

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

REGULATION

of

IMPORTANT: Read Instructions on bottom of Certification Page before completing this form. Failure to comply with instructions may cause disapproval of proposed Regulations.

NAME OF AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Concerning

SUBJECT MATTER OF REGULATIONS

MOVING PICTURE THEATERS

Section 1: The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding Sections 29-109-1b to 29-109-6b, inclusive, as follows:

(NEW) Sec. 29-109-1b. The Connecticut Moving Picture Theater Code.

Regulations of the Department of Public Safety Sections 29-109-1b to 29-109-6b, inclusive, shall be known as the Connecticut Moving Picture Theater Code. Sections 29-109-1b to 29-109-6b, inclusive, shall be referred to as "this Code" or "the Code" and may be cited as such, and are adopted under the authority of Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-109.

(NEW) Sec. 29-109-2b. Scope, Applicability, and Administration.

(a) Scope.

- (1) This Code shall apply to all buildings or portions of buildings designed, constructed, equipped and regularly used for the primary purpose of moving picture exhibition and establishes the requirements for the issuance of certificates of approval by the Commissioner of Public Safety.
- (2) This Code shall apply to both new and existing moving picture theaters.

(b) Authority Having Jurisdiction.

The Commissioner of Public Safety is the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" regarding the proper administration, application, interpretation, and modification of the requirements of this Code.

(c) Variations, Exemptions, or Modifications.

- (1) The Commissioner of Public Safety may grant variations or exemptions from, or approve equivalent or alternate compliance with, particular provisions of this Code where strict compliance with such provisions would entail practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, or is otherwise adjudged unwarranted, provided any such variation, exemption or

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approved equivalent or alternate compliance shall, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Public Safety, secure the public safety.

- (2) Applications for variations, exemptions or alternate compliance shall be made on forms provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(NEW) Sec. 29-109-3b. Definitions

As used in Sections 29-109-1b to 29-109-6b, inclusive:

- (1) "Auditorium" means that portion of a moving picture theater which provides for audience seating;
- (2) "Auditorium Certificate" means the annual certificate of approval for the auditorium issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety in accordance with the provisions of Section 29-109 of the Connecticut General Statutes showing the number of persons who may be admitted to such premises at any one time;
- (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety who, under the authority of Section 29-291 of the Connecticut General Statutes, also serves as State Fire Marshal;
- (4) "Moving Picture Projector" means film or video projectors or spotlights utilizing light sources that produce particulate matter or toxic gases or light sources that produce hazardous radiation without protective shielding for the transmission of light onto a screen but does not include enclosed projectors equipped with incandescent lamps for projection illumination;
- (5) "Moving Picture Theater" means a building or portion of a building designed and constructed for the primary purpose of exhibiting moving pictures by means of a moving picture projector;
- (6) "Projection Booth" means the room or area housing the moving picture projector for the transmission of light onto a screen, curtain or stage;

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- (7) "Projection Booth Certificate" means the annual certificate of approval for the projection room or area issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety in accordance with the provisions of Section 29-109 of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizing the use of such room or area; and
- (8) "Theater Manager" means the person responsible for the operation of the moving picture theater and for compliance with this Code.

(NEW) Sec. 29-109-4b. Certificates of Approval.

(a) Auditorium certificate.

- (1) A certificate of approval issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety shall be obtained for each auditorium in a moving picture theater prior to being occupied by the public.
- (2) No such certificate of approval shall be issued until it has been determined by the Commissioner that the premises are in substantial compliance with the requirements of this Code and the minimum requirements of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, adopted pursuant to Section 29-292 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (3) The certificate of approval for the auditorium showing the number of persons that may be admitted to such premises at any one time shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the theater office.

(b) Projection booth certificate.

- (1) A certificate of approval issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety for each projection room or area shall be required prior to the moving picture theater being occupied by the public.
- (2) No such certificate of approval shall be issued until it has been determined by the Commissioner that the premises are in substantial compliance with the requirements of this Code and the minimum requirements of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, adopted pursuant to Section 29-292 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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(3) The certificate of approval for the projection booth shall be posted in a conspicuous place within the projection booth.

(NEW) Sec. 29-109-5b. Operation of a Moving Picture Theater.

- (a) The theater manager shall make or cause to be made by a responsible employee an inspection of the theater premises each day that the theater is to be occupied prior to occupancy by the public to ensure that each stairway, door, and other exit facility is maintained for emergency use. Such inspection shall be conducted with reasonable diligence.
- (b) In a moving picture theater where a fire alarm system is not required by the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, the theater manager or any responsible employee designated by the theater manager shall be responsible for initiating the required emergency actions upon the discovery of a fire or other emergency condition.
- (c) Upon the initiation of any fire alarm system required by the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, the theater manager or any responsible employee designated by the theater manager shall initiate the required emergency actions.
- (d) The emergency actions required in subsection (b) and (c) include:
 - (1) Activating or causing the activation of the normal illumination of the auditorium(s).
 - (2) Shutting down or causing the shut down of the moving picture projector(s).
 - (3) Promptly notifying theater occupants of the emergency.
- (e) The theater manager of a moving picture theater shall immediately notify the Commissioner of Public Safety by telephone during normal business hours at 860-685-8350 or at other times, the State Police Communications Center at 800-842-0200, of any fire or other incident or accident which results in physical damage to the theater or its contents.

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(NEW) Sec. 29-109-6b. Nitrocellulose moving picture film.

No person may store or use any moving picture film made of nitrocellulose or any other highly combustible material in a moving picture theater.

Section 2: Sections 29-109-1a to 29-109-72a, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are repealed.

Statement of purpose: To provide for the safety of persons in theaters by updating the regulations to reflect changes in technology and to satisfy the requirements of Section 29-109 of the Connecticut General Statutes.