

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

## No. 518.

*Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 6 of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulation Ordinance, 1919, Ordinance No. 22 of 1919, this 6th day of November, 1919.*

The regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 6 of the Theatres Regulation Ordinance, 1908, Ordinance No. 18 of 1908, by Government Notification No. 509 on the 19th day of August, 1909, and by Government Notification No. 609 published in the *Gazette* of the 1st day of October, 1909, are hereby repealed and the following Regulations are hereby substituted therefor:—

## Definitions.

For the purposes of these Regulations:—

“Entertainment” includes any concert, stage play, stage performance, cinematograph display, exhibition of dancing, conjuring, or juggling, acrobatic performance, boxing contest, or circus, or any other entertainment of a similar character.

“Public entertainment” means any entertainment to which the general public are admitted with or without payment for admission.

## PART I.

## REGULATIONS CONCERNING PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT OTHER THAN MATSHEDS.

## Regulation concerning Applications for Licences and the Issue thereof.

1.—(1.) Any person who desires to keep or use any building or place (other than a matshed) for a public entertainment shall (subject to the currency of any existing licence for such building issued under the Theatres Regulation Ordinance, 1908), if not Chinese, send in an application in writing to the Captain Superintendent of Police, and, if Chinese, send in an application in writing to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, which shall contain the following information:—

- (a.) The names, descriptions and addresses of the person or persons making such application.
- (b.) The character of the entertainment for which such premises are proposed to be used and the locality of such premises and the general nature of the proposed building.

In the case of an application by a person not Chinese, if the Captain Superintendent of Police approves of such application he shall send on such application to the Building Authority. In the case of an application by a Chinese, if the Secretary for Chinese Affairs approves of such application he shall send on such application to the Captain Superintendent of Police for his approval and if the Captain Superintendent of Police approves of the application, he shall send on such application to the Building Authority.

The Building Authority shall, unless, owing to special circumstances, he chooses to grant any modification under Regulation 45, be supplied by the applicant with plans, elevations and sections to a scale of not less than  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch to a foot together with a block plan showing the position of such premises in relation to adjoining buildings and public streets with such completeness as the Building Authority may require. Such plans shall be amended in any particular required by the Building Authority and shall be retained by him, and shall show the number of persons to be accommodated in the various parts respectively of such premises and the area to be assigned to each person, which shall not be less than 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 8 inches, also the widths of all staircases, corridors, gangways, and doorways and the heights of all tiers and other parts of the buildings. Such plans shall be drawn on tracing cloth and shall be submitted in duplicate, and copies of such plans shall be posted on the licensed premises by the licensee.

(2.) The Captain Superintendent of Police may, upon being informed by the Building Authority that he has no objection, issue a licence for the public entertainment to be held in such building or place.

**Regulations applicable to Permanent Buildings erected after  
the 20th day of August, 1909, which it is desired  
to use for a public entertainment.**

*Site.*

2. One half at least of the total length of the boundaries of the site of any premises which consist of an entire building and, in the case of a room or other premises not consisting of an entire building, one half at least of the total length of the boundaries of the site of the building of which such room or other premises form part shall abut upon streets of which one street at least shall be not less than 40 feet wide and of the remainder none shall be less than 30 feet wide if a carriage-way or 20 feet wide if a footway.

*No place of public entertainment under or over any other building.*

3. No such premises shall be constructed underneath or on the top of any part of any other building.

*Walls.*

4. All such premises shall be enclosed with proper external or party walls of brick or stone or other material approved by the Building Authority.

*Steel and iron work protection from fire.*

5. All constructional steel and iron work in such premises shall be embedded in fire-resisting materials in a manner to be approved by the Building Authority.

*Dressing Rooms.*

6. Dressing rooms shall be arranged in a separate block of buildings or divided from the other part or parts of the building by party walls with only such means of communication therewith as may be approved by the Building Authority. All such dressing rooms shall be constructed of fire-resisting materials and connected with an independent exit leading directly into a thoroughfare or way. All such dressing rooms shall be ventilated to the outer air by windows in the external walls.

*Tiers.*

7. No such premises shall have more than two tiers, including the gallery, above the level of the pit. Where the front seats in any tier are separated from the back seats by a partition such seats shall not count as a separate tier.

8. There shall be a clear height at any point between the lowest tier and the floor of not less than 10 feet and between the highest part of the top tier and the lowest part of the ceiling of not less than 12 feet. In the case of any intermediate tier, there shall be a clear height of not less than 10 feet.

*Staircases, Corridors, &c.*

9. Every staircase, landing, lobby, corridor, or passage intended for the use of not more than 400 persons of the audience, shall be formed of fire-resisting materials, and shall not be less than 4 feet 6 inches wide; but if communicating with any portion of the premises intended for the accommodation of a larger number of the audience than 400 persons, it shall be increased in width by 6 inches for every additional 100 persons until a maximum width of 9 feet is obtained.

10. Every staircase intended for the use of the audience shall have solid square (as distinguished from spandril) steps of concrete or other fire-resisting materials to be approved by the Building Authority with treads not less than 11 inches wide and with risers not more than 6 inches high, without winders, in flights of not more than twelve or less than three steps each.

11. The treads of each flight of steps shall be of uniform width and the steps shall be pinned into brick walls at both ends.

12. The several flights of such steps shall be supported and enclosed at the sides by brick walls not less than 9 inches thick.

13. No staircase shall have more than twenty-four steps without a turn.

14. All landings shall be at least 6 inches thick, be square upon plan and shall be so constructed as the Building Authority may require.

15. Every staircase shall have a roof of fire-resisting materials to be approved by the Building Authority.

16. A continuous handrail shall be fixed on both sides of all steps and landings supported by strong metal brackets built into the wall. Such handrails shall be chased into the walls where the thickness of the walls will permit, but in all cases where the flights of steps return, the newel wall shall be chased so as to allow the handrail to turn without projecting on the landing.

#### *Gangways.*

17. A clear passage or gangway not less than 3 feet 6 inches wide shall be formed at the sides and in the rear of the seating in every part of such premises, and gangways not less than 3 feet 6 inches wide shall be provided intersecting the rows of seating in such a manner that no seat shall be more than 10 feet from a gangway measured in the line of the seating. Such passages or gangways shall at all times be kept free from chairs, flap seats, or other obstruction whether permanent or temporary.

#### *Chairs.*

18. Where chairs are used in such premises, they shall be battened together at a distance of not less than 1 foot 8 inches from centre to centre and in lengths of not less than 4 or more than 12 in a section.

#### *Entrances and Exits.*

19. Two separate exits shall be provided from every tier or floor which accommodates not more than 500 persons, and where a tier or floor accommodates more than 500 persons, an additional exit shall be provided for every 250 or part of 250 persons above 500. Each of such exits shall be not less than 5 feet wide between the walls at any point or between the leaves of the doors when open. Two of the exits from each tier or floor shall lead into different streets.

If any tier or floor shall be divided into two or more parts, exits as set out above shall be provided from each of such parts.

Exits shall be arranged so as to afford a ready means of egress from all parts of each tier or floor, and shall lead directly into a street.

#### *Vestibules.*

20. Where vestibules are provided in such premises not more than three tiers or floors or (where such tiers or floors are divided into two or more parts) not more than three of such parts of tiers or floor shall communicate with one vestibule.

The aggregate width of all the doorways or passages that lead from a vestibule towards a street shall be at least one-third greater than the aggregate width of all the exits required by the Regulations that lead to such vestibule.

#### *Exits.*

21. The united width of all the doorways or passages that lead from a vestibule towards a street shall be at least of the same width as such vestibule.

22. Not more than two exits from each separate part of a tier or floor shall be used as entrances.

**23.** All exits and other doors used by the public shall be indicated by painted notices in both English and Chinese in three-inch white block letters or characters upon a black ground. Such notices shall be painted on the doors and walls at least 6 feet 9 inches above the floor level in three inch white block letters and characters upon a black ground upon all doors in sight of the audience which do not lead to exits. Exit doors wherever it is possible to do so must each have a light placed over them, such lights in addition to any other required protection being enclosed in red panes of glass in order to show a red light. Such lights shall be independent of the general lighting system of the theatre, and of each other, and shall be subject to the approval of the Building Authority.

*Gangways, Entrances, Exits, Passages, &c., to be kept unobstructed.*

**24.** At all times during a performance and whenever the public have access to any building, all vestibules, gangways, entrances, exits, passages, corridors, staircases, and landings, shall be kept free from any obstruction of any nature whatever.

*Doors and Fastenings.*

**25.** All doorways used by the public shall be at least four feet six inches wide in the clear with doors hung in two halves made to open outwards towards the street.

**26.** All internal doors shall be so hung as not to obstruct when open any gangway, passage, staircase, or landing.

**27.** No door shall open immediately upon a flight of steps but a square landing of at least the width of the doorway shall be provided between such steps and such doorway.

**28.** All exit doors having fastenings shall be fastened by automatic bolts only, of a pattern to be approved by the Building Authority; but where such doors are also to be used by the public for entrances they shall be fastened with espagnolette or lever bolts only, of a pattern to be approved in each case by the Building Authority, and fitted with lever handles at a height of 3 feet 6 inches from the floor.

**29.** All doors and gates used for entrances shall be made to open both ways and shall when opened inwards be locked back against the wall in such a manner as to require a key to release them.

**30.** All other barriers, doors and gates shall be made to open outwards with no other fastening than automatic bolts.

**31.** No locks, monkey tail, flush or barrel bolts or locking bars, or other obstructions to exits shall be used on any doors, gates, or barriers.

**Regulations applicable to Permanent Buildings erected prior to the 20th day of August, 1909, which are at present used, or which it may be desired to use, for a Public Entertainment.**

**32.** In the case of an application to use any such building for a Public Entertainment, the information required by Rule 1 of these Regulations shall be furnished, and the plans submitted must be approved by the Building Authority, and the whole of the aforesaid Regulations 2 to 31 inclusive shall, as far as possible, be made to apply to such existing buildings, especially those with respect to exits, staircases, corridors, gangways, the use of fire-resisting materials, and doors and fastenings.

**Regulations applicable to Temporary Buildings to be used for a Public Entertainment.**

**33.** In the case of an application to use any temporary building, whether existing or proposed, for a Public Entertainment, the information and procedure laid down by Regulation 1 shall be followed, and the whole of the Regulations 2 to 31 inclusive shall, as far as possible, be made to apply to a temporary building, especially those dealing with exits, staircases, corridors, gangways, doors and fastenings.

34. In the case of a temporary building no licence will be issued for a longer period than one month, but such licence may be renewed at the discretion of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

35. No cinematograph display shall be held in a temporary building.

#### Regulations for the prevention of fire in all buildings used for a Public Entertainment.

36. Buckets of not less than 3 gallons capacity, painted red and lettered "Fire" in English and Chinese and kept filled with water, shall be placed in such numbers and in such positions as the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade may direct.

37. All lighting apparatus (whether for gas, electric light, lime light or other illuminant) must be fixed as the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade may require, and the fittings must be to his satisfaction.

All engines, boilers, and other appliances which may be necessary shall be placed and enclosed in such a manner as the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade may direct.

38. All buildings used for the public performance of stage plays shall have telephonic communication with the Fire Brigade to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

39. All permanent buildings and, where practicable, all temporary buildings, shall, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, be provided with a sufficient number of hydrants, of a diameter of not less than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, connected with the mains. Each of such hydrants shall, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, be provided with sufficient hose, branch pipes, nozzles, and spanners, all of the pattern used by the Government Fire Brigade. There shall also be provided a sufficient supply of axes and fire hooks. All such hydrants, hose, branch pipes, nozzles, spanners, axes, and fire hooks shall at all times be kept ready for use and in proper repair to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. At all times during a performance and whenever the public have access to the building there shall be in attendance a man who, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, is trained in the use of fire appliances.

40. The Captain Superintendent of Police or the licensee may prohibit, (by notice in writing in English and Chinese, posted up conspicuously in the building), smoking in any part or parts of the building.

#### Special Fire Precautions at Cinematograph Displays.

41. In all buildings which are used for the exhibition of cinematograph displays:—

(a) The instrument shall be constructed and operated in either:—

- (i) A specially constructed fireproof room which may form part of the structure of the building, subject to it being isolated from it as to render it absolutely fireproof to the satisfaction of the Building Authority, or
- (ii) A box constructed entirely of sheet iron not less than one-tenth of an inch in thickness or of wood, lined throughout with sheet asbestos.

(b) The films shall be rolled off metal spools, and shall be kept in metal cases, and where the light used for projecting the pictures on the screen is other than electric light such light shall be ignited with an electric ignition apparatus.

(c) The room or box containing the instrument shall not be nearer the audience than six feet in any direction and two buckets of water and a wetted blanket shall be kept inside such room or immediately outside such box during the time when performances are taking place, and there shall be no smoking in such room or box.

#### Regulations applicable to All Buildings used for a Public Entertainment.

42. Forms to be obtained from the Captain Superintendent of Police, specifying the number of persons the building is licensed to accommodate, the number of fire buckets to be provided, and the date of expiration of licence must be posted in prominent positions in any building for which a licence may have been issued.

43. Proper latrine, urinal or water closet accommodation shall be provided, and shall be maintained, and kept cleansed to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Department, the details of the drainage and fittings in connection with such work being carried out to the satisfaction of the Building Authority.

44. No alterations to licensed premises may be carried out without the permission of the Captain Superintendent of Police, nor may any such premises be altered in such a manner as to violate any of the foregoing Regulations or any modification granted in connection therewith.

45. The Building Authority may, where he considers any of the provisions of any of the aforesaid Regulations, owing to especial circumstances, inapplicable or inexpedient, grant such modifications as he may think desirable on receiving a written application.

#### Entry and Inspection of all Buildings used for a Public Entertainment.

46. The Captain Superintendent of Police and any other Police or Fire Brigade Officer deputed by him are empowered to enter any building used for a Public Entertainment at any time, whether during the performance of a stage play or otherwise, for the purpose of inspecting such building including any fire service or apparatus in connection therewith and of seeing that all Regulations are duly observed.

The Building Authority and his deputies are empowered to enter any building used for a Public Entertainment at any time, whether during the performance of a stage play or otherwise, for the purpose of inspecting the building or any part thereof and the licensee of such premises shall provide every facility for such inspection and, except during any actual performance, shall provide all necessary scaffolding, ladders, and anything else necessary for the purpose of such inspection.

#### Penalties.

47. Any person holding a licence under these Regulations who fails to comply with any of the conditions of his licence or with any of the provisions of these Regulations and any operator who fails to comply with the provisions of Regulation 41 of these Regulations shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.

48. The Captain Superintendent of Police shall, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, have power at all times by notice in writing to cancel any licence, without payment of any compensation, on its being brought to his notice that any of the conditions of the licence have not been complied with or that any disorder, or the performance of any Public Entertainment offensive to good manners, decorum, or calculated to corrupt public morals, has taken place, and such licence shall forthwith determine. Any holder of a licence who shall continue the performance of any Public Entertainment after the receipt of such notice shall be liable to the same penalty as that imposed under section 3 of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulation Ordinance, 1919.

Any Police Officer, not under the rank of Assistant Superintendent, shall also have power to close, in person, any performance, if, in his discretion, he considers it necessary, in the interests of peace and good order, to do so.

49. Any person who smokes in any part of a licensed building where smoking is prohibited or who stands or sits in or about or otherwise obstructs any gangway, passage way, or vestibule during the performance of a stage play or who obstructs any Police or other officer in the discharge of the duties imposed on him by these Regulations or otherwise shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25.

*Table of Fees.*

50. The following Fees are payable in respect of licences :—

For a period of one month or less .....	\$ 20
For a period exceeding one month, but not exceeding 3 months...	40
For a period exceeding 3 months, but not exceeding 6 months ...	70
For a period exceeding 6 months, but not exceeding 12 months...	120

*Exemption.*

51. The Governor in Council may, upon good cause being shown to his satisfaction, exempt from the operation of any provision of any of the above Regulations any building kept or used for a Public Entertainment and may reduce the fee payable in respect of any licence.

## PART II.

### Regulations Concerning Matsheds for a Public Entertainment.

52.—(1.) Any person who desires to use any matshed for a public entertainment shall send in an application to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs which shall contain the following information :—

- (a.) The names, descriptions and addresses of the person or persons making such application.
- (b.) The character of the entertainment for which such premises are proposed to be used and the locality of such premises.

If the Secretary for Chinese Affairs approves of such application, he shall send on such application to the Captain Superintendent of Police for his approval, and, if the Captain Superintendent of Police approves of the application, he shall send on such application to the Building Authority, who shall, unless owing to special circumstances, he chooses to grant any modification under Regulation 45, be supplied by the applicant with plans and sections to a scale of not less than  $\frac{1}{20}$  of an inch to a foot together with a block plan showing the position of such premises in relation to adjoining buildings and public streets with such completeness as the Building Authority may require. Such plans shall be amended in any particular required by the Building Authority and shall be retained by him and shall show the number of persons to be accommodated in the various parts respectively of such premises and also the widths of all staircases, corridors, gangways, and doorways. Printed copies of plans and sections suitable for submission in accordance with this requirement may be obtained from the office of the Building Authority on payment of a fee of \$5 in each case.

(2.) The Captain Superintendent of Police may, upon being informed by the Building Authority that he has no objection, issue a licence for a public entertainment to be held in such matshed.

53. In the case of any matshed which it is desired to use for a public entertainment, the provisions contained in Regulations Nos. 2 to 31 shall, as far as practicable, be observed.

54. Nos. 33 to 37 and Nos. 42 to 49 and No. 51 of these Regulations, shall apply in the case of every matshed which it is desired to use for a public entertainment.

55. The following additional Regulations shall also apply in the case of every matshed which it is desired to use for a Public Entertainment :—

- (1.) No part of the structure shall be built over water having a depth of more than 3 feet at high tide.
- (2.) The structure shall not be within 50 yards of any other building, unless with the permission in writing of the Building Authority.
- (3.) The structure shall not exceed one storey in height.
- (4.) No part of the floor of such structure shall be more than 4 feet 6 inches above the level of the ground.

- (5.) The side of every such structure for a height of 8 feet above the floor shall be left open and unenclosed except by a light open fence constructed to the satisfaction of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him.
- (6.) Gangways shall be formed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him. Such gangways shall be not less than 4 feet in width and not more than 20 feet apart.
- (7.) Exits shall be provided and maintained to the satisfaction of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him.
- (8.) All gangways, exits, and passages shall be kept at all times free from any obstruction of any nature whatever.
- (9.) The number of persons to be admitted shall be limited to those for whom seating accommodation is provided and in no case may such number exceed 2,000.
- (10.) Any artificial lighting arrangements shall be to the special satisfaction in each case of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him.
- (11.) Axes and choppers shall be placed in convenient positions within the structure to the satisfaction of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him.
- (12.) Fire buckets not less than 48 in number shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Captain Superintendent of Police or any other Police Officer deputed by him, and shall be kept filled with water within the structure.
- (13.) No cooking shall be allowed in or near the structure.
- (14.) No smoking shall be allowed within the structure: and the licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent it.
- (15.) The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, the Captain Superintendent of Police, and the Building Authority may add further conditions in any case in which it may appear desirable to do so, but the licensee shall have the right to appeal against the imposing of such further additional conditions to the Governor in Council whose decision shall be final.

56. Any person holding a licence for a matshed which it is desired to use for a public entertainment who fails to comply with any of the conditions under which his licence is issued or with any of the provisions of the above mentioned Regulations shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.

### PART III.

#### Regulations for censoring Cinema Films and Cinema Posters (hereinafter referred to as films and posters).

57. All films and posters shall be censored by the Captain Superintendent of Police or by such person or persons as is or are deputed by him in writing with the approval of the Governor.

58. No film or poster unless it has been duly censored under these regulations, shall be exhibited.

59. The fee for censoring films is 20 cents per reel.

60. It shall be the duty of all managers of cinema theatres to arrange for the display of all films and posters for censoring at such place as shall be approved by the Captain Superintendent of Police.

61. Cinema theatres shall be used for the exhibition of films only and shall not be used for any other purpose without the express permission in writing of the Captain Superintendent of Police.