



# Health Act (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992

## Temporary Structures at Public Events Safety Guidelines

### Public Buildings

### Environmental Health Guide

There are no specific regulatory requirements for these stands. When they are erected at entertainment and sporting venues they require approval as part of a public building.

Set out below are guidelines for seating and other temporary structures that may be erected at public building venues.

When they are not subject to a building licence, they must be approved in accordance with the Health Act.

Section 176(2)(b) of the Health Act 1911 authorises the local authority to request anything that it may require to ensure that the venue, in this case the stand, is 'safe'.

#### 1. Application

An application to erect a stand must be made to the local authority. The application must be accompanied by:

- Full structural details, including size and spacing of all materials, method of jointing, sole plate dimensions etc;
- A block plan showing the position of the stand in relation to surrounding structures, toilets etc;
- Seating layout showing the relationship between seats and aisles and the total number of seats.

#### 2. Structural

Certification from a practising structural engineer should be provided to certify that the structure is suitable for the proposed use. It should be constructed in accordance with industry standards and methods.

#### 3. Footings

Most temporary structures do not have deep footings and merely sit on the ground. In these cases they should bear on a substantial hardwood base, recommended size 300mm x 200mm by 40mm thick. Smaller and/or soft wood types or bricks are not acceptable.

#### 4. Stairs

Steps:

- Going should be between 280mm and 355mm.
- Risers should be between 115mm and 190mm.

Steps within aisles must:

- Be the full width of the aisle.
- Be uniform in size (both the riser and going)

There shall be no more than 18 risers in a flight and no more than two flights with out a change in direction of at least 30 degrees.



## 4. Stairs (cont'd)

In some instances, because of sight lines it may be necessary to increase aisle risers to 200mm. If this occurs additional guard rails will be required. Risers in stairways or transverse aisles must never exceed 190mm.

Treads must be of solid construction (not mesh or perforated) and have a non-skid finish.

## 5. Guard Rails and Balusters

Every raised area of seating and any change in level which may present a hazard (e.g. drops of one metre or more) shall be provided with a balustrade. Where aisle risers are more than 190mm high, hand rails are required at each row of seats.

Balustrades and/or hand rails must be:

- 950mm above flood level (FFL);
- installed on both sides of stairways;
- installed on raised areas and landing which are 1000mm above the surrounding floor or ground.

Balusters must not present hand or toe holds between 150mm and 760mm above FFL or permit a 125mm diameter sphere to pass through.

## 6. Aisles

Minimum width of an aisle shall be 1000mm. Aisles are required on both sides of every row of seats that is more than nine seats long. No seat shall be more than six metres from an aisle.

## 7. Seating

The clearance between rows of seats shall be:

- 300mm if the distance to an aisle is less than nine seats.
- 500mm if the distance to an aisle is more than nine seats.

All seats shall be securely fixed to the floor unless fastened together in lengths of no less than six seats.

## 8. Lighting

Aisles and the tread of each step shall be illuminated whenever the venue is open to the public after sunset. Generally this will only apply to indoor stands used for theatrical applications.

## 9. Width of Plats

The minimum width of a plat for seated patrons is 950mm.

The minimum width of a plat for standing patrons is 600mm.

## 10. Kick Boards

Kick boards and infills are required for stair risers and between levels of plats.

## 11. Fire Hazards

Flammable material should not be installed on any stand. Flammable materials must not be stored under any stand. Stage curtains or fabric screens must be non-flammable. Materials that have a spread of flame index of no more than sic and a smoke developed index of no more than five are regarded as being suitable.



## 12. Exit Widths

Exits shall be designed to allow the stand to be evacuated within 2.5 minutes in an emergency.

There must be alternate means of egress from each stand e.g. in large stands at least two exists from the front and two towards the rear. The rear exit must be at least mid-way from the front of the stand and the stairs should discharge toward the rear

### EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR STANDS

No. of People	No. of Exits	Aggregate Width
0-1000	2	2000mm
1001-1500	3	3000mm
1501-2000	3	4000mm
2001-2500	4	5000mm
2501-3000	4	6000mm
3001-3500	5	7000mm
3501-4000	5	8000mm

## Further Information

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