



## THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### CINEMATOGRAPH OPERATORS BOARD

#### Regulations Pertaining to Motion Picture Exhibition

The following regulations are of interest to the Projectionist, Theatre Proprietors and Managers. They should be studied carefully by persons wishing to qualify for a licence as a projectionist.

1. The Electricity Act Regulations  
(Part 3 ... Projectionists)
2. Health Act (Public Building Electrical) Regulations, as quoted hereunder:

47. (i) A switchboard shall be installed in the cinematograph cabin of every drive-in theatre and be accessible for use by the operator.

(ii) The switchboard referred to in subregulation (i) of this regulation shall control all lighting, projector circuits and electrical apparatus, and motors in the cabin and all general flood-lighting of the auditorium grounds and exit ways.

48. A sub-distribution board located in an approved position not accessible to the public shall be provided in all concessional areas, and shall control all power and lighting for the concessional area including the sanitary conveniences.

49. (i) All readily accessible electrical equipment and lighting in the playground area of a drive-in theatre shall be protected by guards.

(ii) The loudspeaker pedestals, lighting and readily accessible electrical equipment in the playground area shall be operated at extra low voltage.

50. The speaker pedestal at each end of each row in a drive-in theatre shall be provided with a guide light.
51. Roadways within a drive-in theatre shall be adequately illuminated by overhead or other approved means of lighting which does not glare into the eyes of drivers of vehicles.
52. General lighting shall be provided for use in a drive-in theatre before and after a show and during interval and appropriately placed to generally illuminate the whole of the auditorium occupied by the public to enable the safe movement around the area during these periods.
53. Entrance and exit driveways in a drive-in theatre shall be continuously illuminated at all times when the premises are open to the public, by means of lights, spaced no more than 40ft 0ins apart.
54. Safety lighting shall be provided in accordance with these regulations to illuminate steps and ramps leading to or from the concessional area and any auditorium building within the theatre.
96. Every cinematograph cabin shall contain a switchboard to supply all circuits within the cabin.
97. Electric fans used exclusively for ventilating projector machines in the cinematograph cabin shall be of the totally enclosed type, complying with regulation 36 and 37 of the Public Building Regulations with reference to air displacement, and shall be wired in separate circuits which are capable of being isolated near to every doorway giving access to the room.
98. Resistance banks for arc lamps shall be enclosed in non-flammable material, placed in an approved permanent position outside a cinematograph cabin.
99. Motor generators and rotary converters shall be installed in an approved permanent position outside the cinematograph cabin.

3. The Public Buildings Regulations, as quoted:

17. Every public building and all materials, fittings, seatings, appliances and things connected or installed therein shall be kept in a proper state of repair and shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

20. (i) The person in charge of, or having the control or management of a public building shall keep free from obstructions of any kind, all gangways, aisles, passages, corridors, lobbies and doors, that are connected with any exit or escape from the building.

(ii) A person shall not obstruct any gangway, aisle, passage, corridor, staircase, lobby or door of a public building, while it is open or occupied by the public.

24. (i) Subject to subregulation (ii) of this regulation all locks and fasteners on exit doors of a public building shall be of a type approved by the Commissioner.

(ii) The Commissioner shall approve of the locks where -

(a) exit doors in all cinemas and theatres and in other public buildings with accommodation for 400 or more persons, are fitted with automatic panic bolts or where the exit door is double leaved, a rim or other type of lock is used on the second leaf so that when the panic bolt is released on the first leaf, both leaves open freely;

(b) exit doors in public buildings other than cinemas or theatres with accommodation for less than 400 persons, are fitted with espagnolette central handle bolts or automatic panic bolts;

(c) exit doors in open air theatres and open air cinemas and in buildings used exclusively for religious worship, are fitted with approved strap or skeleton bolts.

34. Projection rooms in public buildings, where cinematograph pictures are exhibited involving the use of arc lamps or similar equipment -

(a) shall be constructed of materials having a fire resistant rating of not less than one hour;

(b) shall have a minimum ceiling height of not less than 8ft, a minimum internal length of 8ft and a minimum internal width of 6 ft;

(c) shall provide a clear unobstructed passageway of two feet between the projectors and the rear and side walls; and

(d) shall be provided with more than one exit doors if so required by the Commissioner.

35. The door of a projection room in a public building shall be hung to open out, and shall be self-closing and fitted with a lock of a type which can at all times be opened from within the projection room without the use of a key.

36. Projection rooms shall be ventilated by either natural or mechanical means in accordance with the following requirements:-

(i) Where natural ventilation is used -

(a) one wall of the projection room shall be in complete contact with the outside air;

(b) inlet ventilators shall be provided, connected directly to the outer atmosphere and evenly distributed along the external wall or walls;

(c) a bell mouth vent shall be placed in the ceiling immediately over each cinematograph projector, but where the lamp frames of the projector are mechanically ventilated alternative outlet ventilation at or near ceiling level may be used;

(d) the bell mouth vent referred to in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph shall have a diameter of 12 ins. with a shaft 8 ins. in diameter and shall be taken up through the roof and finished clear of the roof with a cowl.

(ii) Where mechanical ventilation is used -

(a) the ventilating system shall provide a minimum of ten complete changes of air per hour;

(b) the ventilating system shall provide for forced exhaust;

(c) the exhaust duct or ducts shall be separate from all other ducting system in the building and shall discharge into the outer atmosphere above the roof of the building;

(d) exhaust ducts shall be of such a size that the air velocity does not exceed 20 ft per second;

(e) all air introduced into the projection room shall be fresh air drawn from the outside atmosphere and where required by the Commissioner shall be filtered;

(f) air introduced into the projection room shall be evenly distributed and shall not cause a draught; and,

(g) the ventilating system shall be kept in operation during the whole time that any projector is in operation.

37. (i) In projection rooms used for projecting animated pictures for more than three performances a week and in all mechanically ventilated projection rooms, the lamphouses in which arc lamps are used shall be mechanically exhausted by a system which shall draw not less than 50 cubic feet of air per minute through each lamp house, during the time that each lamp house is in operation.

(ii) In naturally ventilated projection rooms, lamp houses in which arc lamps are used which are not required by subregulation (i) of this regulation to be mechanically exhausted shall be fitted with an exhaust flue of not less than 3 ins. internal diameter, carried straight up and discharged into the bell mouth ceiling vent immediately above the projector.

38. The following fire fighting appliances shall be kept inside a projection room -

(a) one all-wool or asbestos blanket measuring not less than three feet square; and

(b) one carbon dioxide fire extinguisher of not less than five lbs capacity complying with Australian Standard A138-1963 or one halogenated hydrocarbon type portable fire extinguisher of not less than three lbs. capacity complying with Australian Standard A163-1968, and the fire extinguisher required to be provided by this regulation shall be mounted on a bracket conveniently situated for use in emergency.

39. A person shall not smoke within a projection room in any public building.

40. (i) A minimum of two exits shall be provided in every Drive-in Theatre and all exits and driveways shall be arranged to facilitate the orderly ingress and egress of motor vehicles to and from the theatre.

(ii) The minimum distance between speaker standards, not on the same ramp shall be 38 feet.

(iii) The minimum distance between speaker standards on the same ramp shall be 17 feet.

43. (i) Unless exempted by the Commissioner every public building shall be equipped with chemical fire extinguishers -

(a) placed in a position approved by the Commissioner; and

(b) in sufficient number so that there is not less than one extinguisher for every 2,250 square feet of floor area or part thereof and in any event there shall be a minimum of two extinguishers to each floor

(ii) The Commissioner may where he considers it necessary require additional fire extinguishing equipment to be provided.

44. Every public building that is a theatre, shall be provided with hatchets, hooks and any other appliance that the Commissioner considers necessary for pulling down scenery and other stage properties in the event of fire and those appliances shall be readily located for use in an emergency.

45. The manager or person having charge or control of a public building shall -

(a) maintain, in proper working order all telephones, fire alarms, hydrants and other appliances and equipment for preventing and extinguishing fires; and

(b) arrange with the West Australian Fire Brigades Board or persons approved by the Board for the periodical testing and inspection of fire hoses and extinguishers.

46. Subject to regulation 49 of these regulations the manager or person having charge or control of a theatre during a stage performance, a cinema during an exhibition of films, and, when directed by the Commissioner, the manager or person having charge or control of any other public building, shall -

(a) appoint a person to be a fire guard for the period during which the public building is open to or used by the public; and

(b) cause every member of the staff to be instructed in the precautions and duties to be observed in the event of fire or other emergency.

47. A person appointed as a fire guard pursuant to paragraph (a) of regulation 46 of these regulations -

(a) shall be able bodied male person not under 21 years of age;

(b) shall be in attendance at the theatre or cinema and perform the duties of a fire guard, for the period for which he is employed;

(c) shall not be simultaneously employed as a cinematograph machine operator or a lift operator; and,

(d) shall hold a "Certificate of Competency to be Appointed a Fire Guard" granted and issued by the Commissioner under these regulations.

48. (i) The Certificate of Competency to be Appointed a Fire Guard shall be in accordance with the form set out in Form 2 in Appendix A to these regulations and may be subject to such conditions as the Commissioner specifies therein.

(ii) The Certificate of Competency to be Appointed a Fire Guard may be granted by the Commissioner on receipt of -

(a) a report from the Chief Officer of Fire Brigades, stating that the applicant has been examined in his knowledge of fire fighting and found to be competent to be appointed a fire guard, or such other evidence as the Commissioner thinks fit to establish the applicant's competency in that regard; and

(b) a recent medical certificate certifying that the applicant is able bodied and physically sound and is fit to perform the duties of a fire guard.

(iii) A Certificate of Competency to be Appointed a Fire Guard shall cease to have force or effect if any condition specified on the certificate is not complied with by the holder thereof.

49. The Manager or person having charge or control of a theatre or cinema, the auditorium of which is open to the sky, shall not be required to appoint a fire guard if -

(a) the Commissioner is satisfied that adequate staff is employed and maintained to provide for the safety of the public in an emergency;

(b) the Chief Officer of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board or a person duly authorised by the Commissioner to do so has certified in writing that in his opinion no undue fire hazard exists in or around the premises and that the premises are equipped with adequate fire fighting equipment and safety devices and the exits are constructed and maintained as prescribed by these regulations; and

(c) the Commissioner, on the application in writing of the manager or person having charge or control of the theatre or cinema, issues a certificate, exempting the applicant from appointing a fire guard.

50. A certificate issued in accordance with paragraph (c) of regulation 49 of these regulations may be cancelled, in writing, by the Commissioner if it appears to him that the safety of the public requires the appointment of a fire guard in the theatre or cinema.

51. The manager or person having charge or control of a theatre, cinema or other public building at which a fire guard is employed shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the fire guard carries out the duties prescribed for him by these regulations.

52. The duties of a fire guard in a public building shall be -

(i) to inspect the building before the commencement of the performance, exhibition or other activity in connection with which the public building is to be opened or used by the public to ensure that -

- (a) all fire extinguishing equipment and appliances are in position and ready for use;
- (b) there is not an accumulation of flammable material within or adjacent to the building;
- (c) all exit doors and their fastenings are in good working order and all passages leading to or from them are free from obstructions; and
- (d) all necessary auxilliary and external lamps are lighted;

(ii) to bring to the notice of the manager or person in charge of the building -

- (a) any faults revealed by his inspection carried out in accordance with paragraph (i) of this regulation;
- (b) any case of overcrowding or obstruction of aisles, gangways or exits or any case of smoking in any part of the public building where smoking is prohibited by or pursuant to any Act, regulation or by-law;

(iii) to open all exit doors at the conclusion of the performance, exhibition or other activity;

(iv) to patrol the building from time to time and when not so engaged be in a position where he could most readily observe an outbreak of fire and reach a fire alarm;

(v) in the event of an outbreak of fire, to summon a fire brigade, notify the manager or person in charge of or in control of the building of the outbreak and to take what action he can to control or extinguish the fire and to direct the public to the exits;

(vi) to enter in a log book the details specified in Form 3 in Appendix A to these regulations.

53. The manager or person in charge or control of a public building in which a fire guard is employed shall provide at the public building a log book, each page of which shall be as set out in the form of Appendix A to these regulations.

56. A person shall not light, operate or maintain an open fire or a heating apparatus of any kind within a public building used as a theatre, cinema or dance hall unless otherwise authorised in writing by the Commissioner.

57. A person shall not store within a public building, materials of a flammable nature, that are not normally required for the purpose of conducting the usual activities carried on within that building -

58. No person shall smoke in an auditorium, dressing room, the wings or any part of the stage of any roofed theatre, concert hall or cinema, while it is open to the public but an artist or performer may smoke on the stage while performing in that building.