

Places of Public Entertainment Regulations  
Cinemas in Composite Buildings

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Subject to the guidelines contained in the Appendix, a cinema or cinemas, whether on the same level or not, may be included in a multi-storeyed building of mixed occupancy.

2. If, by following the said guidelines, a conflict arises with one or more of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulations, the relevant provisions thereof should be the subject of a written application for a modification or modifications under No. 168 of the said Regulations.

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Building Authority

(Cancels P.N. for A.P.s 1974.6 and  
para. 3 of Circular Letter 47)

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Places of Public Entertainment Regulations

Guidelines for Cinemas Permitted in Composite Buildings

1. Capacity                      The total capacity, whether in one or more cinemas, shall not exceed 2,000 persons more than marginally. Where total capacity will exceed 2,000 more than marginally the provisions of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulations will apply.
  
2. Shared facilities              Guidelines 6,8.1, 9.1 & 10.1 herein regarding shared facilities will only apply where cinemas in the same building are to be operated by the same licensee.
  
3. Separation                      Except as permitted under Guideline 8.1, all parts of a cinema or cinemas must be separated from other occupancies by elements of construction having a suitable "fire resistance period" as defined in and required by the Building (Construction) Regulations (i.e. normally 2 hours).  
*walls and floors and other*
  
4. Incompatible Occupancies              Cinemas will not be permitted in a building also accommodating :-
  - (a) a repair garage
  - (b) a petrol station
  - (c) a godown or warehouse
  - (d) a factory or industrial undertaking
  - (e) a school, or
  - (f) a child care centre
  
5. Basements                      Cinemas will not normally be permitted in a basement, and, if they are, especially stringent safety requirements will apply.
  
6. Services                          All mechanical and electrical services and fire service installations serving a cinema or cinemas must do so exclusively, i.e. separate services must be provided for the remainder of the building.
  
7. Ventilation                      Where a cinema is located above the ground floor a mechanically operated system capable of removing smoke and combustion products from the cinema compartment direct to the open air will be required.
  
8. Entrance                      8.1      Where there is more than one cinema, whether on the same floor or on separate floors, a common foyer based on the total cinema capacity will be acceptable.

8.2 Entrance to such a foyer will be permitted from an arcade or through a floor in another occupancy, provided this entrance is additional to and does not count as a required exit route. Suitable precautions must be taken to prevent the passage of smoke and fire.

9. Exits

9.1 A route of entry which serves a cinema or cinemas only, i.e. not an entrance of the kind described in guideline 8.2, can also count as an exit route.

9.2 Provided the outward flow is not impeded and provided the total capacity of the exit routes is sufficient to cope with the combined capacities of the cinemas, exit routes from one cinema may merge with exit routes from another cinema but must be separated from exit routes from other occupancies.

9.3 The existing numerical requirement for exits, i.e. one for every 250 people, will continue to apply but limited flexibility will be allowed, e.g. three exits might be sufficient for a total capacity of 800 people.

9.4 Two exits from a balcony will continue to be required irrespective of its capacity.

9.5 Exits from a cinema should be relatively remote from each other and some exit routes must discharge to separate streets or thoroughfares, if necessary through but separated from other occupancies.

9.6 If a building set-back is required where exit routes discharge at street level, concessions under Building (Planning) Regulations may be granted.

10. Projection Rooms

10.1 Adjoining cinemas may share one projection room suite.

10.2 A projection room suite not provided with natural ventilation in accordance with No. 141 of the P.P.E. Regulations must be mechanically ventilated to the open air by an independent system.

10.3 Alternative exit routes from a projection room suite should normally be provided and, if routed through a cinema or cinema exit route, must be through a ventilated lobby having doors with an F.R.P. of 1 hour. Where an alternative means of exit is not practicable, the only exit must be direct to the open air.

11. Internal Layout

Present requirements covering the spacing of seats and numbers of passage ways will generally continue to apply, but variations such as longer rows of seats may be allowed where additional space is provided between rows to give some flexibility.