



FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PPA/109(A)

Fire Safety Requirements for Places of Public Entertainment Licence (Theatres)

Specifications for Fire Safety Curtain

1. The Fire Safety Curtain shall be constructed by non-combustible material with not less than 2-hour fire resistance period. The construction and material of the curtain shall conform to the BS 476 Part 20 to 24 and satisfy the criteria of integrity; or in compliance with the Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives (NPFA 80); or to other standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.
2. To ensure that the Fire Safety Curtain assumes its operational position at the earliest opportunity in the event of a fire, the requirements of automatic actuating devices of the safety curtains as stipulated in para. 5.2 of the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (Edition : July 2005) shall be complied with. Smoke detectors being served as actuating devices and manual override switches shall be installed at both sides of the Fire Safety Curtain as part of the control system and be connected to a central control panel.
3. The Fire Safety Curtain shall descend without interruption to close the proscenium opening completely within 30 seconds from the operation of the release mechanism and that the bottom rail of the curtain shall reach the mid-height in not less than half the total descending time of the curtain.
4. Demarcation of sterilized zone not jeopardizing the operation of the Fire Safety Curtain is required.
5. The words SAFETY CURTAIN in plain block letters, and the Chinese characters shall be painted on the Fire Safety Curtain. The letters and characters shall be not less than 300 mm high and shall be in central position in which they can be seen from all parts of the auditorium and not less than 900 mm from the bottom of the Fire Safety Curtain.
6. Audio and visual warning devices shall be provided on both sides of the Fire Safety Curtain to alert the audience that a real fire has occurred should the Curtain be operated.

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7. To enhance the fire safety standard inside the theatre, fast response type sprinkler heads are required to be installed throughout the premises.
8. Hand release-gear, to cause the descent of the curtain shall be provided in duplicate. One such release shall be on the working side of the stage and the other in a position outside the stage area readily accessible to firemen or authorized staff.
9. The Fire Safety Curtain shall be installed in accordance with the standards acceptable to the Director of Buildings. The location of Fire Safety Curtain should not jeopardize the provision of means of escape of the premises.
10. Documentary proof of conformity to relevant standards shall be provided.

Fire Services Department (March 2012)