



City of Anaheim
Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau



Specifications and Requirements

Subject: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES WITHOUT FIXED SEATS

References: California Fire Code, 2007 Edition, Sections 1005.1, 1014.4.3.2, 1025.9, Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Section 3.06 (3)(b)

A public assembly is any room or building with 50 or more people.

The maximum occupant load must be posted in rooms used for an assembly; this number must be approved by the City of Anaheim Building Division. When there are tables and chairs set up, the occupant load is determined by taking that area, inclusive of aisles, and dividing by 15. When the area is used for dancing, or there are chairs only (theatre style), the area is divided by seven.

LOOSE CHAIR SET-UP

1. When seating rows have 14 or fewer seats, the minimum clear width between rows shall not be less than 12 inches.
2. For rows of seating served by aisles or doorways at both ends, there shall be no more than 100 seats per row, and the minimum clear width of 12 inches between rows shall be increased by 0.3 inch for every additional seat beyond 14, but the minimum clear width need not exceed 22 inches. Therefore, if you wish to have between 54 and 100 seats in a row, there must be at least 22 inches between rows.
3. For rows of seating served by an aisle or doorway at one end only, the minimum clear width of 12 inches between rows shall be increased by 0.6 inch for every additional seat beyond seven, but the minimum clear width need not exceed 22 inches. In addition, the distance to the point where the occupant has a choice of two directions of travel to an exit shall not exceed 30 feet from the point where the occupant is seated. Therefore, if a row of seats is set up against a wall, the row cannot be greater than 30 feet long, and the row must end in an aisle that has two choices for exiting.
4. All aisles must be at least 48 inches wide and lead to an exit and 36 inches for aisles having seating on only one side.
5. Loose seats, folding chairs, or similar seating facilities that are not fixed to the floor shall be bonded in groups of three or more when the occupant load is over 299. Bonding can be done by tying the chairs together. Most hardware stores sell plastic ties, which are easy to remove. Some chairs interlock together to meet this requirement.

TABLES AND CHAIRS SET-UP

Tables with chairs must be set up a certain distance apart. Aisles must be maintained between tables and the aisles are required to end in a cross aisle that provides a choice of two or more paths of egress to separate exits.

Aisles Between Tables

The aisles between tables and chairs shall be set up according to the following requirements:

- **Tables must be set up with a minimum of 54 inches apart.**
- These aisles shall not exceed 30 feet in length and must terminate in a cross aisle that contains at least two choices to separate exits. The 30 feet is measured from the furthest chair to the cross aisle. If a cross aisle is placed at each end of the aisle, the aisle can be a maximum of 60 feet long.

Cross Aisles

All cross aisles must end at an exit. The minimum width of cross aisles is 54 inches. When the occupant load of the room exceeds 360 attendees the cross aisles are required to be larger than 54 inches. The width is determined on a “per occupant” basis. In a building that is fire sprinklered 0.15 inches must be provided for each occupant. For a building that is not fire sprinklered the factor of 0.2 inches must be used.

When required by the fire department, a plan indicating the set up shall be submitted for approval. An approved copy of the plan shall be kept on the premises. In some cases, the approved plan may be required to be displayed. The plans must be to scale and contain the following:

- Location of all exits.
- Location and width of aisles.
- Distance between rows, when set up theatre style.

NOTE: For trade shows and exhibits, there is a separate Specification and Requirement.

For further information regarding this requirements contact: Fire Prevention Bureau at (714) 765-4040 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.