

## **Evidence to support the definition - ‘covered stands that can accommodate 500+ persons should be classes as regulated stands’**

### **Safety Certification information from FLA website.**

Source - <http://www.flaweb.org.uk/docs/publications/pubs/flabrief.php#c1>

### **3.2. Regulated stands**

A regulated stand is any covered stand with accommodation for 500 or more spectators, whether seated or standing. The local authority is required to determine whether any, and if so which, of the stands at sports grounds within its area are regulated stands.

[Home Office Circular 97/88](#) gives detailed statutory guidance on how to determine whether or not a stand provides accommodation for 500 or more spectators. For the precise details local authorities should refer to the Circular. In brief the local authority should count:

- a) the number of individual seats and / or marked places on bench seats; and
- b) the number of places available on bench seating allowing 530mm per person and disregarding any shorter lengths left over; and
- c) the number of spectators who can be accommodated on a terraced or sloped viewing area at a rate of 2.7 per square metre after disregarding gangways, stairways and landings; and
- d) the number of spectators who can be accommodated in the front two metres of a flat standing area at a rate of 2.7 per square metre.

It is stressed that this methodology should be used only for determining whether the stand in question should be a regulated stand. Its safe capacity does not depend only on the amount of accommodation available. When calculating the permitted capacity for inclusion in the safety certificate, the local authority should follow the methodology set out in the Green Guide. This may well result in a substantially lower capacity, which may even fall below 500.

The local authority may at any time revoke any determination that a stand is a regulated stand if it no longer provides accommodation for 500 or more spectators, as determined in accordance with the criteria in the Home Office Circular.

Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1807  
The Safety of Places of Sport Regulations 1988 – *continued*

SCHEDULE

Regulation 3(1)

PART III OF FIRE SAFETY AND SAFETY OF PLACES OF SPORT ACT 1987  
APPLICATION FOR A SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR A REGULATED STAND

*When completed, this form should be sent to the Chief Executive of:*

- (a) the county council where the sports ground is situated in a non-metropolitan county in England or Wales; or*
- (b) the borough council where the sports ground is situated in Greater London; or*
- (c) the district council where the sports ground is situated in a metropolitan county in England; or*
- (d) the regional/islands council where the sports ground is situated in Scotland.*

**Background notes**

A safety certificate under Part III of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 ("the 1987 Act") is required in respect of the use, at a sport ground which is not a designated sports ground under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, of each stand which provides covered accommodation for 500 or more spectators to view activities at the ground. Such a stand is referred to as a "regulated stand".

A separate application form is required for each regulated stand at a sports ground

Source - [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1988/Uksi\\_19881807\\_en\\_2.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1988/Uksi_19881807_en_2.htm)

**Approximate calculations to show that the stands (both east and west) at the Brickfields Stadium, Plymouth exceed 500+ spectators**

**West Stand (Brickfields Stadium)**

West Stand capacity agreed with PARFC at 1058 - based on the approximate number of seats in this area. It can be safely assumed therefore it should be a regulated stand also having a cantilevered roof covering.

**East Stand**

Please note that although this calculation is provided for the 'east stand', this is only applicable to the covered stand and not the whole of the east stand side of the pitch (which can also accommodate several hundred standing spectators at floor level below the stand).

Calculations below provided by Wayne Harris of PARFC – for the approximate measurements of the covered east stand including the gangways, stairways and landings.

**12 x 21 m = 252 m sq useable terraced area for standing spectators.**

Plymouth Albion have calculated occupancy using a 4.7 person per density per m sq which equals 1184 for this stand. This is as per the green guide (see Page 21, section 2.9 of the Green Guide)

However.....

PCC however have calculated this stand as 2.35 persons per sq m which gives a maximum occupancy of approx 592 persons. Although I had no involvement in the design of this stand, I am assuming that a safety factor of 0.5 was added to the green guide for the following reasons:-

- a. – see point 3.2, sub paragraphs (c) and (d) on the first part of this report  
*“the number of spectators who can be accommodated on a terraced or sloped viewing area at a rate of 2.7 per square metre after disregarding gangways, stairways and landings; and the number of spectators who can be accommodated in the front two metres of a flat standing area at a rate of 2.7 per square metre.*
- b. The evacuation time from this stand would be reduced by the fact that there is a potential to be a several hundred other spectators in the remaining (unregulated) East stand and I believe all occupants would escape through one single gate (which is also the emergency access gate into this area)

Whichever of these calculations are finally used (PCC's or PARFC's) to give guidance on safe occupancy, the number of spectators exceeds 500+ persons and is covered accommodation for spectators. Therefore in my opinion, this stand falls under the definition of a regulated stand.

Please note that this is guidance for the West (Brickfields Stand) and the covered East stand only. The uncovered terraced stands (north and south) side of the pitch will not be covered by this determination.