



LCSD PERFORMING ARTS VENUES **PRACTISE – BARRIERS & GUARDING**

Issue. 6

Within performing arts venues it is important to maintain public and staff safety at all times. Protection from falls is paramount and the subject of this practice document.

These notes are provided as a guide to the LCSD performing arts venue policy in respect of barriers and guarding on stage as part of a public performance.

Adequate barriers or guarding should be provided throughout performing arts venues to minimise, as far as is practical and the risk of any person falling.

GENERAL

1. All stairs, ramps, platforms, landings, balconies, galleries and other changes of level exceeding 380mm should be provided with a barrier.
2. Steps or stairs with two or more risers should be provided with a barrier.
N.B. The seats themselves may form the barrier in auditoria.
3. Any orchestra pit should be provided with a barrier (orchestra pit rail) to prevent members of the audience falling into the pit.
4. Construction of barriers should generally ensure a sphere 100mm in diameter cannot pass through any opening in the barrier, except in areas where children will not be admitted. Barrier design should minimise the risk of climbing, so horizontal or diagonal members should be avoided.
5. Barriers should be provided where there is a drop around the perimeter of a seating block on tiered or retractable rostra.
6. Barriers should be provided at 900-1100mm with mid-rail at 400-600mm from the rostra where the rostra is at the height or above 2m.
7. Barrier heights and resisting forces should be appropriate for the specific use.
N.B. Details to follow.

TECHNICAL AREAS

8. Special operational areas (not accessible to the public) require special consideration. Guardrails may sometimes be omitted for operational reasons, subject to other safeguards, e.g. prevention of access by unauthorized personnel.

N.B. Barriers may be omitted from scenery solely for artistic effect where training by frequent rehearsal will ensure safety. However, some form of edge marking is still desirable in these cases.

9. A permanent barrier is not to be provided across the front edge of a stage.
N.B. The downstage edge of a stage should be clearly marked when the drop exceeds 600mm so performers can recognise it. Marking should be unobtrusive, preferably invisible to the audience, using beta-lights, marking tape or a lip about 300mm upstage of the front edge.
10. A pit net should be temporarily installed over the orchestra pit where there is a production risk of small objects falling into the pit.
11. Rear edges of seating platforms or rostra in the orchestra pit should have a raised lip to guard against seats being dislodged.

LCSD Issue: June 2002
Revised: January 2010

Adapted from Technical Standards, ABTT & DSA, 6.2008