



Corona Fire Department

Places of Assembly Guideline per 2016 California Fire Code

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary to meet the safety requirements for places of assembly. The requirements are prescribed in 2016 California Fire Code.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to the gathering of 50 or more persons for such purposes as deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement, drinking, dining or awaiting transportation. The guideline shall also apply to a building or portion of a building used for the gathering of 50 or more persons. Any building or structure or portion thereof used or intended to be used for the showing of motion pictures when an admission fee is charged and when such building or structure is open to the public and has a capacity of 10 or more persons shall also be regulated as an assembly building.

REQUIREMENTS

1. An operational permit is required to operate a place of assembly, per CFC 105.6.36. The permit shall include the occupant capacity of the room or building for which the permit is issued. When more than one configuration is possible, separate occupancy capacities shall be detailed.
2. A sign showing the occupant load limit(s) shall be posted in a conspicuous place near the main exit from the room.
3. A detailed seating plan shall be approved. Deviations from the approved plan may be permitted if the occupant load is not exceeded and the aisles and exit accessways remain unobstructed.
4. Exit Doors- Shall swing in the direction of the path of exit travel. Exit doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. Exit doors shall not be locked, chained, bolted, barred, latched or otherwise rendered unusable. Exit doors shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware.
Exception: The main exit door, or one leaf of a pair of main exit doors, may be provided with a key-locking device, provided a readily visible sign is adjacent to the doorway stating "THIS DOOR MUST REMAIN UNLOCKED WHENEVER BUILDING IS OCCUPIED"
5. Exit Signs- Shall be readily visible from any direction of approach. Exit signs shall be

internally or externally **illuminated**. In case of primary power loss, exit signs must remain illuminated for a duration of not less than 1½ hours by being connected to batteries or an on-site generator.

Exception: Approved self-luminous signs that provide continuous illumination independent of an external power source.

6. 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. The illumination level shall not be less than 1 foot-candle at floor level. In case of primary power loss, exit illumination must be provided for a duration of not less than 1 ½ hours by being connected to batteries or an on-site generator.
7. Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a means of egress per CFC 1003.6. The required exit width shall not be diminished along the path of egress travel.
8. The interior wall and ceiling finish in an assembly occupancy shall meet the requirements of CFC Table 803.3.
9. Drapes, curtains, hangings and other decorative materials shall meet the limitations set forth in CFC 807.2 through 807.5.6.
10. Candle and Other Open-Flame Decorative Devices. Only approved candles and open-flame devices shall be allowed in assembly occupancies, per CFC 308.1 and Title 19 Division 1, §(a) and (b). A separate **fire department permit is required**.
11. Fireworks, pyrotechnics and open-flame special effects are prohibited in assembly occupancies.

Exception: Fireworks, pyrotechnics and open-flame special effects may be permitted in assembly occupancies. Plans for the display shall be submitted for review and approval, and a **fire department permit is required**. A **licensed** pyrotechnician must conduct the display and a standby Fire Safety Officer must be present during the display.