

THE CINEMATOGRAPH ACT

RULES
(under section 9)

THE CINEMATOGRAPH RULES, 1914

(Made by the Governor in Privy Council on the 25th day of
August, 1914)

G.N. 476/14
Amd:
G.N. 320/15
L.N. 7/41
2/48
205/55
223/60
361/66

1. These Rules may be cited as the Cinematograph Rules, 1914.

GENERAL

2. In these Rules the word "building" shall be deemed to include any building, booth, tent or structure in which it is intended to show cinematograph or similar pictures or in which such pictures are shown.

3.—(1) No building shall be used for cinematograph or similar exhibitions unless it be provided with an adequate number of clearly indicated exits so placed and maintained as to readily afford the audience ample means of safe egress.

(2) The seating in the building shall be so arranged as not to interfere with free access to the exits; and the gangways and staircases, and the passages leading to the exits shall during the presence of the public in the building be kept clear of obstructions.

4. The cinematograph operator and all persons responsible for, or employed in, or in connection with the exhibition shall take all due precautions for the prevention of accidents, and shall abstain from any act whatever which tends to or is likely to cause fire and is not reasonably necessary for the purpose of the exhibition.

FIRE APPLIANCES

5. Fire appliances adequate for the protection of the building shall be provided, and shall include at least the following, namely, a damp blanket, two buckets of water, and a bucket of dry sand. A building used habitually for the purpose of cinematograph or similar exhibitions shall also include a sufficient number of hand grenades or other approved portable fire extinguishers.

The fire appliances shall be so placed that there shall be sufficient means of dealing with fire readily available for use within the enclosure. Before the commencement of each performance the cinematograph operator shall satisfy himself that the fire appliances intended for use within the enclosure are in working order, and during the performance such appliances shall be in the charge of some person specially nominated for that purpose who shall see that they are kept constantly available for use.

ENCLOSURES

Rules applying in all cases and to all classes of buildings

6.—(1) (a) The cinematograph apparatus shall be placed and kept in an enclosure of substantial construction made of or lined internally with fire-resisting material and of sufficient dimensions to allow the operator to work freely.

(b) The entrance to the enclosure shall be suitably placed and shall be fitted with a self-closing close fitting door constructed of fire-resisting material.

(c) The openings through which the necessary pipes and cables pass into the enclosure shall be sufficiently bushed.

(d) The openings in the front face of the enclosure shall not be larger than is necessary for effective projection, and shall not exceed two for each lantern. Each such opening shall be fitted with a screen of fire-resisting material, which can be released both inside and outside the enclosure so that it automatically closes with a close-fitting joint.

(e) The door of the enclosure and all openings, bushes and joints shall be so constructed and maintained as to prevent, so far as possible, the escape of any smoke into the auditorium. If means of ventilation are provided, they shall not be allowed to communicate direct with the auditorium.

(f) If the enclosure is inside the auditorium, either a suitable barrier shall be placed around the enclosure at a distance of not less than two feet from it, or other effectual means shall be taken to prevent the public from coming into contact with the enclosure.

(g) No unauthorized person shall go into the enclosure or be allowed to be within the barrier.

(h) No smoking shall at any time be permitted within the barrier or enclosure.

(i) No inflammable article shall unnecessarily be taken into or allowed to remain in the enclosure.

Rules applying only to specified classes of buildings

(2) In the case of buildings used habitually for cinematograph or similar exhibitions, the enclosure shall be placed outside the auditorium; and in the case of permanent buildings used habitually as aforesaid the enclosure shall also be permanent:

Provided with regard to the foregoing requirements, that, if the licensing authority under the said Act is of opinion that compliance with either or both of them is impracticable or in the circumstances unnecessary for securing safety and shall have stated such opinion by express words in the licence, the requirements so specified shall not apply.

LANTERNS, PROJECTORS AND FILMS

7. Lanterns shall be placed on firm supports constructed of fire-resisting material, and shall be provided with a metal shutter which can be readily inserted between the source of light and the film-gate.

The film-gate shall be of massive construction and shall be provided with ample heat-radiating surface. The passage for the film shall be sufficiently narrow to prevent flame travelling upwards or downwards from the light-opening.

8. Cinematograph projectors shall be fitted with two metal film-boxes of substantial construction, and not more than fourteen inches in diameter, inside measurement, and to and from these the films shall be made to travel. The film-boxes shall be made to close in such a manner, and shall be fitted with a film-slot so constructed as to prevent the passage of flame to the interior of the box.

9. Spools shall be chain belt or gear driven and films shall be wound upon spools so that the wound film shall not at any time reach or project beyond the edges of the flanges of the spool.

10. During the exhibition all films not in use in the film-boxes shall be kept in closed metal boxes.

LIGHTING

11. Where the general lighting of the auditorium and exits can be controlled from within the enclosure, there shall also be separate and independent means of control outside and away from the enclosure.

12. No illuminant other than electric light, limelight, or acetylene shall be used within any lantern.

13.—(1) Within the enclosure the insulating material of all electric cables, including "leads" to lamps, shall be covered with fire-resisting material.

(2) There shall be no unnecessary slack electric cable within the enclosure. The "leads" to the cinematograph lamp shall unless conveyed within a metal pipe or other suitable casing, be kept well apart both within and without the enclosure and shall run so that the course of each may be readily traced.

(3) Cables for cinematograph lamps shall be taken as separate circuits from the source of supply and from the supply side of the main fuses in the general lighting circuit, and there shall be efficient switches and issues inserted at the point where the supply is taken, and in addition, an efficient double pole switch shall be fitted in the cinematograph lamp circuit inside the enclosure. When the cinematograph lamp is working, the pressure of the current across the terminals of the double pole switch inside the enclosure shall not exceed 250 volts.

(4) Resistance shall be made entirely of fire-resisting material, and shall be so constructed and maintained that no coil or other part shall at any time become unduly heated. (They should not become so heated that a piece of newspaper placed in contact with any part of the resistance would readily ignite.) All resistances, with the exception of a resistance for regulating purpose, shall be placed outside the enclosure and, if reasonably practicable, outside the auditorium. If inside the auditorium, they shall be adequately protected by a wire guard or other efficient means of preventing accidental contact.

The operator shall satisfy himself before the commencement of each performance that all cables, leads, connections, and resistances, are in proper working order. The resistance if not under constant observation, shall be inspected at least once during each performance. If any fault is detected, current shall be immediately switched off and shall remain switched off until the fault has been remedied.

ACETYLENE

14. No acetylene shall be used unless supplied direct from cylinders or other vessels containing a homogeneous porous substance, with or without acetone, and unless as regards such vessels their contents and the degree of compression, the following requirements shall be complied with, namely—

- (a) the pressure shall not exceed one hundred and fifty pounds to the square inch;
- (b) the porous substance shall fill, as completely as possible, the cylinder or other vessel into which the acetylene is compressed and the porosity of the substance shall not exceed eighty per cent;
- (c) every cylinder or other vessel into which acetylene is to be compressed shall be thoroughly tested to a pressure of not less than double that to which the vessel is to be subjected when in use, and shall be fitted with a fusible plug designed to act at or below a temperature of 312° F;
- (d) every cylinder or vessel in which acetylene is compressed shall be permanently and conspicuously marked with the name of the manufacturer, and shall bear a label giving the date when it was last filled together with the name and address of the filler;
- (e) when acetone is used for absorbing the acetylene due precaution shall be taken that the quantity of acetone is such that when fully charged with acetylene it does not completely fill the porosity of the porous substance.

LIMELIGHT

15.—(1) If any limelight be used in the lantern the gas cylinders shall be tested and filled in conformity with the requirements set out in the Appendix. The tubing shall be of sufficient strength to resist pressure from without and shall be properly connected up. Appendix.

(2) No gas shall be stored or used save in containers constructed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Appendix.

LICENCES

16. Every licence granted under the Act shall contain specific conditions for the carrying out of rules 3 and 6 (1) (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) in the building for which the licence is granted, and may, in accordance with rule 6 (2) contain an expression of opinion on the matters referred to in the proviso thereto.

17. Subject to the provisions of rule 18 every licence granted under the Act shall contain a clause providing for its lapse, or, alternatively, for its revocation by the licensing authority, if any alteration is made in the building or the enclosure without the sanction of the said authority.

18. Where a licence has been granted under the Act in respect of a movable building, a plan and description of the building, certified with the approval of the licensing authority, shall be attached to the licence. Such a licence may provide that any of the conditions or restrictions contained therein may be modified either by the licensing authority or by the licensing authority of the district where an exhibition is to be given. The licence and plan and description or any of them shall be produced on demand to any police constable or to any person authorized by the licensing authority or by the authority in whose district the building is being or is about to be used for the purpose of an exhibition.

MISCELLANEOUS

19. Every applicant for permission under section 4 of the Act shall pay a fee of \$4.20 for the examination of the building and machinery to be used.

20. There shall be paid to the Accountant-General for any view or inspection by the authority of any picture or other optical effect which any person proposes to give or allow to be presented, a fee, in respect of each member of the authority who made the view or inspection, of twelve cents for every thousand feet or part thereof of the film to be so viewed or inspected.

APPENDIX

(Rule 15)

LIMELIGHT

The gas cylinders shall be tested and filled in conformity with the requirements set out below, which follow the recommendations of the Departmental Committee of the Home Office on the manufacture of Compressed Gas Cylinders (C. 7952 of 1896)—

Cylinders of Compressed Gas (Oxygen, Hydrogen, or Coal Gas).

(a) Lap-welded wrought iron.—Greatest working pressure, 120 atmospheres, or 1,800 pounds per square inch.

Stress due to working pressure not to exceed $16\frac{1}{2}$ tons per square inch.

Proof pressure in hydraulic test, after annealing 224 atmospheres, or 3,360 pounds per square inch.

Permanent stretch in hydraulic test not to exceed 10 per cent of the elastic stretch.

One cylinder in 50 to be subjected to a statical bending test, and to stand crushing nearly flat between two rounded knife-edges without cracking.

(b) Lap-welded or seamless steel.—Greatest working pressure, 120 atmospheres, or 1,800 pounds per square inch.

Stress due to working pressure not to exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons per square inch in lap-welded, or 8 tons per square inch in seamless cylinders.

Carbon in steel not to exceed 0.25 per cent or iron to be less than 99 per cent.

Tenacity of steel not to be less than 26 or more than 33 tons per square inch. Ultimate elongation not less than 1.2 inches in 8 inches. Test-bar to be cut from finished annealed cylinder.

Proof pressure in hydraulic test, after annealing, 224 atmospheres, or 3,360 pounds per square inch.

Permanent stretch shown by water jacket not to exceed 10 per cent of elastic stretch.

One cylinder in 50 to be subjected to a statical bending test, and to stand crushing nearly flat between rounded knife-edges without cracking.

Rules applicable to all Cylinders

Cylinders to be marked with a rotation number, a manufacturer's or owner's mark, an annealing mark with date, a test mark with date. The marks to be permanent and easily visible.

Testing to be repeated at least every two years, and annealing at least every four years.

A record to be kept of all tests.

Cylinders which fail in testing to be destroyed or rendered useless.

Hydrogen and coal gas cylinders to have left-handed threads for attaching connections and to be ~~be~~ painted red.

The compressing apparatus to have two pressure gauges and an automatic arrangement for preventing overcharging. The compressing apparatus for oxygen to be wholly distinct and unconnected with the compressing apparatus for hydrogen and coal gas.

Cylinders not to be refilled till they have been emptied.

If cylinders are sent out unpacked the valve fittings should be protected by a steel cap.

A minimum weight to be fixed for each size of cylinder in accordance with its required thickness. Cylinders of less weight to be rejected.