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Assistive Listening Devices

CODE REFERENCES

Article 3.7.3.7. states:

- (1) Except as permitted in Sentence (2), in buildings of assembly occupancy, all classrooms, auditoria, meeting rooms and theatres with an area of more than 100 m² shall be equipped with an assistive listening system encompassing the entire seating area.
- (2) Where the assistive listening system required in Sentence (1) is an induction loop system, only half the seating area in the room need be encompassed.

DISCUSSION

Article 3.7.3.7. requires the installation of devices to improve the sound reception for the hard of hearing in certain rooms or spaces in various types of buildings.

Many school buildings are designed incorporating large open spaces such as libraries, (learning resource centres), and open or communal teaching areas. Although these spaces are not separated by standard floor-to-ceiling enclosing partitions, they are often functionally subdivided into smaller areas by bookshelves, furniture, etc. These areas are neither designed nor intended for use by audiences larger than normal classroom size.

Similarly, some school gymnasias are neither designed nor intended for uses other than school physical education programs.

ISSUE OF THIS RULING IS AUTHORIZED
UNDER ARTICLE 1.5.7.4. OF THE ALBERTA
BUILDING CODE 1990 BY THE DIRECTOR
OF BUILDING STANDARDS.

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LABOUR

Work and Safety Division



In rooms and spaces in any building where assistive listening devices are required to be installed, receivers to be worn by the hearing impaired are also required. This Ruling provides the minimum number of receivers that are to be provided to accommodate the expected number of hearing impaired persons in a 'typical' audience.

RULING

1. Open area teaching or learning/resource spaces in schools, which are
 - (a) intended for use by one or more classroom sized audiences, (54 students or less), each class being under the instruction of a teacher, and
 - (b) not intended for use by non-school audiences, need not be provided with assistive listening devices as required by Article 3.7.3.7.
2. Gymnasia in schools, are required to be provided with assistive listening devices in accordance with Article 3.7.3.7. except for gymnasia which:
 - (a) are neither designed nor intended for uses other than school physical education classes, and
 - (b) are not provided with stages, podiums, chair storage, or other ancillary facilities intended to facilitate the use of the space by an audience, need not be provided with assistive listening devices as required by Article 3.7.3.7.



3. When assistive listening devices are required in conformance with Article 3.7.3.7., at least 2 receivers per 100 people of calculated occupant load of the the space in question, are to be provided.*

* Designers and/or owners should note that the Canadian Hearing Council considers 2 receivers per 100 people to be a minimum requirement. When the facilities are to be frequently used by an audience having a greater percentage of senior citizens than found in the total population, a higher ratio of receivers to occupant load will be needed to accommodate the expected number of people who require assistive listening devices in order to participate.

This RULING applies throughout the Province of Alberta.

