from either side of the exit doorway there shall be a level floor space at the doorway subtending the width of the aisle and the doorway.

**Ind 55.11 Exit lights.** (1) In every theater and assembly hall, except church auditoriums, exit lights shall be provided immediately over all exit doorways, and in such other places as may be necessary to direct the occupants to exit doorways and to a street, alley or exit court. The installation of such exit lights shall comply in all respects with the provisions of the Wisconsin state electrical code, vol. 2, ch. ILHR 16, Wis. Adm. Code. **FP**

(2) Every light over an exit doorway shall be a red illuminated sign bearing the word EXIT or OUT in plain letters not less than 6 inches in height.

Register, October, 1982, No. 322  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

(3) All exit lights shall remain lighted during each occupancy and until the occupants have left the building.

**FP Ind 55.12 Required exit width.** (1) The total required exit width from a building level shall be in accordance with the requirements of ss. Ind 51.15 (6) and 51.16 (3).

(2) In theaters, the width of the front entrance shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total required exit width.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; am. (1), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75.

**Ind 55.13 Seating.** All chairs, seats and benches used for the purpose of assembly seating shall conform to the requirements of subch. V, Assembly Seating Facilities, of ch. Ind 62.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. (2), renum. (3) to (6) to be (2) to (5), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP 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 s. 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 s. 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 s. Ind 55.09. No handrails will be required.

**FP 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

Register, October, 1982, No. 322  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

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.