



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS PLACES OF ASSEMBLY REQUIREMENT SHEET

Appendix Chapter 1, Section 105.6.34 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states... an operational permit is required to operate a place of assembly. Additional requirements may be applicable.

- An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained for Group occupancies. The plans for assembly occupancies shall include a detailed seating plan and occupant load limit.
- A permit from the Fire Department is required prior to use of open flames and candles.
- Each door in a means of egress from a Group A shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware or fire exit hardware. Exception: The main exit of a Group A occupancy. Doors provided for egress purposes in numbers greater than required by the Fire Code shall be provided with panic hardware or fire exit hardware.
- Means of egress doors shall be readily distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on means of egress doors. Means of egress doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials.
- Group A occupancies that have an occupant load of greater than 300 shall be provided with a main exit. The main exit shall be of sufficient width to accommodate not less than one-half of the occupant loads, but such width shall not be less than the total required width of all means of egress leading to the exit. The main exit shall front on at least one street or an unoccupied space of not less than 20 feet in width that adjoins a street or public way.
- Exits and aisles shall be so located that the travel distance to an exit door shall not be greater than 200 feet measured along the line of travel in nonsprinklered buildings. Travel distance shall not be more than 250 feet in sprinklered buildings. Where aisles are provided for seating, the distance shall be measured along the aisles and aisle access way without travel over or on the seats.
- Exits and exit access doors shall be marked by an approved exit sign readily visible from any direction of egress travel. Access to exits shall be marked by readily visible exit signs in cases where the exit or the path of egress travel is not immediately visible to the occupants. Exit sign placement shall be such that no point in a corridor is more than 100 feet or the listed viewing distance for the sign, whichever is less, from the nearest visible exit sign.
- The means of egress, including the exit discharge, shall be illuminated at all times the building space served by the means of egress is occupied.
- Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for duration of not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss, the sign illumination means shall be connected to an emergency power system provided from storage batteries, unit equipment or an

on-site generator. Exception: Approved exit sign illumination means that provide continuous illumination independent of external power sources for duration of not less than 90 minutes are not required to be connected to an emergency electrical system.

- In theaters, motion picture theaters, auditoriums and similar assembly occupancies in Group A used for non-continuous programs, an audible announcement shall be made not more than 10 minutes prior to the start of each program to notify the occupants of the location of the exits to be used in the event of a fire or other emergency. Exception: In motion picture theaters, the announcement is allowed to be projected upon the screen in a manner approved by the fire code official.
- Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted at least quarterly with all employees participating.
- Drills shall be held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire. Employees shall receive training in the contents of fire safety and evacuation plans and their duties as part of new employee orientation and at least quarterly thereafter. Records of required emergency evacuation drills shall be maintained for review.
- Curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or be noncombustible. Fire-retardant coatings in existing buildings shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment under service conditions encountered in actual use. Furnishings or other objects shall not be placed to obstruct exits, access to exits or visibility of exits or egress.
- Where seating is located at a table or counter and is adjacent to an aisle or aisle access way, the measurement of required clear width of the aisle or aisle access way shall be made to a line 19 inches away from and parallel to the edge of the table or counter. The 19-inch distance shall be measured perpendicular to the side of the table or counter. In the case of other side boundaries for aisle or aisle access ways, the clear width shall be measured to walls, edges of seating and tread edges, except that handrail projections are permitted.
- Aisles shall be provided from all occupied portions of the exit access which contain seats, tables, furnishings, displays and similar fixtures or equipment. The required width of aisles shall be unobstructed.
- In places of assembly without ramped or tiered floors for seating and with greater than 200 seats, the seats shall be fastened together in groups of not less than three or the seats shall be securely fastened to the floor.
- Yards, patios, courts and similar outdoor areas accessible to and usable by the building occupants shall be provided with means of egress as required by the Fire Code. The occupant load of such outdoor areas shall be assigned by the fire code official in accordance with the anticipated use. Where outdoor areas are to be used by persons in addition to the occupants of the building, and the path of egress travel from the outdoor areas passes through the building, means of egress requirements for the building shall be based on the sum of the occupant loads of the building plus the outdoor areas.
- Every room or space that is an assembly occupancy shall have the occupant load of the room or space posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit or exit access doorway from the room or space. Posted signs shall be of an approved legible, permanent design and shall be maintained by the owner or authorized agent.

- When, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in a place of assembly or any other place where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent or lessee shall provide one or more fire watch personnel, as required and approved, to remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted. Duties: Fire watch personnel shall keep diligent watch for fires, obstructions to means of egress and other hazards during the time such place is open to the public or such activity is being conducted and take prompt measures for remediation of hazards, extinguishment of fires that occur and assist in the evacuation of the public from the structures.
- Owner/occupant shall be aware of current requirements of commercial kitchen fire extinguishing systems. Extinguishing systems shall be serviced every six months or after activation.
- Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required in the Fire Code.

Additional Requirements _____
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