

- (e) appropriate notices in English and Chinese in letters and characters not less than 25mm high should be provided in a conspicuous part at the main entrance of the building to indicate where the refuge floors are situated.

21.5 This paragraph does not apply to a domestic building or a composite building not exceeding 40 storeys in height above the lowest ground storey. In a domestic building or a composite building exceeding 25 storeys but not exceeding 40 storeys in height above the lowest ground storey, the main roof of the building should be a refuge floor and should comply with the requirements in paragraphs 21.3 and 21.4.

PART III : PROVISIONS OF MEANS OF ESCAPE IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

In addition to the general requirements in Part II, all places of public entertainment should comply with the requirements in this part.

22. Site

- 22.1 The site of a place of public entertainment should abut upon and have frontages to 2 or more thoroughfares.
- 22.2 The frontages of a building having a place of public entertainment should, subject to paragraph 22.7, form at least one-half of the total boundaries of the site on which the building is situated, excluding recesses and projections which do not prejudicially affect exit routes, and should permit of the provision of exit routes in accordance with this Code from each tier or floor direct to 2 or more thoroughfares.
- 22.3 The thoroughfares referred to in paragraph 22.2 should be of such widths as will enable the persons who are to be accommodated in the place of public entertainment to disperse rapidly in the event of fire or panic and as will afford reasonable facilities for the approach of fire appliances.

- 22.4 In the case of a place of public entertainment which is capable of accommodating more than 500 but not more than 2,000 persons one of the thoroughfares referred to in paragraph 22.2 should be at least 12 m wide.
- 22.5 In the case of a place of public entertainment which is capable of accommodating more than 2,000 but not more than 3,000 persons one of the thoroughfares referred to in paragraph 22.2 should be at least 12 m wide and the other one should be at least 9 m wide if a carriageway or 6 m wide if a footway.
- 22.6 In the case of a place of public entertainment which is capable of accommodating more than 3,000 but not more than 5,000 persons one of the thoroughfares referred to in paragraph 22.2 should be at least 15 m wide and the other one should be at least 9 m wide.
- 22.7 In the case of a place of public entertainment which is capable of accommodating more than 5,000 persons such further frontage to the thoroughfares referred to in paragraph 22.2 should be provided as the Building Authority may require.
- 22.8 In the case of a place of public entertainment which is capable of accommodating not more than 500 persons, the Building Authority should determine the number and width of thoroughfares required to be provided as access to the place of entertainment.

23. Cinemas in Multi-storey Non-domestic or Composite Buildings

- 23.1 Cinemas accommodating not more than 2,000 people in the aggregate in any one building may be situated in any one storey or storeys of a non-domestic building or the non-domestic part of a composite building.
- 23.2 Such cinemas may have shared facilities including exit routes. The exit routes should have adequate widths and sizes based on the total capacity of the cinemas to be served. The exits from the cinemas should be relatively remote from each other and the majority of exit routes should discharge to streets of not less than 4.5m wide which is accessible to fire fighting vehicles to the satisfaction of the Director of Fire Services and, if necessary, may discharge through but should be separated from other occupancies.

23.3 Such cinemas may be situated at the first basement only, subject to compliance with the following requirements :

- (a) all exit routes from the auditorium to the staircases and from the staircases to the streets should be short and direct;
- (b) all staircases/exits from the cinemas should discharge independently onto a street;
- (c) all staircases serving other basement floors should be sealed off at the floor where the cinemas are situated;
- (d) at least one of the exit routes should be a fire-fighting and rescue stairway designed and constructed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Means of Access for Fire-fighting and Rescue; and
- (e) the widths of the staircases should be in accordance with Table 7.

Table 7

No. of persons in each PPE	No. of exit routes required	widths of exit routes required
Less than 300	2	1.5m each
301 - 500	2	2m each
501 - 750	3	2m each
Over 750	to be decided by Building Authority	

24. Exit, Notices, etc

24.1 All exit doors or openings from a place of public entertainment and from the stage and dressing rooms in such place should be clearly indicated by a notice bearing the word EXIT in block letters in English and Chinese of letters not less than 175 mm high in white colour with a background in green or letters in green with a background in white or black.

- 24.2 Such notices should be at a height of at least 2 m above the floor and, where possible, should be placed over such doors or openings.
- 24.3 Doors and openings, other than exits, in sight of the audience, which lead to portions of the place of public entertainment accessible to the public, should have notices placed over them indicating the use of such portions and such doors and openings should not resemble exits.
- 24.4 Notices, signs and handpointers indicating the way out should be provided.
- 24.5 Notices bearing the words NO EXIT should not be provided.
- 24.6 Each notice indicating an exit should be illuminated by a light on two systems as the lighting referred to in paragraph 33.
- 24.7 The lighting of exit notices should not in any circumstances be extinguished or dimmed while the public are on the place of public entertainment.

25. Entrances and Exit Routes

- 25.1 Two separate exit routes should be provided from every tier or floor which is capable of accommodating not more than 500 persons, and one additional exit route should be provided for every 250 or part of 250 persons above 500.
- 25.2 Two of the exit routes from each tier or floor should open into different thoroughfares or ways.
- 25.3 If the tier or floor is capable of accommodating not more than 300 persons the width of each exit route should be not less than 1.2 m measured between the walls at any point or between the leaves of the doors when open, and if the tier or floor is capable of accommodating more than 300 persons the width of each of the exits should be not less than 1.5 m measured in like manner.
- 25.4 In the case of any places of public entertainment or portions thereof which are 12 m or more above pavement level the total width of exit routes should be 25 per cent in excess of the width required by paragraph 25.3.

- 25.5 If any tier or floor is divided into 2 or more parts exit routes as required by this paragraph should be provided from each of such parts.
- 25.6 In calculating the number of persons who can be accommodated in any tier or floor or part of a tier or floor, the accommodation of all standing and waiting spaces in such tier or floor or part of a tier or floor should be included and for the purpose of this paragraph, any tea room, lounge, restaurant or foyer should be regarded as a waiting space.
- 25.7 Exit routes should be arranged so as to afford a ready means of egress from all parts of each tier or floor and should lead directly into thoroughfares or ways.
- 25.8 In theatres and music halls and other places of public entertainment where the principal fire risk is on the stage, the exit routes from each part of each tier or floor should be placed in a position remote from the stage.
- 25.9 All entrances and exit doors, other than pass doors in connexion with spaces in which persons await admission, should be arranged so as to be available for exit during the whole of the time that the public are on the place of public entertainment.

26. Staircases

- 26.1 Staircases intended for the use of the public from any tier or floor or part of a tier or floor capable of accommodating not more than 300 persons should be in no part less than 1.2 m wide and such staircases from any tier or floor or part of a tier or floor accommodating more than 300 persons should be in no part less than 1.5 m wide.

- 26.2 Staircases referred to in paragraph 26.1 should -
- (a) not have winders;
 - (b) be in flights of not more than 16 or less than 3 steps each;
 - (c) not have more than 2 successive flights without a turn; and
 - (d) if there are more than 12 steps in a flight, should not have more than one flight without a turn.
- 26.3 Where a flight of steps in a place of public entertainment returns the newel wall should be chased so as to allow the handrail to turn without projecting over the landing.
- 26.4 Any recess in the walls of a staircase should be defended by guardrails.

27. Barriers

- 27.1 Any barriers which may be provided for checking or controlling admission should be arranged so that the portions immediately in the line of exit open automatically upon pressure being applied in the direction of exit and so as not to reduce the width of the exit route. All fixed directional barriers to define the exit route should have adequate strength complying with the requirements in section 17(3) of the Building (Construction) Regulations.
- 27.2 Rope barriers should be fitted with automatic catches or slip connexions and should be arranged so as not to trail on the floor when parted and the fittings should not project into the gangway or exit route.

28. Chains and Padlocks

Chains or padlocks should not be used to secure exit doors. When any other locking mechanism is used, the doors should be capable of being opened from inside without using a key.

29. Gangways and Seatways

- 29.1 Gangways not less than 1.05 m wide should be provided. Such gangways should -
- (a) lead direct to the exit doors; and
 - (b) intersect the rows of seating in such a manner that no seat should be more than 3 m from a gangway measured in the line of seating.
- 29.2 Where steps are provided in intersecting gangways, suitable hand-grips should be provided at the ends of the seats.
- 29.3 There should be no projection into a gangway which diminish the clear width of the gangway.
- 29.4 There should be an unobstructed way or space at least 300mm in depth, measured between perpendiculars, between the back of each seat and the front of the seat immediately behind.

30. Non-slippery Surfaces

All gangways and exit routes and the treads of steps and staircases should have non-slippery surfaces.

31. Edges of Steps

The edges of the tread of steps and staircases should be conspicuous.

32. Exit from Stages

- 32.1 Where a permanent stage is provided in a place of public entertainment an exit should be provided from each side of the stage, and one of such exits should lead direct to a street.
- 32.2 An exit leading direct to a street should be provided from the stage basement.

33. Lighting

All portions of a place of public entertainment to which the public have access should be provided with artificial lighting providing a horizontal illuminance at floor level of not less than 30 lux and backed up by an emergency lighting system providing a horizontal illuminance at floor level of not less than 2 lux. The design of the emergency lighting system should comply with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment.

34. Temporary Buildings

The following requirements should apply to a temporary building which is intended to be used or which is licensed for a public entertainment :

- 34.1 There should be an unobstructed way or space of at least 300mm measured between perpendiculars between the back of one seat and the front of the seat immediately behind.
- 34.2 The seating should be fixed firmly to the ground, floor or decking and if separate chairs are used they should be securely battened together in lengths of not less than 4.
- 34.3 Gangways not less than 1.2m in width intersecting the rows of seating should be provided in such a manner that no seat should be more than 3m from a gangway measured in the line of seating, and there should be a gangway abutting each side of the building from which the exit ways should open.
- 34.4 Gangways not less than 1.2m in width at right angles to the longitudinal gangways required by paragraph 34.3 should also be provided in such a manner that the seating is divided into blocks not more than 9m in depth measured between perpendiculars between the front of the seats forming the front row and the back of the seats forming the back row of a block of seating.

- 34.5 Exit ways not less than 2.4 m in width should be provided in each side of the structure in such manner that there is one exit way at each end of a prolongation of the centre line of each of the gangways required by paragraph 34.4 and one such exit way is required at each end of a prolongation of a line 1.2 m in front of the first or front row of seating.
- 34.6 Such further exit ways as are considered necessary by the Building Authority should be provided from the area of the stage or the space provided for the performance.
- 34.7 Any door erected at the exit ways should open in the direction of exit and any fastening used for maintaining the doors closed should readily give way upon light pressure being applied by one person from inside.

