



## GUIDE TO THE BC FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-FIXED SEATING IN ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES

Non-fixed seating applies to seats that are not permanently attached in one position. Generally non-fixed seats are used in areas that are utilized in several different ways. For example, the gymnasium in a school, or the hall in a community club or church.

This guide is to assist property/business owners so they are in compliance with the BC Fire Code requirements for non-fixed seating.

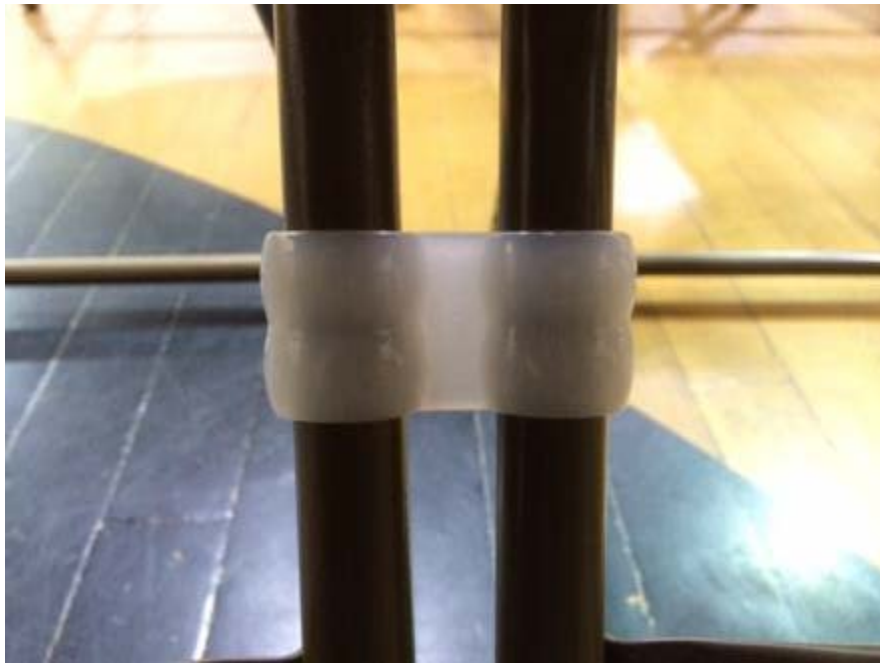
Typically, non-fixed seating will either be arranged in rows (indoors or outdoors), or at tables.

- A. Non-fixed seating arranged in rows shall meet the following (see illustration):
- 1) The seats shall be arranged in rows
  - 2) The distance between the rows shall be a minimum 16 inches, and be measured from a plumb line from the back of one seat to the most forward projection of the seat directly behind it.
  - 3) Aisles shall be located so there are no more than 7 seats between every seat and the nearest aisle. Therefore, there can only be a maximum of 16 seats in a row served by 2 aisles, and 8 seats in a row served by only 1 aisle.
  - 4) The clear width of an aisle in millimetres shall not be less than the greater of 1100 mm (**44 inches**) or the product of the number of seats served by the aisle and 6.1. For example, if the aisle serves 100 seats:  $100 \times 6.1 = 610$  mm. The greater of 600 mm or 1100 mm is 1100 mm or 44 inches. Thus, the minimum width the aisle serving 100 seats can be is 44 inches.
  - 5) Aisles that serve rows where there are 60 seats or fewer must be at least 30 inches wide.
  - 6) Dead end aisles must not be longer than 6 M (20 ft.)
  - 7) Every required egress doorway shall be served by an aisle that has a clear width not less than 44 inches, has access to at least one additional egress doorway; and at every point on the aisle, provides a choice of 2 opposite directions by which to reach an egress doorway. **NO EXITS CAN BE BLOCKED.**

### Fire Department

675 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 6C7  
T: 250-286-6266 F: 250-286-6741

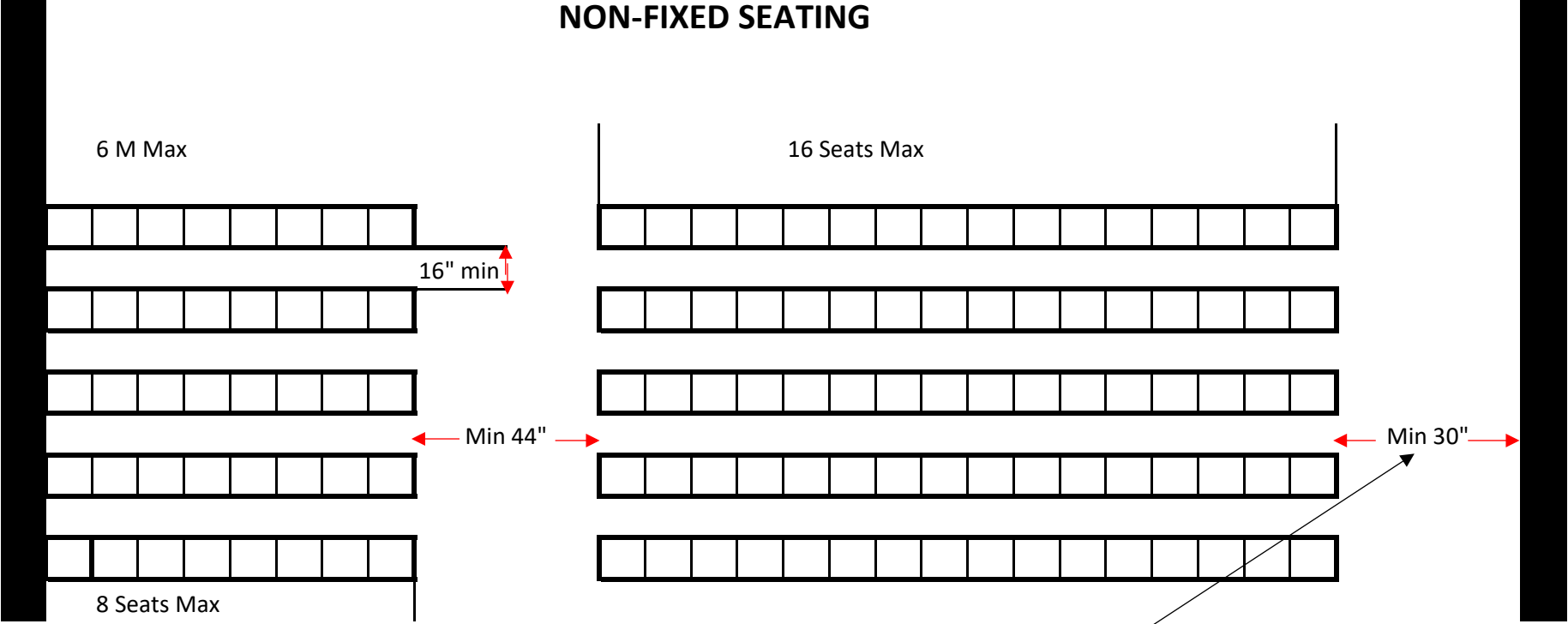
- 8) When your assembly contains more than 200 seats, the seats in a row shall be fastened together in units of no fewer than 8 seats, or where there are 7 seats or fewer in a row, all the seats in the row shall be fastened together.



- 9) When non-fixed seats are provided in Outdoor Assembly Areas, aisles will be located so that there are no more than 15 seats between every seat and the nearest aisle. Therefore, a maximum of 32 seats in a row served by 2 aisles, and 16 seats in a row served by only 1 aisle. Aisle width shall be the greater of 1200 mm (48 inches), or the number of seats served by the aisle X 1.8 mm.

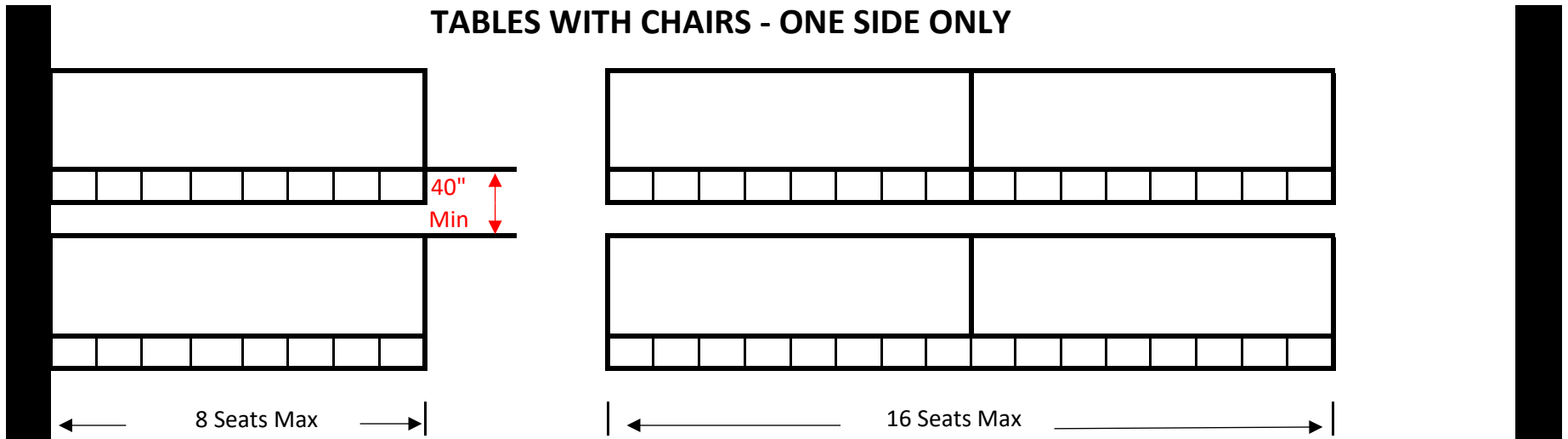
- B. Non-fixed seating provided at tables shall meet the following (see illustration below):
- 1) The spacing between the nearest edges of tables in 2 consecutive rows shall not be less than 55 inches where seating is arranged on both sides of tables (back to back).
  - 2) The spacing between the nearest edges of tables in 2 consecutive rows shall not be less than 40 inches where seating is on one side only.
  - 3) As in the case for non-fixed seating in rows, there can only be a maximum of 16 seats in a row served by 2 aisles, and 8 seats in a row served by only 1 aisle.
  - 4) Dead end aisles must not be longer than 6 M (20 ft.)

# NON-FIXED SEATING

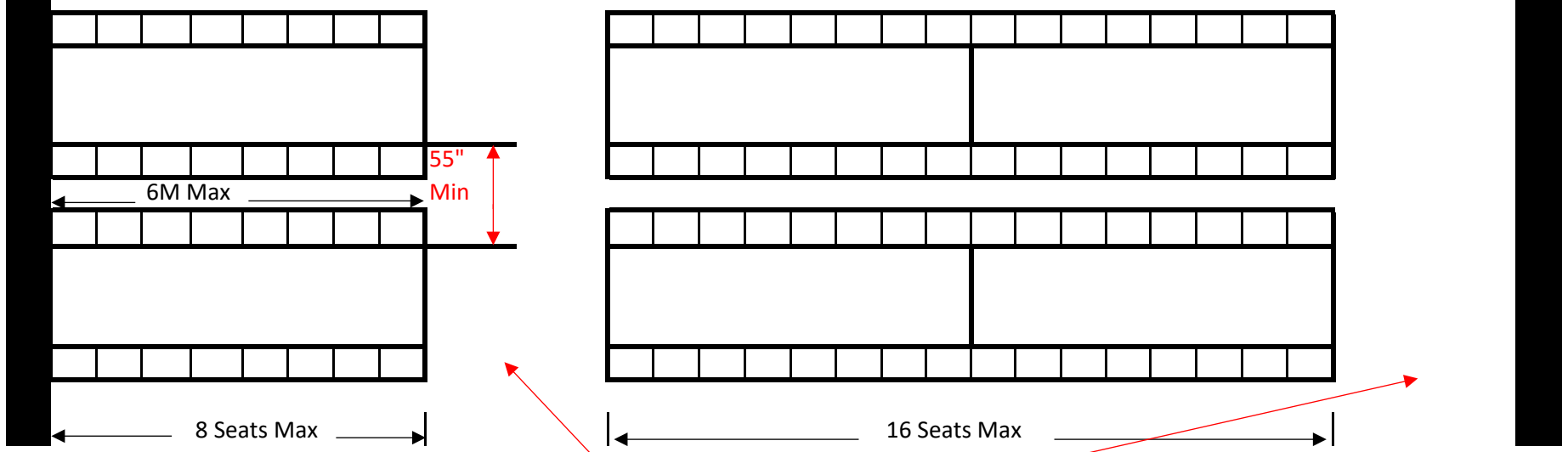


Aisles serving rows where there are 60 seats or fewer must be a minimum 30 " wide

### TABLES WITH CHAIRS - ONE SIDE ONLY



### TABLES WITH CHAIRS - ON BOTH SIDES



Aisle width to be a minimum 44 " except for aisles serving rows where there are 60 seats or fewer must be a minimum 30 " wide