

Auditorium Design ADA Requirements

ADA codes differ slightly between the federal regulations and IBC requirements, Irwin Seating Company tends to follow the Federal code unless specified to follow IBC. Below is an overview of the federal code.

When designating wheelchair locations the intent is to disperse the spaces throughout the seating area to provide line of site choices comparable to that of the general public. The exception to this rule is in assembly areas with 300 or fewer seats; the wheelchair spaces can be clustered at the rear and/or front of the room. All wheelchair areas need to be on level floors. The minimum space for a single wheelchair is 36" x 48", and 66" x 48" for two wheelchair spaces side by side. Allowable turning circle for a wheelchair is 60" diameter. Each wheelchair space requires one fixed companion chair to be adjacent to it. Graphic representations can be found in the ADA code called the Code of Federal Regulations (either online or hard copy) page 501.

Wheelchair requirements for assembly areas:

Number of Chairs	Number of Wheelchairs required
4 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 150	4
151 to 300	5
301 to 500	6
501 to 5000	6 + 1 additional space for each extra 150 chairs
5001 and over	36 + 1 additional space for each extra 200 chairs

In addition, 5 percent of the Aisle Ends shall have transfer arms.

Wheelchair access down sloped aisles is limited to a maximum of 1" per foot over a span of 30'-0" or ¾" per foot over a span of 40'-0". After these limitations are reached, there must be a level area (5'-0" or more), before continuation of more sloped floor. For further graphics see illustration on page 520 in ADA publication called the Code of Federal Regulations.

Removable chairs are permitted to be installed in designated ADA locations when they are not used by an individual in a wheelchair. Irwin Seating Company offers movable bases for use in these spaces as well as transfer arm options; see our published literature or visit our web site for options.