

CHAPTER 4

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Division 1 --- AUDITORIUM AND RELATED FACILITIES

2. This Division is applicable to the auditorium for audience and backstage facilities of theatre, cinema, concert hall, sports stadium, games hall and other entertainment related premises as well as lecture hall and conference hall.
3. In this Division, “relevant activity” means the activity for the purpose of which the audience in the premises attend the premises.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

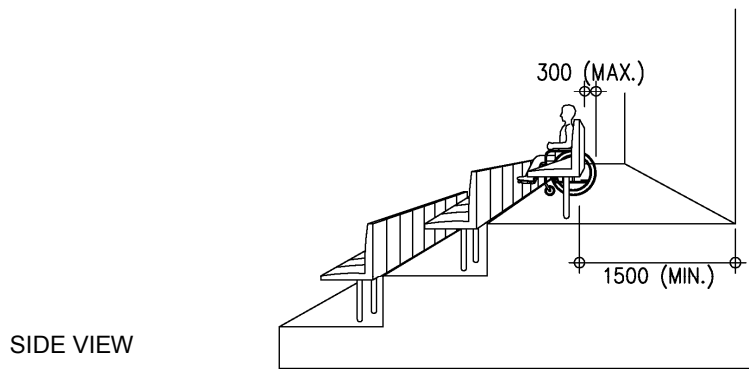
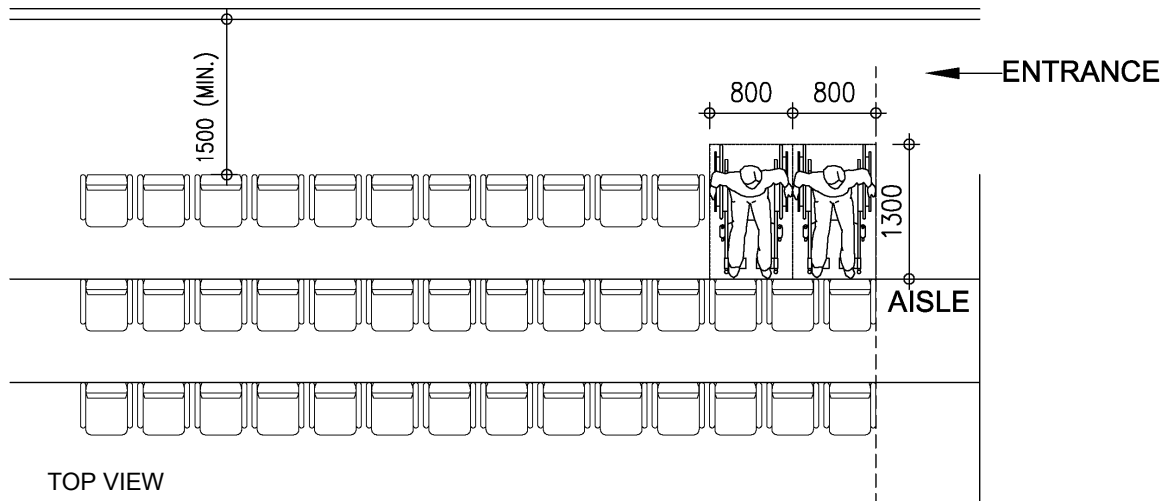
The seating areas of an auditorium, the stage and backstage facilities, shall be provided with safe and convenient access for all people including persons with a disability.

Obligatory Design Requirements

4. Wheelchair Spaces

A minimum of four wheelchair spaces shall be provided at spectator level in the auditorium with not more than 800 fixed seats. For auditorium with more than 800 fixed seats at spectator level, two wheelchair spaces shall be provided for every 400 fixed seats and any part thereof. (For example, at least six wheelchair spaces shall be provided if there are 900 fixed seats.) The spaces shall be grouped in pairs (not less than two) and also not separated from the seats for other audiences. Each wheelchair space shall have unobstructed line of vision to the stage areas at which the relevant activity takes place, and be of minimum size of 800 mm x 1300 mm, with the side of 800 mm facing towards the stage podium or screen. The minimum width of the passage leading to a wheelchair space from an accessible entrance of the auditorium shall not be less than 1500 mm. (see Figure 1A)

Readily removable seats can be installed in wheelchair spaces when the spaces are not occupied by wheelchair users.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 1A – Wheelchair Space in an Auditorium

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

5. Access for Wheelchair Users

The auditorium, the stage, backstage facilities, changing rooms, rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms, rest rooms, toilets and shower rooms shall be accessible to wheelchair users. If there is an access connecting two or more of them, an equivalent accessible route shall be provided for wheelchair users, e.g. by a ramp in compliance with Division 5, an accessible lift in compliance with Division 19.

6. Braille and Tactile Fire Exit Maps and Tactile Warning Strips

- (1) Braille and tactile fire exit maps as shown in Figure 32 shall be provided at all entrances to the auditorium.
- (2) Tactile warning strips complying with paragraph 26 shall be provided at both the top and bottom ends of the staircases leading to the stage.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Seating allocation for persons with a disability should be accessible by provision of a direct, easily identifiable route free from obstructions, and preferably adjacent to the means of egress and accessible toilets.
- (b) The wheelchair spaces should be so located that the wheelchair user may have the choice of sitting with another wheelchair user or conventionally seated companion.
- (c) The lines of sight provided by the wheelchair spaces should be comparable to those of other normal viewing positions.
- (d) It is a good practice to provide wheelchair spaces at different levels of the seating area in order to have a variety of viewing locations. An example of wheelchair space arrangement is shown in Figure 1B.
- (e) Safety barrier should be provided to wheelchair spaces located at high level to minimise the risk of the wheelchair falling over the edge.

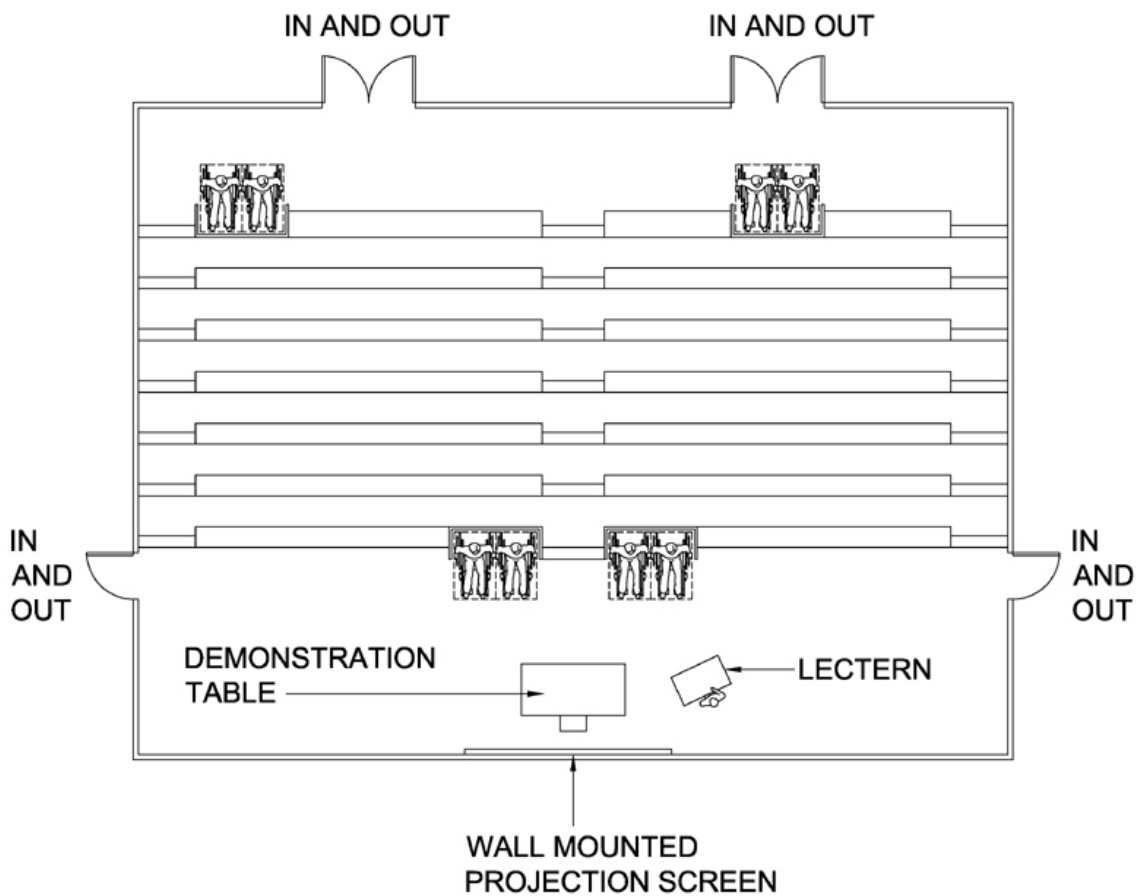


Figure 1B – Example of Wheelchair Spaces in a Lecture Hall

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) A conventional companion seat may be provided next to each wheelchair seating location.
- (b) Removable seats may be provided in wheelchair seating locations for spare use by persons other than wheelchair users.
- (c) Access should be provided to the low and high levels of the auditorium.
- (d) Two to three rows of removable seats should be provided in the auditorium for the use by large group of wheelchair users for special function / occasions.
- (e) Where conventional seat numbers are provided, Braille and tactile seat number should be provided at the top of each seat rest. The specification of Braille cells is provided in Figure 31.
- (f) Sound enhancement system may be provided at the designated areas for persons with hearing impairment.