



STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 30, 1996

Facility Managers of Concert Halls,
Arenas, Auditoriums Utilized to Accommodate
Concerts

Dear Sir/Madam:

It has been brought to the attention of the Office of the State Fire Marshal that some facilities have been holding concerts with festival seating in violation of the adopted codes, rules and regulations of the state. This letter is to advise you of the requirements of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and regulations pertaining to "Festival Seating" for concert events. There exists regulations within the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code as well as administrative rules pertaining to the overcrowding of assembly occupancies.

WHAT IS FESTIVAL SEATING? - The NFPA 101 Life Safety Code defines festival seating as:

That form of audience/spectator accommodation in which no seating, other than a floor or ground surface, is provided for the audience/spectators gathered to observe some performance.

Festival seating describes situations in assembly occupancies where live entertainment events are held that are expected to result in overcrowding and high audience density that may compromise public safety. It is not the intent of the code to apply the term "Festival Seating" to exhibitions, sports events, dances, conventions and bona fide political, religious and educational events.

FESTIVAL SEATING PROHIBITED - NFPA 101:8-2.5.2 reads:

Festival seating shall be prohibited within a building.

Exception No. 1: Festival seating shall be permitted in Class B and Class C assembly occupancies.

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OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
5150 FLORIDA BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
(504) 925-4911 ARSON TIP LINE 1-800-272-8310

Exception No. 2: Festival seating shall be permitted in Class A assembly occupancies with an approved life safety evaluation.

A Class A assembly occupancy is an assembly occupancy with an occupant load greater than 1,000 persons. A Class B assembly occupancy is an assembly occupancy with an occupant load greater than 300 but not greater than 1,000 persons. A Class C assembly occupancy is one with an occupant load of 50 or more but not greater than 300 persons.

As can be seen from this section of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code large assembly occupancies with an occupant load exceeding 1,000 persons are prohibited from having festival seating except where there is submitted and approved a life safety evaluation pursuant to NFPA 101:8-4.5. If no life safety evaluation has been submitted to the local Fire Prevention Bureau where one exists or the Office of the State Fire Marshal, festival seating is prohibited by the code. Please find attached a copy of NFPA 101:8-4.5 outlining the information necessary to be included within a life safety evaluation.

Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Arenas and other facilities accommodating concerts will be expected to comply with these requirements. There are additional requirements within state regulations pertaining to the overcrowding of assembly occupancies. Please find attached a copy of Title 55:V:1505 dealing with overcrowding within assembly occupancies.

CROWD MANAGERS - NFPA 101:31-2.1 requires the following:

In Class A assembly occupancies, there shall be trained Crowd Managers or Crowd Manager Supervisors at a ratio of one Crowd Manager/Supervisor for every 250 occupants who shall have received approved training in crowd management techniques.

Exception No. 1: Assembly occupancies used exclusively for religious worship with an occupant load not more than 2,000.

Exception No. 2: Wherein the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction the existence of an approved supervised sprinkler system and the nature of the event warrant, the ratio of trained managers to occupants to shall be permitted to be reduced.

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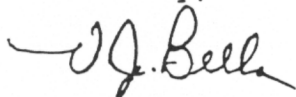
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It shall be the responsibility of the facility manager and/or promoter to document the training provided for crowd managers identifying the subjects covered, the amount of time spent training as well as the procedures utilized in training the crowd managers. The training program must be acceptable to the local fire protection authorities. Where non exists in a locale, the training program must be acceptable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Please find attached a copy of Section 31-2 identifying the operating features required within assembly occupancies.

If you should have further questions or need additional clarifications, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



V. J. Bella
State Fire Marshal

VJB/JWJ/adg

cc: Jerry W. Jones
State Fire Marshal District Offices

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(b) At least one battery cable shall be removed from the batteries used to start the vehicle engine. The disconnected battery cable shall then be taped.

(c) Batteries used to power auxiliary equipment shall be permitted to be kept in service.

(d) Fueling or defueling of vehicles shall be prohibited.

(e) Vehicles shall not be moved during show hours.

8-4.4.5 Compressed flammable gases; flammable or combustible liquids; hazardous chemicals or materials; and Class II or greater lasers, blasting agents, and explosives shall be prohibited within exhibit halls.

Exception: The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to allow the limited use of any of the above items under special circumstances.

8-4.4.6 Alternatives. (See Section 1-5.)

8-4.5 Life Safety Evaluation.

8-4.5.1 Where a life safety evaluation is required by other provisions of the Code, it shall be done by persons acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. The life safety evaluation shall include a written assessment of safety measures for conditions listed in 8-4.5.2. The life safety evaluation shall be approved annually by the authority having jurisdiction and shall be updated for special or unusual conditions.

8-4.5.2 Life safety evaluations shall include an assessment of the following conditions and the related appropriate safety measures:

- (a) Nature of the events and the participants and attendees.
- (b) Access and egress movement including crowd density problems.
- (c) Medical emergencies.
- (d) Fire hazards.
- (e) Permanent and temporary structural systems.
- (f) Severe weather conditions.
- (g) Earthquakes.
- (h) Civil or other disturbances.
- (i) Hazardous materials incidents within and near the facility, and
- (j) Relationships among facility management, event participants, emergency response agencies, and others having a role in the events accommodated in the facility.

8-4.5.3 Life safety evaluations shall include assessments of both building systems and management features upon which reliance is placed for the safety of facility occupants.

8-4.6* Special Amusement Buildings.

8-4.6.1 Special amusement buildings shall meet the requirements for assembly occupancies in addition to the requirements of this subsection. Special amusement buildings with an occupant load not greater than 300 persons shall be considered Class C assembly occupancies.

8-4.6.2* Every special amusement building shall be protected throughout by an approved, automatic sprinkler system installed and maintained in accordance with Section 7-7. Where the special amusement building is movable or portable, sprinkler water supply shall be permitted to be by an approved temporary means.

8-4.6.3 Where the nature of the special amusement building is such that it operates in reduced lighting levels, the building shall be protected throughout by an approved, automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 7-6. Actuation of any smoke detection system device shall sound an alarm at a constantly attended location on the premises. Actuation of the automatic sprinkler system or actuation of a smoke detection system having an approved verification or cross zoning operation capability shall:

(a) Cause illumination in the means of egress to increase to that required by Section 5-8, and

(b) Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visuals.

8-4.6.4 Exit Marking.

8-4.6.4.1 Exit marking shall be in accordance with Section 5-10.

8-4.6.4.2 Exit marking in mobile special amusement buildings shall be of the luminescent, self-luminous, or electroluminescent type.

8-4.6.4.3 Floor proximity exit signs shall be provided in accordance with 5-10.1.5.

8-4.6.4.4* In special amusement buildings where mazes, mirrors, or other designs are used to confound the egress path, approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency shall be provided.

8-4.6.5 Interior Finish. Interior finish shall be Class A throughout in accordance with Section 6-5.

8-4.7 Operating Features. (See Chapter 31.)

SECTION 8-5 BUILDING SERVICES

8-5.1 Utilities. Utilities shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-1.

8-5.2 Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Equipment. Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-2.

8-5.3 Elevators, Escalators, and Conveyors. Elevators, escalators, and conveyors shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-4.

8-5.4 Rubbish Chutes, Incinerators, and Laundry Chute Rubbish chutes, incinerators, and laundry chutes shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-5.

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C. There shall be no smoking in any areas which have been designated by the state fire marshal as hazardous and for which reasons he has posted or caused to be posted a sign specifically indicating that there shall be no smoking in that particular area.

55:V:1505. Overcrowding

A. There shall be no overcrowding in any auditorium or place of public assembly. In the future (after January 1, 1975), no contracts with the owners of auditoriums or places of public assembly shall allow the sale of tickets for the entry of any more individuals than can be seated in that auditorium or place of public assembly. All contracts for the use of said auditorium or place of public assembly shall provide that the owners of the auditorium or place of public assembly shall provide the tickets for the event for which the promoter of the event may be required to pay the cost.

B. There shall be no more individuals permitted in said auditorium or place of public assembly than can be accommodated by the number of seats and the arrangement of said seats as approved by the fire marshal or a certified local authority.

C. The promoters of any event in said auditorium or place of public assembly shall be required to pay the cost of additional security to assure that no more individuals enter said auditorium or place of public assembly than can be accommodated by the seating arrangement; and furthermore, the promoters shall provide their owners, the municipalities and the state with adequate insurance to cover the damage, property or personal injuries, which can foreseeably be expected to occur as a result of the circumstances of this congregation of people.

55:V:1507. Storage of Flammables in Places of Public Assembly

A. In pursuit of the requirements of R.S. 40.1575, it is hereby ordered that the storage of all flammable materials in all state buildings and all places of public assembly shall be made in fireproof containers, that all state buildings and places of public assembly shall be regularly policed to clean up and place in fireproof containers all flammable materials, and all places of storage shall be arranged and maintained in such a manner that exit from said places and access to said places for the purposes of fire fighting is not in any way impeded.