

Excerpt from 527 CMR 1.00 Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code

Section 20.1.5.6.1 through Section 20.1.5.8.4

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20.1.5.6* Crowd Managers.

20.1.5.6.1 Assembly occupancies shall be provided with a minimum of one trained crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor. Where the occupant load exceeds 250, additional trained crowd managers or crowd manager supervisors shall be provided at a ratio of 1 crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor for every 250 occupants, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

20.1.5.6.1 A nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar with an occupant load of 100 or more, shall be provided with a minimum of one trained crowd manager. Where the occupant load exceeds 250, additional trained crowd managers or crowd manager supervisors shall be provided at a ratio of one crowd manager for every 250 occupants.

(1) This requirement shall not apply to assembly occupancies used exclusively for religious worship with an occupant load not exceeding 2000.

(2) The ratio of trained crowd managers to occupants shall be permitted to be reduced where, in the opinion of the AHJ, the existence of an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and the nature of the event warrant. [101:12.7.6.1; 101:13.7.6.1]

20.1.5.6.1.1 A nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar shall be defined as:

(1) Any facility classified as an A-2 or A-3 use group under the building code, which is principally designed or used as a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar; or

(2) Any facility that features entertainment by live band or recorded music generating above normal sound levels and has a specific area designated for dancing.

20.1.5.6.1.2 A crowd manager is not required for:

(1) A temporary structure erected at the same location for no more than ten days in any calendar year; or

(2) A facility that features fixed seating, such as a theatre, auditorium, concert hall or similar place of assembly; or

(3) A facility used for organized private function where:

(a) Each guest has a seat and a table for dining purposes; and

(b) Attendance for each event is limited by pre-arrangement between the facility Operator and the private event organizers; and

(c) The legal capacity of the facility provides not less than 15 square feet (net) per . occupant.

20.1.5.6.2 The crowd manager shall receive approved training in crowd management techniques. [101:12.7.6.2; 101:13.7.6.2]

20.1.5.6.2 The crowd manager shall receive training, as required by the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire Marshal shall develop a reasonable method to confirm, on a three-year basis, that a crowd manager has completed the training in regards to their responsibility.

20.1.5.6.3 A crowd manager shall be at least 21 years of age, shall be the owner or operator of the business or under the direct control and supervision of said owner or operator and shall: e responsible for all of the following:

(1) Maintaining clear paths of egress, assuring that the facility does not exceed its occupant load limit, initiating a fire alarm if necessary, directing occupants to exits;

(2) Assuring general fire and life safety awareness of employees and occupants, including assuring that exit announcements are made in accordance with 20.1.5.8.3;

(3) Accurately completing the safety plan checklist required by 20.1.5.6.4.

20.1.5.6.4 Fire and Building Safety Checklist.

(1) The crowd manager shall be responsible for the completion of the Fire & Building Safety Checklist, as prescribed by the State Fire Marshal, on each day of operation prior to opening the facility to patrons.

(2) This checklist shall include, but not be limited to, the routine safety check of existing fire protection systems, fire extinguishers, signage, interior finish, exits, unobstructed egress, crowd control procedures and building occupancy limits.

(3) The original completed checklists shall be kept on the premises for at least one year and shall be subject to inspection by the AHJ.

20.1.5.7* Fire Detail. Fire details, if deemed necessary in any assembly occupancy, shall be determined by the AHJ.

20.1.5.8* Drills.

20.1.5.8.1 The employees or attendants of assembly occupancies shall be trained and drilled in the duties they are to perform in case of fire, panic, or other emergency to effect orderly exiting.

[101:12.7.7.1; 101:13.7.7.1]

20.1.5.8.2 Employees or attendants of assembly occupancies shall be instructed in the proper use of portable fire extinguishers and other manual fire suppression equipment where provided.

[101:12.7.7.2; 101:13.7.7.2]

20.1.5.8.3* In the following assembly occupancies, an audible announcement shall be made, or a projected image shall be shown, prior to the start of each program that notifies occupants of the location of the exits to be used in case of a fire or other emergency:

(1) Theaters

(2) Motion picture theaters

(3) Auditoriums

(4) Other similar assembly occupancies with occupant loads exceeding 300 where there are noncontinuous programs

[101:12.7.7.3; 101:13.7.7.3]

(5) Nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques or bars.

20.1.5.8.4 The requirement of 20.1.5.8.3 shall not apply to assembly occupancies in schools where used for nonpublic events. [101:12.7.7.4; 101:13.7.7.4]