

Places of Public Entertainment Regulations  
Cinemas in Composite Buildings

Under the Places of Public Entertainment Regulation 6A a cinema or cinemas accommodating not more than 2,000 people in the aggregate may be situated in any one storey or storeys of a non-domestic building or the non-domestic part of a composite building. A pair or group of cinemas may also be allowed to share the facilities of exits, foyers, waiting spaces, vestibules and projection rooms subject to the following guidelines :-

- (i) Widths & Sizes of Shared Facilities      The common facilities shall be designed to have adequate widths and sizes based on the total capacity of the cinemas to be served.
- (ii) Separation      All parts of a cinema or cinemas must be separated from other occupancies by walls, floors, or other elements of construction having adequate "fire resistance period" as defined in and required by the Building (Construction) Regulations (in normal circumstances, a 2 hours FRP separation may be accepted).
- (iii) Basements      Cinemas will not normally be permitted in a basement.
- (iv) Entrances      The main entrance to the cinema or cinemas and to the foyer(s) shall not be through other accommodation in the building. A secondary access communicating with other non-domestic parts of the building, such as a shopping arcade, may be permitted when the opening is adequately protected and in circumstances that suggest that there would not be such a regular movement of persons as would be likely to prejudice the effectiveness of the protection.
- (v) Exits      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.

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- (vi) Ventilation to Projection Rooms A projection room suite not provided with natural ventilation must be mechanically ventilated to the open air by an independent system.
- (vii) Foyers Where Regulation 36 is invoked and it is required to provide suitable accommodation for persons awaiting admission, such space shall be based on 0.5m<sup>2</sup> per person at a ratio of one in six persons for whom seating accommodation is provided.
- (viii) Consents, Special Approvals and Modifications Any application for consent, special approval and modification under the Places of Public Entertainment Regulations 9, 18 and 168 for a cinema, or cinemas designed in accordance with Places of Public Entertainment Regulation 6A shall be made by letter addressed to the Building Authority and stating the special circumstances of the case.



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Building Authority

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