



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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### General Code Requirements for Ballrooms and Meeting Rooms

- Aisles

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**1028.9.1 Minimum aisle width.** The minimum clear width for aisles shall be as shown:

1. Forty-eight inches (1219 mm) for aisle stairs having seating on each side.

Exception

- A. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) where the aisle serves less than 50 seats.
2. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) for aisle stairs having seating on only one side.

**1028.9.6 Assembly aisle obstructions.** There shall be no obstructions in the required width of aisles except for handrails as provided in Section 1028.13.

**1028.10.1.2 Seating at table aisle accessway length.** The length of travel along the aisle access way shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) from any seat to the point where a person has a choice of two or more paths of egress travel to separate exits.

**1028.10.2 Clear width of aisle accessways serving seating in rows.** Where seating rows have 14 or fewer 235 MEANS OF EGRESS seats, the minimum clear aisle access way width shall not be less than 12 inches (305 mm) measured as the clear horizontal distance from the back of the row ahead and the nearest projection of the row behind. Where chairs have automatic or self-rising seats, the measurement shall be made with seats in the raised position. Where any chair in the row does not have an automatic or self-rising seat, the measurements shall be made with the seat in the down position. For seats with folding tablet arms, row spacing shall be determined with the tablet arm in the used position.

**1028.10.2.1 Dual access.** For rows of seating served by aisles or doorways at both ends, there shall not be more than 100 seats per row. The minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) between rows shall be increased by 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) for every additional seat beyond ] 4 seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches (559 mm).

- Seating + Bonding + Round Tables

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[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.06(a)] Bonding of Chairs and Spacing of Tables.

Bonding of chairs. In every Group A and Group E occupancy, all loose seats, folding chairs or similar seating facilities that are not fixed to the floor shall be bonded together in groups of not less than three.

Exceptions

- A. When not more than 200 such seats, chairs or facilities are provided, bonding thereof may be deleted.
- B. The bonding of chairs shall not be required when tables are provided as when the occupancy is used for dining or similar purposes.
- C. Upon approval of the enforcing agency, the bonding of chairs shall not be required when the placement and location of such chairs do not obstruct any required exit or any line of egress toward required exits and do not constitute a fire hazard as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Section 3.14.

- **Exits + Exit pathway**

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**1011.3 Illumination.** Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated.

**1011.6.3 Power source.** Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a 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. The installation of the emergency power system shall be in accordance with Section 604.

**1028.7 Travel distance.** Exits and aisles shall be so located that the travel distance to an exit door shall not be greater than 200 feet (60 960 mm) measured along the line of travel in nonsprinklered buildings. Travel distance shall not be more than 250 feet (76 200 mm) 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.

**1028.8 Common path of egress travel.** The common path of egress travel shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) from any seat to a point where an occupant has a choice of two paths of egress travel to two exits.

- **Stage**

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**[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.29(a) through (d)] Portable Fire Extinguishing Equipment.**

- A. General. Portable fire extinguishers conforming to the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 3, shall be installed and maintained in accordance with guides established therein.
- B. Special Coverage. Additional Class A, Band C units of adequate extinguishing potential shall be provided for any other hazard, as determined by the enforcing agency.
- C. Group A Occupancies.
  - a. One additional Class 2-A unit shall be provided in Group A Occupancies as follows: (A) On each side of the stage or platform. Exception: Platforms

1000 square feet or less in area need have only one such extinguishing unit.

**1013.2 Guard required locations.** Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including mezzanines, equipment platforms, stairs, ramps and landings that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. Guards shall be adequate in strength and attachment in accordance with Section 1607.8 of the California Building Code

- **No Open Burning**

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**308.3 Group A occupancies.** Open-flame devices shall not be used in a Group A occupancy.

Exceptions

- A. Open-flame devices are allowed to be used in the following situations, provided approved precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:
  - a. Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes in accordance with Section 308.1.7.
  - b. On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with Section 308.3.2
  - c. Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.
- B. Heat-producing equipment complying with Chapter 6 and the California Mechanical Code. 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE
- C. Gas lights are allowed to be used provided adequate precautions satisfactory to the fire code official are taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.

- **DECORATIVE MATERIAL**

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**807.1 Decorative Materials in General requirements.** In occupancies in Groups A, E, I and R-I, and dormitories in Group R-2, curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFP A 701 in accordance with Section 806.2 or be noncombustible.

- **INDOOR DISPLAYS**

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**314.2 Fixtures and displays.** Fixtures and displays of goods for sale to the public shall be arranged so as to maintain free, immediate and unobstructed access to exits as required by Chapter 10.

**314.3 Highly combustible goods.** The display of highly combustible goods, including but not limited to fireworks, flammable or combustible liquids, liquefied flammable gases, oxidizing materials, pyroxylin plastics and agricultural goods, in main exit access aisles, corridors, covered and open malls, or within 5 feet (1524 mm) of entrances to exits and exterior exit doors is prohibited when a fire involving such goods would rapidly prevent or obstruct egress.

**314.4 Vehicles.** Liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles, boats or other motorcraft shall not be located indoors except as follows:

- A. Batteries are disconnected.
- B. Fuel in fuel tanks does not exceed one-quarter tank or 5 gallons (19 L) (whichever is least).
- C. Fuel tanks and fuel openings are closed and sealed to prevent tampering.
- D. Vehicles, boats or other motorcraft equipment are not fueled or defueled within the building.