

BRITISH GUIANA

REGULATIONS

MADE UNDER

THE CINEMATOGRAPH ORDINANCE, (Chapter 105).

UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE CINEMATOGRAPH ORDINANCE AS SUBSTITUTED BY SECTION 2 OF THE CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1945, THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Cinematograph (Amendment) Regulations, 1953, and shall be construed and read as one with the Cinematograph Regulations, 1928, hereinafter referred to as the Principal Regulations and any Regulations amending the same. Short title.

2. Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations as amended by regulation 3 of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Regulations, 1945, is hereby further amended — Amendment of regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations. No. 40 of 1945.

(a) by the substitution for the definition of the expression “cinematograph exhibition” of the following new definition —
“the expression “cinematograph exhibition” means —

(a) any exhibition to which the Cinematograph Ordinance applies; and Cap. 105

(b) any public exhibition in any cinematograph theatre in respect of which a licence is required under the provisions of the Music and Dancing Licences Ordinance.”; and Cap. 106.

(b) by the substitution for the definition of the expression “City of Georgetown” in paragraph (d) of the following new definition —

“ The expression “city of Georgetown” means the city of Georgetown as defined by section 4 of the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance and the Kitty and Alexanderville Village District;” Cap. 86.

3. Regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations is hereby amended — Amendment of Regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations.

(a) by the substitution of the following for paragraph (a) —

“(a) No building shall be used for cinematograph exhibitions unless it is provided with sufficient and suitable exits leading from each tier or floor to one or more thoroughfares. Every exit shall be indicated in the manner hereinafter prescribed and shall be so placed and maintained as readily to afford the audience ample means of safe egress.”; and

(b) by the addition thereto of the following paragraphs —

- “(d) Gangways shall be provided intersecting the seating so that the centre line of any seat shall not be more than 12 feet from a gangway, measured along the line of the seating.
- (e) Every gangway shall be not less than 42 inches wide.
- (f) No corridor or passage shall exceed the width of any exit to which it leads by more than 15 per centum of the width of such exit.
- (g) The floor of any corridor or passage within 5 feet of any stairway shall be level.
- (h) Every stairway or ramp which is more than 8 feet 6 inches in width shall be provided with a central handrail. The up-rights supporting each end of such handrail shall extend to the ceiling.
- (i) Every exit normally used as such by members of the public shall be marked “EXIT” in red in block letters not less than 7 inches high.
- (j) Every notice indicating an exit—
- (a) shall be not less than 6 feet 9 inches above floor level and directly above the exit or door leading thereto;
- (b) shall be illuminated by the safety lighting service or by both main and safety lighting service or independently; and
- (c) shall at all times be plainly visible whether or not the main or safety lighting services are in operation.
- (k) Where, in the opinion of the licensing authority, any doubt may arise as to the direction of any exit whereby members of the public may be endangered, suitable and sufficient notices shall be placed in such parts of the theatre as the licensing authority may direct. Every such notice shall consist of the words “TO EXIT” in block letters in red with an arrow in red indicating the line of movement towards the exit.
- (l) Every opening from the auditorium or foyers which does not form a part of any exit shall be marked “NO THOROUGH-FARE” in block letters in black not less than 3 inches high on a white background bordered in red.
- (m) No locks, bolts, hasps, padlocks, chains or other fastenings, other than panic bolts, shall be attached to any exit door, and all

collapsible gates, grills, railings or sliding shutters across any exit shall be locked in the open position while the audience is in the building.

- (n) No door shall open immediately upon any step or staircase, but every door shall open upon a landing or platform at least 3 feet long. The width of every such landing shall not be less than the width of the door.
- (o) Any floor, floor covering or treader used in any part of the auditorium, gangways, exits or stairways shall be maintained in good order.
- (p) No mirror or other article with a polished surface capable of reflecting images shall be placed in or near to any corridor, passage or exit."

4. The Principal Regulations are hereby further amended by the insertion therein after regulation 3, of the following new regulation—
"Sites.

3A (1) Except as otherwise provided in this regulation, all cinematograph theatres in the city of Georgetown, the town of New Amsterdam and the Kitty and Alexanderville Village District shall abut upon 2 or more thoroughfares of adequate width to enable an audience to disperse rapidly and to allow the approach of fire appliances. Those parts of the building abutting on such thoroughfares shall be of adequate length.

(2) Any such cinematograph theatre—

- (a) which will not accommodate more than 2,000 persons; and
- (b) in which no public dancing, singing, music or other similar public entertainment takes place,—

may abut upon 1 thoroughfare only where such thoroughfare is not less than 40 feet wide and where suitable and sufficient open paved passage-ways free from any obstruction lead to such thoroughfare. Every such passage-way shall be not less than 8 feet wide.

(3) Every passage-way shall at all times be kept free from any obstruction and shall be open to the sky. Where any such passage-way is less than 12 feet wide, it shall not be overlooked by any windows of any adjoining premises at a height of less than 12 feet."

5. The Principal Regulations are hereby further amended by the insertion therein, after regulation 5, of the following new regulation—

"Dry rising mains.

5 A⁴ (1) Dry rising mains of not less than 2½ inches in diameter shall be provided in all cinematograph theatres in the city of Georgetown,

Insertion of new regulation 3A in Principal Regulations.

Insertion of new regulation 5A in Principal Regulations.

the town of New Amsterdam and the Kitty and Alexanderville Village District to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the Georgetown Fire Brigade or the Officer for the time being in charge of the New Amsterdam Fire Brigade as the case may be. Such dry rising mains shall be fitted with not more than three drencher heads for each separate main the diameter of which shall be 2½ inches.

(2) Every enclosure, whether lined with fire-resistant material or not, shall, where it forms a part of a cinematograph theatre constructed of wood, have 1 dry rising main with not less than 3 drencher heads so fixed and situated that water under pressure can be delivered from street level outside of the premises by the pumps of the Fire Brigade.

(3) In any cinematograph theatre in which a stage or scenery is used, a dry rising main as specified in sub-regulation '(2) of this regulation shall be installed in such manner as to enable water to be delivered on to the stage and scenery by the pumps of the Fire Brigade."

6. Regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the proviso thereto.

Amendment of Regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations.

7. Regulations 3, 4 and 5 of these Regulations shall not apply to any cinematograph theatre with a seating capacity of less than 100 persons where the Superintendent of the Georgetown Fire Brigade or the officer for the time being in charge of the New Amsterdam Fire Brigade, as the case may be, is satisfied that such theatre is provided with sufficient and adequate means of escape in the event of fire.

Exemption.

Made in Council this 8th day of May, 1953.

JOHN C. MALONE,
Acting Clerk to the Executive Council.

(M.P. 17/2).