



**SUBCHAPTER 8  
PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

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8-1 Determination of Exit and Access Requirements

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL**

**\*\*\*§[C26-800.1] 27-522 Scope. -**

The provisions of this subchapter shall control the design and construction of places of assembly as defined in subchapter two of this chapter. For specific classifications of assembly occupancies, see article eight of subchapter three of this chapter. For place of assembly permit requirements, see section 27-525.1 of article two of this subchapter.

\*\*\**Local Law 23-1990.*

**§[C26-800.2] 27-523 Definitions. -**

For definitions to be used in the interpretation of this subchapter, see subchapter two of this chapter.

**§[C26-800.3] 27-524 Tents and air supported structures.-**

Places of assembly enclosed by tents or air supported structures shall comply with the provisions of this subchapter regulating indoor places of assembly, and with the provisions of article nineteen of subchapter seven of this chapter.

**ARTICLE 2 BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

**§[C26-801.1] 27-525 General. -**

The provisions of this article shall apply to all places of assembly, in addition to the specific requirements of articles three through five of this subchapter for the several categories of places of assembly.

**\*\*§27-525.1 Place of assembly permit. -**

a. It shall be unlawful to use or occupy any building or premises or part thereof as a place of assembly unless and until a permit therefor shall have been issued by the department. The permit shall be for a term of one year.

b. The application for such permit and such permit shall be in a form prescribed by the commissioner.

c. The annual fee for a permit issued pursuant to this section shall be the amount provided for in paragraph seven of subdivision a of section 26-214 of the code. An application for such permit or renewal thereof shall be accompanied by the annual fee, except as otherwise provided in section 26-210 of the code.

d. The permit issued pursuant to this section shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the place of assembly, which is covered by such permit.

e. In the case of a permittee that is an establishment that offers for sale food and/or beverages for on-premises consumption, but not including establishments operated by a not-for-profit corporation, and employs or uses the services of a security guard, as that term is defined in subdivision six of section eighty nine-f of the general business law, such permittee shall comply with the provisions of article 7-A of the

general business law, shall obtain proof that such security guard is registered pursuant to article 7-A of the general business law, shall maintain such proof in a readily available location, in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner during all hours in which such place of assembly is open to the public, shall maintain a roster of all security guards working at any given time when such place of assembly is open to the public, and shall require each security guard to maintain on his or her person proof of registration at all times when on the premises.

f. For purposes of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that a person employed or whose services are retained at a place of assembly whose job functions include (1) the monitoring or guarding of the entrance or exit of such place of assembly to manage ingress and egress to such place of assembly for security purposes during the hours of operation of such establishment and/or (2) protection of such place of assembly from disorderly or other unlawful conduct by such patrons is a security guard provided, however, that such rebuttable presumption shall not apply to the owner of such establishment as described in subdivision e of this section that has received a place of assembly permit.

g. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, only the permittee shall be liable for violations of this section that relate to a permittee's obligations regarding security guards.

h. In addition to employees of the department, employees of the police department and the department of consumer affairs shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section regarding security guards.

i. The enforcement agency shall report any violation of the provisions of this section relating to security guards to the state liquor authority if the permittee holds a license pursuant to the alcoholic beverage control law.

*\*\*Local Law 35-2006; Local Law 23-1990.*

**§[C26-801.2] 27-526 Location. -**

No place of assembly shall be located within two hundred fifty feet of any occupancy containing explosive contents.

**§[C26-801.3] 27-527 Posted capacity. -**

Signs shall be posted in all assembly spaces, indicating the number of persons who may legally occupy the space. Signs shall not be required where seating is fixed in place in accordance with an approved seating plan and no provision is made for standee spaces. Such signs, where required, shall read as follows:

OCCUPANCY BY MORE THAN \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS  
IS DANGEROUS AND UNLAWFUL

Public Assembly License No \_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner,  
(where applicable) Dept. of Buildings, City of New

When a space is occupied for multiple purposes involving different occupant loads the sign shall read as follows:

OCCUPANCY BY MORE THAN  
(number) \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS AS \_\_\_\_\_ (type of occupancy) \_\_\_\_\_  
OR BY  
(number) \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS AS \_\_\_\_\_ (type of occupancy) \_\_\_\_\_  
OR BY  
(number) \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS AS \_\_\_\_\_ (type of occupancy) \_\_\_\_\_  
IS DANGEROUS AND UNLAWFUL

Public Assembly License No \_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner,  
(where applicable) Dept. of Buildings, City of New York

Signs shall be at least twelve inches wide and sixteen inches high. The lettering shall be red on a white background. The letters shall be at least one inch high and the numerals at least one and one-quarter inches high. Signs shall be framed under a transparent protective cover, and permanently mounted in a location that is conspicuously visible to a person entering the space. Signs shall be lighted by artificial illumination at all times during occupancy to maintain at least five foot candles on the surface of the sign.

**§[C26-801.4] 27-528 Approved seating plans. -**

In every place of assembly providing seating, copies of approved seating plans and approved alternate seating plans shall be kept on the premises. The plans shall be readily available for inspection, and shall provide the following information:

**(a) For assembly spaces:**

- (1) The location of each seat of each tier of seating, along with the number of occupants of each seating section.
- (2) The location and number of standees for each standee area.
- (3) The total number of occupants of each tier and of the assembly space.
- (4) The location and classification of all exits.

**(b) For safe areas:**

- (1) The furniture and equipment arrangement and location.
- (2) The number of occupants to be accommodated.

**(c) For stage areas:**

- (1) The maximum number of occupants, including audience seating on the stage.
- (2) Any conditions limiting the use of the stage area.
- (3) The location of all exits.

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These plans shall not be smaller in size than required for one-eighth inch scale plans.

**§[C26-801.5] 27-529 Enclosure and interior finish. -** Places of assembly shall be separated from adjoining occupancies by construction meeting the requirements of table 5-1 or table 5-2, whichever may apply. The interior finish of places of assembly shall meet the requirements of table 5-4.

**§[C26-801.6] 27-530 Means of egress. -** Places of assembly shall be provided with exit facilities meeting all of the requirements of this subchapter and all of the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter. A place of assembly located in a building classified in another occupancy group shall comply with the exit requirements of this subchapter, but may use the exit facilities of the building of which it is a part as a means of egress from the building.

**§[C26-801.7] 27-531 Seating in assembly spaces. -** All seating in assembly spaces shall conform to the following:

**(a) Seating arrangements.-** Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, all seating shall be arranged in rows to provide for orderly egress.

**(1) CHAIR SEATING. -** Seating patterns employing individual chairs shall comply with the following:

a. Assembly spaces in which the net floor area, exclusive of stage area, is less than eight square feet per person shall be provided with chairs that are rigidly anchored to the construction or fixed in place by devices that prevent movement in any direction, except that not more than twelve movable chairs may be provided in a box or loge if such box or loge is separated from the main seating pattern by railings or other permanent construction and has an area of at least five square feet per chair.

b. In assembly spaces where the net floor area, exclusive of stage area, is between eight and twelve square feet per person, movable chairs may be used provided all chairs in a row between aisles are fastened or ganged together to preserve the integrity of the row. Not more than twelve chairs shall be used in any row between aisles.

c. In assembly spaces where net floor area, exclusive of stage area, is more than twelve square feet per person, individual movable chairs may be used.

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Not more than twelve chairs shall be used in any row between aisles.

d. All chairs placed on stepped platforms less than four feet wide shall be anchored or fixed in place.

e. The minimum distance between centerlines of chairs in the same row shall be nineteen inches.

f. The spacing between the back of one chair in any row and any part of the chair in the row behind it, including arm blocks, when the seat is in the lift-up position for automatic operation or in the horizontal position for nonlift-up or nonautomatic operation, when measured horizontally between plumb lines, shall be at least twelve inches, and this spacing shall be increased for any of the following reasons:

1. Where a difference in floor level occurs between any two rows, the spacing shall be increased as follows:

Difference in Level (in.)	Increase in Space (in)
6-10, plus any fraction of an inch..	1
11-16, plus any fraction of an inch	2
17-22, plus any fraction of an inch	3
23 and over.....	4

2. Where it is necessary from any location to pass more than seven chairs to reach the nearest aisle, spacing shall be increased one-quarter of an inch for each chair in excess of seven.

g. Not more than eight chairs shall be provided in any row of seating having access to only one aisle except as provided below for bleacher and platform seating.

\*h. Performance viewing positions shall be provided for persons who use wheelchairs in accordance with the following schedule.

\* *Local Law 58-1987.*

Capacity of Assembly Space	Number of Viewing Positions
75 to 100.....	.....minimum 4
101 to 150.....	.....minimum 5
151 to 200.....	.....minimum 6
201 to 300.....	.....7
301 to 400.....	.....8
401 to 500.....	.....9
501 to 1000.....	2 percent of total
Over 1000.....	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

These positions shall be located so as not to interfere with egress from any row of seats and shall be reachable by means of ramps and/or elevators. Steps shall not be allowed in line of travel from the main approach entry to the designated locations. Size and placement of wheelchair locations, surfaces, access to

performing area and listening systems where required, shall comply with the provisions of reference standard RS 4-6. These positions may be utilized by persons who do not use wheelchairs provided that the positions are delineated on the approved seating plans, the seating is readily removable and the positions are unsold one full working day before the performance.

(2) BLEACHER SEATING. - Fixed or folding bleachers shall comply with the following:

a. For the purpose of determining occupant load, individual seat space width shall be assumed to be eighteen inches. There shall be a space of at least fourteen and one-half inches between the back edge of each seat and the front edge of the seat immediately behind it when measured between plumb lines.

b. The width of footboards and seat boards shall be at least nine and one-half inches. Where wider seat boards are provided, the space between seats may be reduced by an amount equivalent to the increase in width.

c. Sections having not more than ten consecutive rows of seating shall not require aisles. Where there are more than ten consecutive rows, aisles shall be provided at the ends of seat rows, the minimum spacing between seat rows shall be increased to sixteen inches and the required space between seat rows shall be increased by one-quarter of an inch for each seat in excess of seven that it is necessary to pass to reach an aisle. Cross aisles shall be provided at the bottom of each section of seating.

d. Bleacher seating shall be constructed to comply with the requirements of subchapters nine and ten of this chapter

(3) PLATFORM SEATING. - Stepped platforms used for seating without chairs shall comply with the following:

a. For the purpose of determining occupant load, individual seat space width shall be assumed to be eighteen inches.

b. Platforms shall be at least twenty-eight inches deep from front to back.

c. Platform depth shall be increased one-quarter of an inch for each seat in excess of seven that it is necessary to pass to reach an aisle.

d. Aisles complying with section 27-532 of this article shall be provided when the height between levels of platform seating exceeds eight inches

(4) BENCH SEATING. - Bench or pew seating, with or without backs, may be used when complying with the applicable requirements for chair seating in [sic] paragraph one of this subdivision. For the purpose of determining occupant load, individual seat space width shall be assumed to be eighteen inches.

(5) TABLE AND CHAIR SEATING. - Tables and chairs shall be so arranged that the distance from any chair at any table by way of a path between tables and chairs is not greater than eighteen feet to an aisle

leading to an exit. The width of the path shall be at least eighteen inches, except that it may be reduced by one inch for each one foot that the distance to the aisle is less than eighteen feet but may not be reduced to less than twelve inches. Chairs, when placed with the front edge of the seat on a line with the edge of the table, shall not protrude into the path. Booths containing up to eight seats may be used, provided they open directly on an aisle.

(6) COUNTER SEATING. - Counters at which food or beverages are consumed shall be attached to the floor. Fixed or movable chairs or stools may be provided. The number of occupants shall be determined on the basis of one occupant for each eighteen inches of counter length. The width of aisles bordering counters shall be measured excluding a depth of eighteen inches for chair or stool spaces.

(7) STANDEE AREAS. - Standee areas may be permitted within assembly spaces provided each standee space has a minimum width of twenty-two inches and a minimum depth of twenty-one inches. Standee areas shall not encroach on the required exit facilities and shall be separated from the space to be left clear for passage by tape, ribbon or other easily broken material, supported by lightweight posts fixed in stationary sockets, so constructed and placed as to not constitute an obstruction in case of panic or emergency.

(8) PROTECTIVE GUARDS. - Protective guards shall be provided for seating and standee areas as follows:

a. A protective guard at least thirty inches high above the floor shall be provided along the fascia of all balconies, loges, and boxes, except that the guard shall be at least thirty-six inches high at the bottom of stepped aisles. When rails or other parts of such guards are designed with ledges more than two and one-half inches wide, the top surface of the ledges shall slope down toward the seating area at an angle of at least thirty degrees from the horizontal. The guards shall provide an unperforated curb or toeguard at least twelve inches high above the level of the floor of the balcony, loge, or box.

b. A protective guard at least thirty inches high above the floor shall be provided at cross aisles where fixed seat backs of any adjacent lower level do not project at least twenty-four inches above the cross aisle level.

c. A protective guard at least eighteen inches high above the floor shall be provided along the front edge of any stepped platform where fixed seat backs of the adjacent lower level do not project at least eighteen inches above the stepped platform level.

d. A protective guard at least twenty-six inches high above seat level shall be provided at the open ends of bleacher seating, extending from the front of the third row of seats to the back of the

highest row of seats, and continuously along the rear of the seating, except where the seating is adjacent to a wall.

e. Guards shall be designed to meet the load requirements for railings in subchapter nine of this chapter.

**§[C26-801.8] 27-532 Aisles and cross aisles. -**

Assembly spaces shall be served by aisles, cross aisles, or other unobstructed floor areas providing access to exits, except as permitted for bleacher seating in paragraph two of subdivision (a) of section 27-531 of this article.

(a) The capacity of aisles and cross aisles shall be adequate to serve all persons for whom they provide a primary path of travel to an exit. (See section 27-533 of this article.)

(1) CAPACITY. - The capacity of aisles and cross aisles shall be as listed in table 8-1. The unit of exit width shall be twenty-two inches. Seats or other facilities shall not project into an aisle or cross aisle so as to reduce the width of the aisle or cross aisle more than one inch per unit of exit width.

(2) MINIMUM WIDTH. - Aisles and cross aisles shall have a minimum width of forty-four inches except that the width may be at least thirty-six inches under any one or more of the following conditions:

a. In any assembly space having a total of not more than three hundred occupants.

b. When not more than the number of persons permitted for one unit of exit width is served.

c. At the narrowest point when a tapered aisle is permitted under paragraph three of this subdivision.

d. When an aisle parallels and is alongside an enclosure wall or partition that is provided with exit doors spaced not more than sixteen feet on centers, provided such aisle serves only the rows of seats adjacent to it

(3) TAPERED AISLES. - Tapered aisles shall be used where egress is provided only at one end of the aisle, except that uniform aisles may be used when their width for the entire length will accommodate eighty percent of the total occupant load served by the aisle. Tapered aisles shall be widened gradually so that their width at the point of discharge provides for the entire occupant load of the aisle.

(4) UNIFORM AISLES. - Aisles of uniform width shall be used where egress is provided at both ends of an aisle by either cross aisles or exit doors. The width of uniform aisles shall not be less than required for sixty percent of the total occupant load served by the aisles.

(5) AISLE WIDTH AT OPENINGS. - When an aisle or cross aisle discharges directly into exit openings, a space shall be provided in front of such openings that is at least as wide as such openings and at least as deep as the width of the aisle or cross aisle.

(6) CROSS AISLES. - Cross aisles, at any point shall not be closer than twelve feet to a stage area

using scenery or scenic elements. Steppings shall not be permitted in cross aisles.

(7) AISLE GRADIENTS AND STEPPINGS. - The floors of aisles shall have a gradient of not more than one in eight. Where differences in levels require a greater gradient, steps shall be used, complying with the following:

a. When one riser only is used between levels of platforms, its height shall not exceed eight inches, and where more than one riser is used, none shall exceed seven and three-quarter inches.

b. No riser shall be less than four inches high.

c. No riser shall vary from the height of the riser immediately above or below except that risers that are separated by a tread of seventeen inches or more may vary up to one-quarter inch.

d. The width of treads of intermediate steps between platform levels shall be at least nine and one-half inches, but not more than ten and one-half inches, exclusive of nosings.

e. Treads at the level of platforms and seventeen inches or more in width may slope not more than one-quarter inch in twelve inches.

f. No steps shall be used to enter a row of seats from an aisle unless an unobstructed floor space of at least seven square feet is provided at the level of the aisle, between the aisle and the steps.

g. Each step in an aisle shall be marked along its nosing with a permanent contrasting color stripe, and shall be provided with a step light.

h. The line of risers of aisle steppings shall deviate no more than twenty degrees from a line perpendicular to the centerline of the aisle.

(8) STEPPED AISLE LANDINGS. - Stepped aisles shall

be provided with landings at exit openings, and shall have a length equal to at least the width of the aisle and a slope of not more than one in twelve.

(9) LIGHTING. - Aisles and cross aisles shall be provided at all times with at least one-half foot candle of artificial illumination by electrical means.

(10) VOMITORIES. - Vomitories within assembly spaces shall comply with all of the requirements for aisles, and shall have a clear ceiling height of at least seven feet.

**§[C26-801.9] 27-533 Travel distance. -**

At least one exit opening shall be available from every attached seat or standee space in an assembly space, or from the most remote point in the space when movable seats are provided or, when no seats are provided, within the primary travel distance limitation listed in table 8-1. In addition, an alternate exit opening shall be available from every attached seat or standee space, or from the most remote point when attached seats are not provided within the secondary travel distance limitation listed in

table 8-1. Such alternate exit openings may serve to satisfy the requirements for primary travel distance for other seats or locations. Exit openings satisfying the primary and secondary travel distance requirements for any one seat or location shall be separated from each other by a distance of at least twenty-five feet.

(a) Travel distance shall be the measured distance along centerlines of paths of travel to the centerline of the exit opening, as adjusted by penalties for multi-directional or stepped travel as provided below.

(1) No path of travel shall be permitted through rows of seating other than the first leg of travel from a seat to an aisle.

(2) The first thirty-five feet of a primary path of travel and a secondary path of travel may be common to each other except that this distance may be increased to fifty feet in F-2 places of assembly.

(3) Not more than three changes in direction of travel shall be permitted in the path of travel to an exit opening. A change in direction shall be deemed to occur when it is necessary to change direction by a forty-five degrees or greater angle, measured from the preceding line of travel, except that it shall not be considered as a change in direction when it is necessary in an aisle or cross aisle to travel in another direction not more than seven feet.

(4) Travel distance shall be the sum of the distances of all segments of travel to the exit, computed as follows:

Segment	Length
First leg of travel	Measured distance
Second leg of travel after first change in direction	Measured distance
Third leg of travel after second change in direction	1.25 times measured distance
Fourth leg of travel after third change in direction	1.40 times measured distance
Any leg of travel with four or more steps	1.25 times length of segment as computed above

**§[C26-801.10] 27-534 Exit openings. -**

Exit openings from assembly spaces shall comply with the following:

(a) **Capacity.** - The capacity of exit openings shall be listed as in table 8-1, based on the number of occupants for whom the opening satisfies the primary travel distance requirement.

(b) **Width.** - Exit openings shall be at least thirty-six inches wide for single doors and at least sixty-six inches but not more than eighty-eight inches wide for doors swinging in pairs, except that in assembly spaces having an occupant load of over three hundred persons, single door openings shall be at least forty-four inches wide.

**TABLE 8-1 DETERMINATION OF EXIT AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS**

Occupancy Group Classification	Maximum Travel Distance Within Assembly Space (ft.) <sup>a</sup>		Capacity (number of persons per unit of width)				
	Primary	Secondary	Aisle and Cross Aisle <sup>e</sup>	Doors or Openings		Stairs and Escalators	Ramps, Corridors, Safe Areas, Exit Passageways
				From Assembly Space	From Safe Area		
F-1a <sup>b</sup>	85	125	80	50	100	60	80
F-1b <sup>c</sup>	100	125	90	80	125	80	100
F2	175	250	400	400	500	320	425
F3	100 <sup>d</sup>	125 <sup>d</sup>	90	80	125	80	100
F4	85 <sup>d</sup>	125 <sup>d</sup>	80	50	100	60	80

**Notes:**

- <sup>a</sup> See section 27-533. When an exit opening from an assembly space discharges into corridor that does not meet the requirements of this code for a safe area, the travel distance shall include the distance within the corridor to an exit.
- <sup>b</sup> See paragraph four of subdivision (b) of section 27-546 for stages.
- <sup>c</sup> See paragraph three of subdivision (b) of section 27-547 for stages.
- <sup>d</sup> In place of assembly completely equipped with automatic sprinklers, this distance may be increased fifty percent.
- <sup>e</sup> See section 27-532.

\* **Bracket not enacted but probably intended.**

**(c) Classification.** - Exit openings from assembly spaces shall be classified as follows:

Class 1.- Exit openings that are used for normal entry to the assembly space, and that open directly to a safe area or to an open exterior space.

Class 2.-Exit openings that are not used for normal entry to the assembly space, and that open directly to a safe area or to an open exterior space.

Class 3.-Exit openings that open from the assembly space into corridors, exit passageways, or vertical exits.

**(d) Distribution of classes.** - The required exit capacity from F-2 places of assembly, and from all other assembly spaces in which the net floor area, exclusive of stage area, is twelve square feet or more per person may be provided by exit openings of any class. The required exit capacity from assembly spaces in which the net floor area, exclusive of stage area, is less than twelve square feet per person shall be distributed so that exit openings of each class are provided to comply with the following requirements:

1. For assembly spaces in which the mean floor level is not more than fifteen feet above or below the adjoining grade elevation, the exit capacity shall be distributed as follows:

- Class 1- not less than forty percent
- Class 2- not more than sixty percent
- Class 3- not more than forty percent

2. For assembly spaces in which the mean floor

level is more than fifteen feet, but not more than thirty feet, above or below the adjoining grade elevation, the exit capacity shall be distributed as follows:

- Class 1 - not less than sixty percent
- Class 3 - not more than forty percent

3. For assembly spaces in which the mean floor level is more than thirty feet above or below the adjoining grade elevation, the exit capacity shall be distributed as follows:

Class 1- not less than one hundred percent

**(e) Location.** - No exit opening shall be closer than twelve feet to any part of a stage using scenery or scenic elements. All exit openings shall be clearly identifiable and shall not be disguised as part of a wall or covered in any way to obscure them from view. Where, because of the configuration of the assembly space enclosure, an exit opening is not visible from all seats using it as a means of egress, directional exit signs shall be placed on the enclosure alongside the exit opening to indicate its location. These signs shall be in addition to those required over the exit opening.

**(f) Locking.** - No exit door shall be locked so as to prevent egress from an assembly space while it is occupied.

**§[C26-801.11] 27-535 Safe areas. –**

Safe areas shall comply with the following:

(a) When provided to serve class one or class two exit openings safe areas shall be separated from assembly spaces by noncombustible construction having a two hour fire-resistance rating, and shall serve as transition areas in the line and direction of exit travel. They shall serve for normal entry to the assembly space and may be used as corridors, lobbies, or lounges. No room or space classified in occupancy group A, B-1, D-1, or D-2 shall open upon a safe area. Safe areas shall be at a level not more than six feet above or below the level at which egress is made from the assembly space, except that a separate safe area shall not be required for any assembly space having an occupant load of less than one hundred fifty persons and which is served by a safe area of another assembly space, when such safe area is in the direction of egress. Ventilating systems for safe areas shall not be connected to systems serving any other spaces, unless separated from such systems by fire dampers actuated by smoke detectors meeting the construction requirements of subchapter thirteen of this chapter.

**(1) COLLECTING SAFE AREAS. -**

Places of assembly having more than one assembly space may have a collecting safe area that receives the occupant load discharged into it by other safe areas. Collecting safe areas shall be located within six feet above or below the assembly space nearest to grade.

**(2) OCCUPANT LOAD. -** The occupant load of a safe area shall be the aggregate occupant load of all exit openings discharging directly into it. The occupant load of a collecting safe area shall be the aggregate occupant load of all exit openings discharging directly into it, plus fifty percent of the occupant load of other safe areas discharging into it.

**(3) DIMENSIONS.-** Except as provided in subdivision four of this section, the clear unobstructed floor area of each safe area shall be sufficient to accommodate the total occupant load of the safe area on the basis of two square feet per person, not including space occupied by furniture or equipment. The minimum dimension of such unobstructed space shall be eight feet. The width of the unobstructed space shall be measured at right angles to the direction of travel to an exit and shall not be less than required for the occupant load, on the basis of the exit capacity listed in table 8-1. The height of safe areas shall be at least eight feet at all points.

**(4) SAFE AREAS NEAR GRADE. -** When a safe area provides egress to an open exterior space, either directly or through a vestibule, the safe area need not provide the floor area required by subdivision three of this section when the level of discharge from the safe area to the open exterior space is not more than four feet above or below the grade of the open exterior space.

**(5) RAMPS AND STEPS. -** Ramps in safe areas shall have a gradient of not more than one in twelve, except that when not exceeding six feet in length, the gradient may be not greater than one in ten. Steps in safe areas shall comply with the following requirements:

a. No riser shall be less than six inches nor more than seven and one-half inches high.

b. No riser shall vary in height from the riser immediately above or below it.

c. Treads in flights of steps shall be at least ten and one-half inches wide exclusive of nosing, and, except as provided in paragraph d of this subdivision, the sum of two risers plus the width of one tread shall be at least twenty-four inches but not more than twenty-five and one-half inches.

d. No change in levels shall have less than three risers, except that where the intervening tread is between twenty-eight inches and thirty-six inches, two risers may be used when the edge of each tread is marked by a contrasting color stripe.

e. Where exit openings from an assembly space are above or below the level of the safe area, a platform shall be provided at the same level as that of the exit opening. The platform shall be at least one foot wider on each side than the exit opening, and shall extend a minimum of six feet in the direction of exit travel. The sides of such platforms, and of steps or ramps leading from them, shall be protected by guards at least three feet high.

**(6) EXITS FROM SAFE AREAS. -** The capacity of exits from safe areas shall be as listed in table 8-1.

Exit openings from safe areas shall discharge into exit types as provided in subchapter six of this chapter.

**(7) DOOR HARDWARE. -** Doors from safe areas or from exits from safe areas opening directly to the outdoors and furnished with locks shall be equipped with fire exit bolts complying with the requirements of paragraph two of subdivision (k) of section 27-371 of subchapter six of this chapter.

**§[C26-801.12] 27-536 Corridors. -**

Corridors shall comply with all of the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter, except as modified below:

**(a) Capacity. -** The capacity of corridors shall be as listed in table 8-1.

**(b) Changes in level. -** Changes in level requiring less than three risers in a corridor shall be by a ramp having a slope not greater than one in ten.

**§[C26-801.13] 27-537 Exit passageways. –**

Exit passageways shall comply with all of the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter, except as modified below:

**(a) Capacity. -** The capacity of exit passageways shall be as listed in table 8-1.

**(b) Changes in level. -** Changes in level requiring less than three risers in an exit passageway shall be by a ramp having a slope not greater than one in ten.

**§[C26-801.14] 27-538 Vertical exits. –**

Stairs, escalators and ramps shall comply with all of the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter, except as modified below:

**(a) Capacity.** - The capacity of stairs, escalators or ramps shall be as listed in table 8-1.

**(b) Width.** - The minimum width of stairs shall be at least forty-four inches, except that where the total occupant load is not more than permitted for one unit of exit width, the minimum width may be thirty-six inches.

**(c) Unenclosed vertical exits.** - Vertical exits leading directly from one safe area to another, or leading from a safe area directly to an open exterior space, need not be enclosed.

**(d) Ramp slope.** - Ramps serving as vertical exits shall not have a slope greater than one in ten.

**§[C26-801.15] 27-539 Open exterior spaces.** -

**(a) Capacity.** - Open exterior spaces shall be adequate in width and area to accommodate the accumulated occupant load of all exits discharging into them on the basis of two square feet per person.

**(b) Minimum dimensions.** - The minimum dimensions of open exterior spaces shall be twenty feet, except that when the principal entrance to the place of assembly is from an open exterior space, the minimum dimension of this space shall be thirty feet. No open exterior space shall have less than four hundred square feet of floor area, and floor area shall be measured exclusive of the following:

1. The area immediately outside any exit door from the place of assembly for a distance perpendicular to the exit doors of ten feet for the full width of the exit opening.

2. The area of steps, platforms, stairs, or ramps within or leading to or from the space.

3. The area of obstructions such as shrubs, trees, fixed furniture, signs, sculptures, pools, and similar obstructions to occupancy or exit travel.

**(c) Above or below grade.** - When an open exterior space is more than fifteen feet above or below the grade of the street or public space to which it discharges, its required area shall be increased by one-third.

**(d) Egress from open exterior spaces.** - Exterior exit passageways, ramps, or steps leading from open exterior spaces shall be not less in width than required for the occupant load of all exits discharging into the open exterior space. The width of such exit passageways shall be based on the capacities listed in table 8-1, but in no case less than ten feet. Ramps and steps shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (e) of subdivision five of section 27-535 of this article.

**§[C26-801.16] 27-540 Exit lighting.** - In addition to the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter, lighting shall be provided in the following areas:

**(a) Safe areas.** - Safe areas shall be artificially

lighted by electrical means at all times during occupancy of a place of assembly so as to provide illumination of at least five foot candles at the level of the floor and on the surface of all stairs, steps, ramps, and escalators within the safe area.

**(b) Open exterior spaces.** -Yards or courts which serve as open exterior spaces shall be artificially lighted by electrical means at all times between sunset and sunrise during occupancy of a place of assembly so as to provide illumination of at least five foot candles at the level of the floor over at least the required area.

**§[C26-801.17] 27-541 Exit signs.** -

Signs meeting the requirements of subchapter six of this chapter and subdivision (e) of section 27-534 of this article shall be provided in all assembly spaces to indicate the location of exits and, where necessary, the direction to the exits. All exit or directional signs shall be placed so that they are clearly visible from all parts of the assembly spaces, and the bottom of all signs shall be at least seven feet above floor level. Signs shall be of the internally lighted type in all assembly spaces where the general illumination is reduced to less than five foot candles during a performance or during occupancy. Signs shall be lighted at all times during occupancy.

**§[C26-801.18] 27-542 Emergency lighting.** -

All assembly spaces shall be provided with emergency lighting facilities sufficient to provide at least five foot candles of illumination at the floor level. Such lighting shall be on circuits that are separate from the general lighting and power circuits, either taken off ahead of the main switch or connected to a separate emergency lighting power source, and be arranged to operate automatically in the event of failure of the normal lighting system. The provisions of this section shall apply retroactively to all existing places of assembly that are or would be classified in occupancy groups F-3 and F-4 or are changed to such classification under this code, in accordance with the following schedule and specifications:

1. Cabarets, dance halls, night clubs, and taverns having an occupant load exceeding one hundred fifty persons shall complete the installation required by this section on or before April twelfth, nineteen hundred seventy-nine.

2. Cabarets, dance halls, night clubs, and taverns having an occupant load of one hundred fifty persons or less shall complete such installation on or before July twelfth, nineteen hundred seventy-nine.

3. Spaces occupied exclusively as restaurants shall complete such installation on or before October twelfth, nineteen hundred seventy-nine.

4. All other spaces in occupancy groups F-3 and F-4 shall complete such installation on or before January twelfth, nineteen hundred eighty.

5. The wiring shall conform with the electrical code of the city of New York, and have the same protection as specified for wiring in reference standard RS 17-3, RS 17-3A or 17-3B.

6. Storage battery equipment may be used as the sole source of energy provided it conforms with the provisions of section four of reference standard RS 17-3 or consists of two battery packs listed by an acceptable testing laboratory or conforms with nationally accepted standards for such source of emergency energy.

**§[C26-801.19] 27-543 Light projection sources. –**

Motion picture projection and other light projection sources shall comply with the following:

**(a) Film. –** The projection, use or storage of film having a nitrocellulose base (commonly known as nitrate film) shall not be permitted except under conditions specified in special permits when issued by the fire department. Safety film meeting the specifications and test standards of reference standard RS 8-1 may be projected, used or stored.

**(b) Projection machines. –** Projection machines shall meet the requirements of the electrical code of the city of New York. The lamp housing of projection machines using carbon-arc or other light sources that emit gaseous discharge shall be equipped with, or connected to a mechanical ventilation system of adequate capacity to exhaust the products of combustion through ducts directly to the outdoors. Such duct systems shall comply with the requirements of subchapter thirteen of this chapter. When more than one projection machine or other facility employing a carbon-arc or similar light source is used, all may be vented by the same duct system if the capacity is adequate for all facilities so connected.

**(c) Other light source facilities. –** All devices, such as spotlights, that employ a carbon-arc or other light source that emits gaseous discharge shall be vented directly as required in subdivision (b) of this section, unless the space in which such devices are located is mechanically ventilated and provides at least two thousand cubic feet of room volume for each device.

**(d) Light or projection rooms or booths. –** When enclosed, rooms or booths used for the projection of motion picture film or the manipulating of lights shall be built of noncombustible materials, and shall provide a clear working space of at least two feet around the projection apparatus. Such rooms or booths shall be provided with vents opening to a mechanically ventilated area or the outdoors, adequate in size to supply the make-up air required. The rooms or booths shall be provided with at least one noncombustible or metal clad door at least two feet by

six feet opening in the direction of exit travel, and no point within the room, booth, or gallery shall be more than fifty feet from a door opening into a corridor or space that provides access to an exit at a distance not greater than seventy-five feet.

**§[C26-801.20] 27-544 Motion picture screens. –**

Motion picture screens shall be noncombustible, or have a flame spread rating not over twenty-five, or be of materials that have been rendered flameproof in accordance with the provisions of chapter four of this title. The construction supporting screens shall be noncombustible, and shall comply with the stage rigging requirements of subchapter nine and with the provisions of subchapter ten of this chapter.

**ARTICLE 3 F-1 PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

**§[C26-802.1] 27-545 General. –**

The provisions of this section shall apply to all places of assembly classified in occupancy group F-1 under the provisions of subchapter three of this chapter.

**§[C26-802.2] 27-546 F-1a places of assembly. –**

F-1a places of assembly shall comply with all of the requirements of article two of subchapter eight of this chapter, and with the following:

**(a) Construction in seating areas. –**

(1) Scenery or scenic elements may be placed in seating sections of F-1a assembly spaces if such elements:

a. Are noncombustible, or of materials that have been rendered flameproof in accordance with the provisions of chapter four of this title, or have a flame spread rating of twenty-five or less.

b. Are adequately braced or secured.

c. Do not obstruct the required visibility of, or paths of travel to, exit openings.

(2) Platforms or runways for performances, to accommodate the operation of cameras, electronic equipment, or motion picture projection machines not using carbon-arc or other light source that emits a gaseous discharge may be constructed in seating sections, provided such platforms or runways comply with the requirements of paragraph one of subdivision (a) of this section.

**(b) Stage requirements. –**

**(1) DEFINITION. –**

For the purposes of this section the stage in an F-1a place of assembly shall include the performing area and all other nonaudience areas that are used in the presentation of a performance and that are open to the performing area. The performing area shall be that area between the outer edge of the stage apron and the furthest up-stage acting boundary, the width being the maximum stage opening to the audience.

**(2) STAGE FLOOR CONSTRUCTION. -**

The floor construction of stages shall provide fire-resistance ratings complying with the requirements of section 27-240 of article two of subchapter three of this chapter and table 3-4 except as follows:

a. Any portion of the stage floor used for passing scenery and scenic elements to a lower level may consist of heavy timber construction supporting tight fitting traps of at least three inch nominal solid wood or of equivalent materials in terms of fire-resistance, strength, and stiffness properties.

b. Stage lifts shall comply with the provisions of subchapter eighteen of this chapter. Any portion of the stage floor that is equipped with stage lifts shall be of noncombustible construction. Joints between lift platforms and adjacent floors shall be tightly fitted.

c. Finish flooring shall comply with the provisions of section 27-351 of article five of subchapter five of this chapter.

**(3) AREAS BELOW THE STAGE. -**

When the stage floor is equipped with traps or stage lifts, the room or space below the stage into which the traps or lifts open shall be completely enclosed by construction having at least the fire-resistance rating required for the stage floor, and such room or space shall not be used as a workshop or storage area. Storage shall not be deemed to include the location in this area of scenery or scenic elements used during a performance. However, no combustible material that has a flamespread rating greater than twenty-five or that has not been rendered flameproof in accordance with chapter four of this title may be stored in this location at any time. Under-stage areas shall comply with the requirements of paragraph eleven of this subdivision.

**(4) EXITS FROM THE STAGE. -**

At least two exits, remote from each other, shall be available from every point on a stage, each within a travel distance limitation of one hundred twenty-five feet. The occupant load of the stage shall be based upon one person per fifteen square feet for the performing area and on one person per fifty square feet for the remaining area. When any portion of a stage is used for audience seating at any time, exits of adequate capacity shall be provided for that portion, within the travel distance limitations for assembly space seating. Exit openings serving a stage directly shall have a capacity of seventy-five persons per unit of exit width.

**(5) SCENERY AND SCENIC ELEMENTS. -** All scenery or scenic elements shall be of noncombustible materials, or of materials having a flame-spread rating not exceeding twenty-five, or of materials that have been rendered flameproof in compliance with the provisions of chapter four of this title. Scenery and scenic elements not complying with the above requirements may be used only when expressly permitted by the fire department.

**(6) RIGGING LOFTS, FLY GALLERIES, AND GRIDIRONS. -** Girders, beams, or slats of galleries or gridirons over the stage floor or in the rigging loft need not be fire protected but shall be of noncombustible materials designed in accordance with the provisions of subchapters nine and ten of this chapter.

**(7) AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER PROTECTION. -** Stages in F-1a places of assembly shall be provided with automatic sprinkler protection complying with the construction provisions of subchapter seventeen of this chapter, as follows:

a. Automatic sprinklers shall be placed above all rigging lofts; and above all stage areas, other than those portions of stage areas specifically designated on approved plans as performing areas which do not have rigging lofts above and that are not at any time used for storage purposes. Sprinklers above rigging lofts shall be located so that no gridiron or other obstruction intervenes between the sprinkler heads and the scenery or scenic elements.

b. When any part of a stage is sprinklered in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph a of this paragraph, or when rigging lofts are provided, such stage areas and rigging lofts shall be completely separated from audience areas by a deluge sprinkler system designed to form a vertical water curtain, with heads spaced to provide a water density of at least three gpm per linear foot. The water curtain system shall be controlled by a deluge valve actuated by a "rate of rise system" and "fixed temperature system." The heat actuating devices shall be located on not more than ten foot centers around the perimeter of the sprinklered area or as otherwise required for the type of device used to assure operation of the system. In addition to the automatic controls, manual operating devices shall be located at the emergency control station as required by paragraph ten of this subdivision, and adjacent to at least one exit from the stage. Such exit shall be remote from the emergency control panel.

c. When openings are provided in the stage floor for stage lifts, trap doors or stairs, sprinklers spaced five feet on centers shall be provided around the opening at the ceiling below the stage, and baffles at least twelve inches in depth shall be installed around the perimeter of the opening.

d. All valves controlling sprinkler supplies shall be provided with tamper switches wired to an annunciator panel located at the emergency control panel.

e. The operation of any section of the sprinkler system and the deluge system shall activate the emergency ventilating equipment required in paragraph eight of this subdivision.

f. The water flow alarm, tamper switches and deluge system equipment shall be provided with central station supervision in addition to the required local alarm.

g. Existing premises shall be required to



conform with this requirement on or before January twelfth, nineteen hundred eighty. However, existing sprinkler systems, which have been previously accepted by the department or by the fire department, shall be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

(8) EMERGENCY VENTILATION. - Emergency ventilation shall be provided for all stages in F-1a places of assembly to provide a means of removing smoke and combustion gases to the outdoors in the event of a fire, as follows:

a. A mechanical exhaust system shall be provided of sufficient capacity to exhaust an amount of air at least equal to the sum of the following:

(1) two cfm per square foot of the performing area.

(2) four cfm per square foot of that portion of stage area that is not designated as performing area.

(3) four cfm per square foot of rigging loft area.

b. The exhaust system shall be designated to be activated both manually and automatically, manual operation shall be by means of a manually operated switch located at the emergency control panel as required by paragraph ten of this subdivision and adjacent to at least one exit from the stage. Such exit shall be remote from the emergency control panel. Automatic activation shall be by means of the sensing devices that start the operation of the sprinklers. Exhaust air openings of ducts shall be located so as to provide the most effective removal of smoke and combustion gases.

c. The exhaust system shall be provided with an automatic emergency by-pass damper in the exhaust duct on the suction side of the fan. Such damper shall close to\* the fan in the event of a power failure to the fan motor and shall open directly to the outdoors if the fan is located outside the building, or shall open to a duct leading directly to the outdoors if the fan is located inside the building. When located inside the building, the fan shall be insulated with a minimum of one inch magnesia block or the equivalent in insulating and fire-resistive qualities. Exhaust fans shall have drive and bearings located outside of the fan impeller housing. The exhaust system shall not be connected to exhaust openings in any space other than the stage and rigging loft, and shall be constructed to comply with the provisions of subchapter thirteen of this chapter. All\*\* switches shall be clearly labelled "emergency stage ventilation" and shall be painted red.

\*As enacted but "to" probably intended to be omitted.

\*\* Copy in brackets not enacted but probably intended.

d. The emergency ventilation system shall be connected to both the normal and emergency light and power circuits.

(9) CURTAINS. - No curtain shall be located between the audience area and the stage unless it is designated to permit the air movement required for emergency ventilation in paragraph eight of this subdivision to bypass or pass through the curtain without excessive billowing, and be

made of noncombustible fabrics, as specified in the appendix of reference standard RS 7-3.

(10) EMERGENCY CONTROL PANEL. - An emergency control panel shall be provided, as follows:

a. It shall be located on or adjoining the stage, except that where the stage is surrounded by seating, it shall be located so as to permit a view of the audience and stage areas. It shall be manned in accordance with the requirements of the fire department at all times during the presentation of a performance to an audience.

b. It shall be equipped with tell-tale lights to indicate when feeders and subfeeders of emergency light and power circuits are in operation in assembly spaces and all exits, including safe areas.

c. It shall, when a deluge type sprinkler system is provided, be equipped with manual operating devices to activate the sprinkler system. It shall also be provided with a signal system to show when any portion of the sprinkler system has been deactivated.

d. It shall be provided with switches to provide for operation of the emergency ventilating system. Controls for the ventilating system shall be electrically supervised. The supervisory circuit shall be provided with a trouble bell and light, both of which shall be activated in the event of a failure in the ventilation system. A silencing switch may be provided, and where provided, shall have either an automatic reset or shall ring again when the trouble is corrected.

e. It shall be equipped with a public address system serving loudspeakers in the assembly space. The public address system shall be connected to both the normal and emergency light and power circuits.

f. It shall be equipped with an alarm system and intercom connected to the manager's office, the dressing rooms, and to a supervisory central fire station.

(11) AUXILIARY STAGE SPACES. -

Auxiliary stage spaces such as understage areas, dressing rooms, green rooms, storage rooms, work shops, and similar spaces associated with the use of the stage shall comply with the following:

a. No point within any auxiliary stage space shall be more than fifty feet from a door providing access to an exit.

b. There shall be at least two exits available from every auxiliary space, one of which shall be available within a travel distance of seventy-five feet. A common path of travel of twenty feet to the two exits shall be permitted.

c. The occupant load of dressing rooms shall be based on one person per fifty square feet of area.

d. Auxiliary stage spaces shall be equipped with automatic sprinklers when required by the provisions of subchapter seventeen of this chapter.

e. No workshop involving the use of combustible or inflammable paint, liquids, or gases or their storage

shall open directly upon a stage.

f. The interior finish of auxiliary stage spaces shall comply with the requirements of table 5-4.

(12) STAGE LIGHTING. - No stage lights shall be placed so that they will develop temperatures on the surface of any material that will cause that material to ignite, or smoke, or cause its flameproofing to deteriorate.

**§[C26-802.3] 27-547 F-1b Places of assembly. -**

F-1b places of assembly shall comply with all of the requirements of article two of this subchapter, and with the following:

**(a) Certificate of occupancy. -**

The certificate of occupancy for F-1b places of assembly shall specifically note the prohibition against the use or placement of scenery or scenic elements on or above the stage.

**(b) Stage requirements. -**

(1) DEFINITION. - For the purposes of this section, the stage in an F-1b place of assembly shall be the area where the principal activity viewed by the audience takes place.

(2) CONSTRUCTION. - Raised platforms may be built as stages in F-1b places of assembly when they are supported on floors having the fire-resistance ratings required by table 3-4, in accordance with the following:

a. The area below the platform shall be enclosed on all sides with solid construction.

b. The horizontal area of stage construction shall not exceed the following:

Wood frame: maximum area-four hundred square feet.  
Fire retardant treated wood: maximum area-twelve hundred square feet.

Noncombustible frame: maximum area-unlimited.

c. The floor of the stage, when wood is used, shall be a least one inch nominal thickness, and shall be laid on a solid, noncombustible backing, or all spaces between supporting members shall be fire-stopped with noncombustible material.

d. In all F-1b places of assembly providing live entertainment, at anytime, the stage, dressing rooms and property rooms shall be provided with automatic sprinkler and fire alarm protection in conformance with the provisions of subchapter seventeen of this chapter. Existing premises shall be required to conform with this requirement on or before January twelfth, nineteen hundred eighty. However, existing sprinkler systems, which have been previously accepted by the department or by the fire department, shall be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

**(3) EXITS FROM THE STAGE. -**

At least two exits, remote from each other, shall be available from every point on a stage, each within a travel distance limitation of one hundred fifty feet.

The occupant load of the stage shall be based upon one person per twenty-five square feet of area. When any portion of a stage is used for audience seating at any time, exits of adequate capacity shall be provided for that portion, within the travel distance limitations for assembly space seating. Exit openings serving a stage directly shall have a capacity of one hundred persons per unit of exit width.

(4) EMERGENCY CONTROL PANEL. - In F-1b places of assembly having an occupant load over six hundred persons, an emergency control panel shall be provided, as follows:

a. It shall be located so as to have a view of the audience and stage areas, and shall be manned during the presentation of a performance to an audience, by a competent person instructed in its use.

b. It shall be equipped with tell-tale lights to indicate when feeders and subfeeders of emergency light and power circuits are in operation in assembly spaces and all exits, including safe areas.

c. It shall be equipped with a public address system serving loudspeakers in the assembly space. The public address system shall be connected to both the normal and emergency light and power circuits.

**ARTICLE 4 F-2 PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

**§[C26-803.1] 27-548 General. -** The provisions of this section shall apply to all places of assembly classified in occupancy group F-2 under the provisions of subchapter three. F-2 places of assembly shall comply with all of the requirements of article two of this subchapter, and with the following:

**(a) Enclosure. -** To qualify as an F-2 outdoor place of assembly, a place of assembly shall have at least forty percent of the combined surface area of all exterior wall and roof planes open to the outdoors. When a portion of an outdoor place of assembly is enclosed to a greater extent, that portion shall comply with all of the requirements of this code applicable to indoor places of assembly.

**(b) Grandstands. -** Grandstands shall comply with the following:

(1) CONSTRUCTION.- Grandstands shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of subchapters nine and ten of this chapter.

(2) HEIGHT AND AREA.- Grandstands, when built entirely of noncombustible materials, may be of unlimited height and area, and when built of combustible materials, shall be subject to the following limitations:

a. No section of seating shall exceed twenty feet in height, or exceed ten thousand square feet in area.

b. When more than one section of seating is provided, and the separation between them is less than fifty feet, each section shall be separated from the other by construction having a fire-resistance rating of

a least two hours and rising to a height of at least two feet six inches above the levels of seating at each row.

c. No outdoor grandstand of combustible materials shall be erected within less than two-thirds of its height, but in no case less than ten feet, of a building or an interior lot line unless separated therefrom by noncombustible construction having a one hour fire-resistance rating.

**(3) SPACES UNDER SEATS. -**

Spaces under grandstand seats shall be kept free of all combustible materials and shall not be occupied or used for other than egress, unless such spaces are completely enclosed by noncombustible construction having a two hour fire-resistance rating.

(4) **PARKING. -** Motor vehicle parking spaces shall not be closer than twenty feet to any grandstand unless separated therefrom by noncombustible construction having a one hour fire-resistance rating.

**(c) Stage requirements. -**

(1) **DEFINITION. -** For the purposes of this section the stage in an F-2 place of assembly shall be the area where the principal activity viewed by the audience takes place.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION. -** The horizontal area of stage construction shall not exceed the following:  
Wood frame: maximum area-five thousand square feet.  
Fire retardant treated wood: maximum area-ten thousand square feet. Noncombustible frame: maximum area-unlimited.

**(3) EXITS FROM THE STAGE. -**

At least two exits, remote from each other, shall be available from every point on a stage, each within a travel distance limitation of three hundred feet. The occupant load of the stage shall be based upon one person per fifty square feet of area. When any portion of a stage is used for audience seating at any time, exits of adequate capacity shall be provided for that portion, within the travel distance limitations for assembly space seating. Exit openings serving a stage directly shall have a capacity of four hundred persons per unit of exit width.

**(4) EMERGENCY CONTROL PANEL. -**

In F-2 places of assembly having an occupant load over one thousand persons, an emergency control panel shall be provided as follows:

a. It shall be located so as to have a view of the audience and stage areas, and shall be readily accessible at all times during the presentation of a performance to an audience, to a competent person instructed in its use.

b. It shall be equipped with tell-tale lights to indicate when feeders and subfeeders of emergency light and power circuits are in operation in assembly spaces and all exits.

c. It shall be equipped with a public address system serving loudspeakers in the assembly space. The public address system shall be connected to both the normal and emergency light and power circuits.

**(d) Drive-in-theaters-**

Drive-in theaters shall comply with the following:

(1) Projection booths and projection machines shall comply with the requirements of section 27-543 of article two of this subchapter. Motor vehicle parking spaces shall not be closer than twenty feet to any projection booth or machine.

(2) Projection screens and supporting structures shall comply with the requirements of section 27-544 of article two of this subchapter and shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of subchapters nine and ten of this chapter as applied to signs. Motor vehicle parking spaces shall not be closer than twenty feet to any projection screen.

**(e) Amusement parks. -** Buildings and structures within amusement parks shall be constructed to conform with all of the requirements of this code governing the specific use and occupancy. Amusement devices shall not be placed in operation until they have been made to comply with the provisions of subchapter eighteen of this chapter.

**ARTICLE 5 F-3 AND F-4 PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

**§[C26-804.1] 27-549 General. -**

The provisions of this section shall apply to all places of assembly classified in occupancy group F-3 or F-4 under the provisions of subchapter three of this chapter. F-3 or F-4 places of assembly shall comply with all the requirements of article two of this subchapter and the following:

**(a) Stage requirements. -**

(1) With scenery and scenic elements. - Where an F-3 or F-4 place of assembly provides a stage using scenery and scenic elements, the space shall comply with all of the requirements of this code applicable to F-1a places of assembly.

(2) Without scenery and scenic elements. - Where an F-3 or F-4 place of assembly provides a stage not using scenery or scenic elements, the space shall comply with all of the requirements of this code applicable to F-1b places of assembly.

(3) Cabarets. - In all F-4 places of assembly used as a cabaret, the stage dressing rooms and property rooms shall be provided with automatic sprinkler and fire alarm protection in compliance with the provisions of subchapter seventeen of this chapter. Existing premises shall be required to conform with this requirement on or before January twelfth, nineteen hundred eighty.

**(b) Retroactive provisions.-** On or before January twelfth, nineteen hundred eighty, all places of assembly providing entertainment or used as a cabaret within F-3 or F-4 occupancies shall be provided with automatic sprinkler and fire alarm protection to comply with the provisions of subchapter seventeen of this chapter.

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