
ENTERTAINMENTS (SAFETY) RULES.

**Subsidiary
1932.12.15**

Rules originally made under s.355 of the Public Health Act.

ENTERTAINMENTS (SAFETY) RULES

(1932.12.15)

31.12.1932

Amending enactments	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
Act. 1934-38		
Rules of 19.5.1943	r. 10	
16.4.1948	r. 51	
14.4.1954	r. 32(2)	
LN. 1980/128	r. 31	
2017/041	rr. 31(2), 35	2.3.2017

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ARRANGEMENT OF RULES.

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ENTERTAINMENTS (SAFETY) RULES.

Title.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Entertainments (Safety) Rules.

Interpretation.

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“licensed premises” means a house or other public place licensed to be kept or used for public dancing, music or other public entertainment of the like kind under the provisions of section 3 of the Act.

Gangways, passages and exits to be kept free of obstruction.

3. Chairs, seats or obstructions, whether fixed or movable, shall not be placed or allowed in any gangway, passage or exit of licensed premises, or in any part of such premises which may be used as an exit, and no person, except an official or servant of the licensee, shall be permitted to stand, sit or remain in any vestibule, passage, staircase, lobby, corridor, gangway or unseated space forming part of any exit way of such premises or to use the same for any purpose except that of passing to and from such premises or any part thereof.

Width of gangways.

4. Gangways shall be at least two feet six inches in width and double gangways at least four feet six inches in width and there shall be immediately opposite each exit a gangway running the whole length of the space occupied by seats.

Situation of orchestras.

5. Orchestras shall be kept clear of all gangways and shall be fenced off from the audience.

Chairs.

6. When chairs are used they shall be battened together in lengths of not less than four or more than twelve, and be so arranged that no chair is more than ten feet from a gangway. Where the licensed premises are to be used solely as a theatre or cinema all such seats shall be fastened to the floor.

Curtains.

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7. Any curtain covering a door or opening, or in any passage shall be hung on sliding rings and shall not be allowed to touch the floor. Carpets or druggets or any other floor covering shall be secured so as not to ruck.

Staircases and exits.

8. All staircases and exits shall be of such fire resisting material and construction as may be approved by the licensing authority.

No obstruction in exits.

9. No corridor or passage which is or may be an exit, or which leads to an exit, shall be used as a cloak room, and no pegs for hanging hats or cloaks shall be allowed therein.

Opening of doors.

10. All doors and barriers shall open outwards and shall only be fastened by means of an automatic bolt of a pattern approved by the licensing authority. No locks, bolts, hasps or catches other than such automatic bolt shall be allowed on any door used as a means of exit from licensed premises. The method of opening such doors or barriers must be clearly indicated upon them. All exit doors shall be thrown open for use at the close of every performance.

Lighting of exit notices.

11. The words "WAY OUT" and "SALIDA" in seven inch letters, so arranged and lighted by an approved illuminant as to be at all times easily visible to the audience, shall be kept posted at or over each exit door in view of the audience, not less than six feet nine inches from the floor, and, where practicable, arrows indicating the direction to the exit shall be painted in conspicuous places.

"No exit" notices.

12. With the exception of doors mentioned in rule 11, the words, "NO EXIT" and "NO HAY SALIDA" shall be painted in letters not less than three inches in height on any door which is in view of the audience and which does not lead to an exit.

Normal lighting.

13. Except as herein otherwise provided, electric light shall be used as the illuminant in licensed premises, and the arrangement shall be such that all

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passages and exit lights shall be controlled by a separate switchboard from the stage and auditorium lights.

Emergency lighting.

14. Emergency lights of an approved illuminant shall be lighted and kept burning in all passages, staircases, corridors and in the auditorium during the public entertainments.

Premises to be free from rubbish.

15. No accumulation of dirt, rubbish or other inflammable material shall be permitted to remain in any part of licensed premises.

Necessaries only to be stored in premises.

16. No scenery or properties except such as may be reasonably necessary for carrying on the immediate business of the licensed premises shall be stored in such premises.

Fireproof curtain.

17. In all licensed premises where there is a stage for stage plays, a fireproof curtain, to be approved by the licensing authority, shall be provided between the stage and auditorium and kept in good working order. The words "FIRE CURTAIN" and "TELON CONTRA INCENDIO" shall be exhibited on such curtain in sufficiently large letters as to be easily read from any part of the auditorium.

Control of curtain.

18. The fireproof curtain shall be lowered once at an early period during each performance and when the auditorium is fully lighted. The curtain shall be capable of control from at least two points, to be approved by the licensing authority, and no wire or any object or thing shall be placed or allowed which may obstruct or prevent the curtain from being freely lowered.

Fireproof curtains to be free of advertisements.

19. No announcements or advertisements shall be displayed on the fireproof curtain.

Curtain to be in order.

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20. If it is known before any performance that from any cause whatever the fireproof curtain is not in proper working order, no performance shall take place until the defect is remedied. Any curtain, sheet or other material used in connection with the proscenium opening shall be so fixed, hung or used that it shall not under any circumstances interfere or be capable of interfering, by reason of draught or otherwise, with the free working or lowering of the fireproof curtain.

Periodical examination of curtain.

21. Twice in each year, in the months of May and November, the fireproof curtain and all its fittings shall be thoroughly examined by a competent mechanic, to be appointed and paid by the licensee and such mechanic shall make a report in writing to the licensee who shall forward the same to the licensing authority. If, as the result of such examination, any repairs or renewals are necessary, the licensee shall at once carry them out.

Application of rules 17 to 21.

22. Rules 17 to 21 (both inclusive) shall not apply to a small hall accommodating not more than two hundred persons in which satisfactory exits are provided and special precautions taken to obviate danger in the event of fire on the stage.

Openings through proscenium wall.

23. Any door or other opening through the proscenium wall shall be kept shut and only used under conditions specially made for it by the licensing authority and painted legibly upon the door itself.

Certain material to be made fire-resisting.

24. Such woodwork as the licensing authority shall from time to time specify shall be painted with non-inflammable paint, but, in addition, the licensing authority may from time to time order other portions not so specified to be so painted. All scenery, wings, sky, borders, cloths, draperies, gauze cloths, floral decorations, properties, hangings and curtains used in the licensed premises, whether belonging to the premises or otherwise, shall be rendered and maintained fire-resisting as far as possible.

Use of non-inflammable material.

25. No inflammable cotton-wool or similar inflammable material shall be used for costumes or decorations in licensed premises.

26. *Revoked.*

Approved fire alarms.

27. A system, approved by the licensing authority, by which an alarm of fire can be immediately conveyed from the stage to the dressing rooms shall be provided and a notice relating to such system shall be exhibited in each dressing room.

Hatchets and other tools to be available for immediate use.

28. Hatchets, hooks and other appliances for taking down hanging scenery in case of fire shall always be kept in readiness for immediate use.

Electrical fittings.

29. All electric fittings, wiring and appliances shall comply with the special regulations for the wiring of buildings and shall be constructed and maintained to the approval of the licensing authority, and shall be under the supervision of a competent electrician, to be appointed by the licensee, and any alterations required shall be forthwith carried out by the licensing authority at the cost of the licensee.

30. *Revoked.*

Approved fire appliances.

31. (1) Fire appliances as approved of and required by the Chief Fire Officer shall be sited in the premises.

(2) The fire appliances shall be periodically inspected by the Chief Fire Officer or such member of the Fire and Rescue Service as he may appoint.

(3) The Chief Fire Officer shall inform the licensing authority of any defect disclosed at such inspection.

(4) The licensing authority shall serve on the licensee notice in writing of any defect disclosed at the inspection.

(5) On receipt of such notice the licensee shall forthwith remedy any defect set out therein.

32. *Revoked.*

Examination of exits and record thereof.

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33. A competent person, to be appointed by the licensee, shall examine before every performance the exits, staircases and fire extinguishing apparatus, and he shall enter and sign a report of such examination in a book kept for the purpose, as soon as practicable after the examination has been made, such book to be kept open to inspection by persons authorized by the licensing authority.

Telephone communication with fire station.

34. Direct automatic telephone communication shall be kept between the licensed premises and the Central Fire Station. The telephone shall be installed in such place as may be approved by the licensing authority so as to be available at all times during any public entertainment.

Inspection of licensed premises.

35. All parts of the licensed premises shall be open to inspection by any person nominated and authorized by the licensing authority in addition to the Chief Fire Officer or any member of the Fire and Rescue Service, at any time during any public entertainment or at any other reasonable time.

Cinematograph operating enclosure.

36. A cinematograph shall only be used in a closed box of iron, concrete or asbestos, or such other material as shall be approved by the licensing authority, and under such circumstances as shall be approved by the licensing authority.

Position of door into operating enclosure.

37. The door opening into the enclosure containing the cinematograph apparatus, or into the filmroom or store, shall not open directly into the auditorium or into any passage or space to which the audience have access.

Lanterns in enclosure to be clean.

38. Each lantern which is used in the enclosure shall be clean and in perfect working order.

Construction of projecting apparatus.

39. (1) The projecting apparatus shall be placed on firm supports constructed of fire-resisting material.

(2) Every lantern shall be fitted with a metal shutter which can readily be inserted by hand between the source of light and the film-gate, and

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every projector shall be fitted with a metal shutter so arranged as automatically to cut off the film-gate from the source of light when the projector stops.

(3) The construction of the film-gate shall be substantial and such as to afford ample heat-radiating surface. The passage for the film shall be sufficiently narrow to prevent flames travelling upwards or downwards from a light-opening.

Film boxes.

40. (1) Projectors shall be fitted with two metal boxes of substantial construction to and from which the film shall be made to travel, unless both the film spools are contained in a metal chamber of substantial construction below the projector. There shall not be more than 2,000 feet of film in either of the two metal boxes.

(2) The film boxes or chamber shall be made to close in such a manner, and shall be fitted with film slots so constructed, as to prevent the passage of flame to the interior of the box or chamber, and they shall remain so closed during the whole time that projection is taking place.

Take-up spools.

41. Take-up spools shall be mechanically driven and films shall be wound upon spools so that the wound film shall not at any time reach or project beyond the edges of the flanges of the spool.

Keeping of spools during projection.

42. During the projection all films when not in use shall be kept in closed metal boxes of substantial construction. When in the room in or from which the films are projected not more than six spools shall be kept in one box at the same time.

Rewinding chamber.

43. Films shall only be stored or rewound in a separate fireproof chamber or in such detached part of licensed premises and under such conditions, as may be approved by the licensing authority.

No smoking in certain places.

44. No smoking shall at any time be permitted within the enclosure or film room, or in any part of licensed premises in which scenery is stored, or films are stored or wound, or behind the stage, or in the wings or dressing rooms.

Enclosure and film room to be kept clean and tidy.

45. No rubbish or waste paper shall be deposited or allowed to accumulate in the enclosure or in the film room or store which shall at all times be clean and tidy.

Approved lantern and fittings not to be changed.

46. When any lantern or any fitting in connection therewith have been inspected and approved by the licensing authority, such lantern or fittings shall not be changed for any other lantern or fittings nor shall any alterations be made therein until such last-mentioned lantern or fittings or alterations have been so inspected and approved:

Provided that in the case of the breakdown of a lantern another lantern of a similar pattern may at once be temporarily substituted, but in such case the licensee shall within twenty-four hours give notice of such substitution to the licensing authority.

Commissioner of Police may in certain cases suspend entertainment.

47. In the event of any defect or irregularity being discovered in licensed premises, or in any of the fittings or arrangements, which increases the risk of danger to the audience or the persons employed therein, the Commissioner of Police, may, in his discretion, forthwith suspend any public entertainment which is taking place or may be about to take place, and he shall at once notify such action to the licensing authority and, such defects not being forthwith remedied by the licensee, the licensing authority shall have power to order the premises to be closed until the same be remedied.

Waiting-rooms.

48. The licensee shall ensure that there is no overcrowding in the waiting-rooms by persons who are not attending performances. Such rooms shall be labelled "WAITING ROOM" and "SALON DE ESPERA," and no scenery shall be stored therein. No advertisements shall be hung in the immediate vicinity of lights other than electric lights.

Premises to be ventilated during the day.

49. The licensed premises shall be opened and kept open on every day on which they are to be used for a public entertainment during at least two hours between the hours of ten in the morning and five in the afternoon for the purpose of thorough ventilation and the admission of sunlight.

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Premises not to be altered without approval.

50. No alteration, whether in construction or re-arrangement of any detail, or otherwise, shall be made in licensed premises without the consent of the licensing authority.

Private performances.

51. Licensees shall notify to the Chief Fire Officer and the Commissioner of Police the date and hour when any entertainment is to take place in a licensed building.

Notices on programmes and screen.

52. Notices relating to matters connected with the safety of the public may be required by the licensing authority to be printed on the programmes, and where the premises are used as a cinema the licensing authority may require such notices to be exhibited on the screen at such times as he may specify.

53. *Omitted.*

Rules to be posted in conspicuous place.

54. A printed copy of these Rules shall be posted up in some conspicuous place in each of the several parts of licensed premises.