



# Public Building Auditoriums

## Seating Requirements and Fire Indices

### Public Buildings

### Environmental Health Guide

These requirements have been extracted from the current regulations, ie, Building Code of Australia and the Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992

#### Aisles

- Aisles are required on both side of every row of seats that is more than 10 seats;
- There shall be no more than 42 seats between aisles;
- Steps within aisles must:
  - Be the full width of the aisle, minimum aisle width 1 metre;
  - Be uniform in size (both the riser and going);
  - Going shall be between 280mm and 355mm;
  - Risers shall be between 115mm and 190mm.

#### Clearance Between Rows

The clearance between rows of seats shall be:

- 300mm if the distance to an aisle is less than 3.5 metres, ie 8 seats; or
- 500mm if the distance to an aisle is more than 3.5 metres.

#### Lighting

For venues where the lighting is normally dimmed or extinguished:

- Aisles and the tread of each step shall be illuminated whenever the venue is open to the public
- The aisle lighting shall be connected to the emergency lighting so that in the event of the aisle lighting failing, the emergency lighting is automatically energised.

#### Fixing Arrangements

Unless otherwise approved by the local authority all seats shall be securely fixed to the floor unless fastened together in lengths of no less than 4 seats.

#### Fire Hazard Indices

1. Any material used in the seats must have:
  - A spread of flame index of 0
  - A smoke developed index of no more than 5.
2. Any ceiling finish, lining surface or attachment must have:
  - A spread of flame index of no more than 6
  - A smoke developed index of no more than 3



## Fire Hazard Indices (cont'd)

3. Any wall finish, lining, surface or attachment must have:
  - o A spread of flame index of no more than 6
  - o A smoke developed index of no more than 5
4. Any floor finish, lining surface or attachment must have:
  - o A spread of flame index of no more than 7
  - o A smoke developed index of no more than 5

## Further Information

Environmental Health Directorate  
Department of Health  
PO Box 8172  
Perth Business Centre  
Perth WA 6849.

Phone: (08) 9388 4999  
Fax: (08) 9388 4955

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