



PURPOSE

This document outlines standard practices for setting and troubleshooting lighting levels within guest-accessible auditorium areas. Follow the steps below to evaluate auditorium lighting settings on a quarterly basis.

CONTENTS

AUDITORIUM EVALUATION	1
BULB REPLACEMENT	2
ZONE LIGHTING	3
LIGHTING STAGES	3
COMMON SYMPTOMS AND ISSUES	5

AUDITORIUM EVALUATION

1. With the auditorium dimmer set to **Full Bright** or **Walk Up**, ensure all fixtures within the auditorium are working. Bulb changes may be necessary. **Do not** change bulb types without approval by your **Technical Systems Engineer (TSE)** (for example, converting an incandescent fixture to LED).
 - **Can Lights** are located in the ceiling and may utilize a number of bulb types, most commonly CFL, Incandescent, or LED, but in rare situations they may also include high pressure sodium or metal halide bulbs. Halogen bulbs are a type of Incandescent bulb.

The image shows three light bulbs side-by-side. From left to right: a CFL bulb with a spiral-shaped glass tube, a standard incandescent bulb with a rounded glass envelope, and an LED bulb with a more modern, rounded shape and a visible base. Below each bulb is its respective label: CFL, Incandescent, and LED.

 - **Sconce Lights** are wall mounted and often use specialty bulbs which may be CFL or incandescent.
 - **Troffer Lights** are in part of the dropped ceiling and typically contain fluorescent tube light bulbs. These lights are most often used for cleaning or emergency lighting and are not typically part of the dimmer system. These lights are not addressed in this guide; please contact your **Facilities Engineer (FE)** for more information.
 - **Stair / Aisle / Floor Lighting** is mounted on or near the floor and should never be shut off or dimmed without approval. This lighting is not addressed in this guide. Please refer to the SOP linked in the endnotes below¹ or contact your **FE** for more information.
2. With all lights working, ensure lighting is even and all bulbs are utilizing a warm color temperature (<4000k as found on bulb packaging).

Do not change bulb types within your theatre auditoriums without TSE approval.



Secondary Sources of Light

- Eliminate light penetration from exit doors, port windows, entrances by methods approved by your Facilities Engineer. Do not obstruct exit pathways.
- Contact your Facilities Engineer if there are concerns with emergency lighting, exit signs, or exit pathway lighting impacting presentation quality.
- **Do not** obstruct, disable, dim, or otherwise modify exit signs or safety lighting at any time.

PLF Auditorium Lighting

In addition to the normal ceiling fixture lighting, some PLF auditoriums include a specialized type of LED lighting in the ceiling, acoustical panel coves, and entrances. Follow normal procedures for replacing bulbs in the traditional ceiling fixtures. For all issues with lighting levels or LED outages in these houses, open a [DSSP ticket](#).

BULB REPLACEMENT

Theatres in all states **except for California, Colorado and Oregon**:

1. Remove non-functioning light bulb to determine the bulb type.
2. Match the bulb type, shape, and wattage/lumens for the replacement bulb.
3. Locate replacement bulbs on [Cinema Solutions](#) in the Regency order guide under "Lighting."
4. A **Bulb Change kit** is available from Grainger (item 38W576) to reach recessed bulbs in high ceilings. For bulbs requiring scaffolding or other high access, contact your theatre's **FE** for guidance.

Theatres in **California, Colorado and Oregon only**:

Incandescent/halogen lamps are not approved for replacement. All lamps in can lights **must be replaced with LED**.

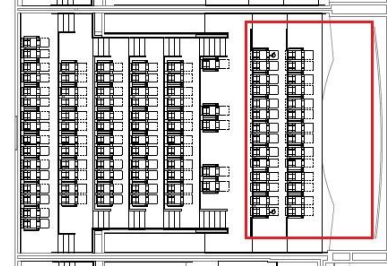
1. When replacing incandescent lamps with LED lamps, open a [DSSP ticket](#). The ticket will be assigned to your **TSE** to provide an on-site evaluation and determine if additional hardware needs to be replaced (i.e., dimmers) to transition to LED.
2. Replace existing LED bulbs with those of the same wattage. If unsure of which or where to order, open a [DSSP ticket](#) for guidance.
3. A **Bulb Change kit** is available from Grainger (item 38W576) to reach recessed bulbs in high ceilings. For bulbs requiring scaffolding or other high access, contact your theatre's **FE** for guidance.



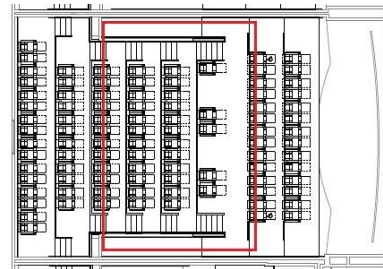
ZONE LIGHTING

Auditoriums are set up with multiple areas of control, typically ranging from two to four 'zones'. Zones are programmed to behave differently at each stage of lighting, which will be referenced in the next section.

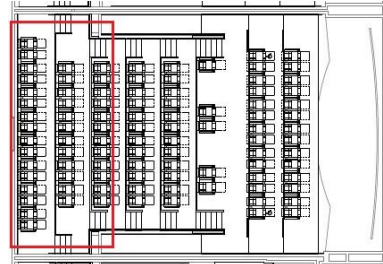
Zone 1 is the ceiling lighting directly in front of the auditorium screen and may also cover the first row or two of seating in larger auditoriums.



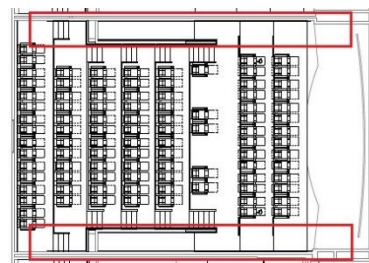
Zone 2 is the ceiling lighting over the center seating area of the auditorium. This zone is normally only present in the largest auditoriums.



Zone 3 is the ceiling lighting over the back of the auditorium.



Zone 4 is the wall sconce lighting or other wall-mounted lighting within an auditorium.



Your auditorium lighting may have fewer zones programmed with multiple zones above combined.

LIGHTING STAGES

Lighting stages can be changed from the automation controls at each projector or at the automation control boxes, typically mounted near the auditorium port window in booth.

Walk In – Stage 1



- **Zone 1** – set to moderate glow. This zone should be the lowest in the auditorium, ensuring that the image on screen is not ‘washed out’, and that seat backs are barely visible from booth.
- **Zone 2** – set to a mid-point of brightness between zones 1 and 3. In the auditorium, it should be bright enough to read words from a paper document.
- **Zone 3** – much brighter than zones 1 and 2, the seats and floor should be clearly visible from booth. In the auditorium, it should be bright enough to easily read small words from a paper document.
- **Zone 4** – bright enough to cast even light on the walls and walkways, if necessary, without creating a spotlight or casting distracting light on screen.

Trailer – Stage 2

- **Zone 1** – slight glow
- **Zone 2** – set to halfway point between Stage 1 and Stage 3. Within the auditorium, you should be able to see your feet while seated and read aisle letters and seat numbers.
- **Zone 3** – set to halfway point between Stage 1 and Stage 3. Within the auditorium, you should be able to see your feet while seated and read aisle letters and seat numbers.
- **Zone 4** – set to halfway point between Stage 1 and Stage 3.

Feature – Stage 3 (All zones must maintain minimum lighting safety guidelines)

- **Zone 1** – slight glow/off
- **Zone 2** – very dim glow, no downlight present
- **Zone 3** – very dim glow, no downlight present
- **Zone 4** – slight glow/off

Full Bright – Stage 4, typically used when supplemental cleaning lights are not available.

- All zones 100% power



COMMON SYMPTOMS AND ISSUES

- Auditorium lighting that dims unevenly, strobes/flashs, does not consistently dim to the same light level, or creates 'spotlights' may indicate a compatibility mismatch between bulb and dimmer.
 - These issues are most common when converting from incandescent bulbs to LED.
 - Your **TSE must approve all lighting changes** before implemented to ensure compatibility.
 - If you are experiencing these issues, change the bulbs back to the original bulb type ASAP.
 - Open a [DSSP ticket](#) if this does not correct the issue.
- Auditorium lighting that does not utilize different zones when dimming may indicate an issue with your dimmer. Open a [DSSP ticket](#).
- Can lights that are much brighter (or dimmer) than the other lights in the same auditorium likely indicate that incorrect bulbs were installed.
 - The bulb may be an incorrect wattage, or it may be of a different type (LED vs incandescent).
 - If your **TSE** has approved changing bulb types, **all the bulbs within the auditorium must be changed over at the same time**. Changing bulbs one at a time as they go out will create inconsistent lighting and could cause flickering and/or dimming issues.
- For concerns with auditorium lighting not meeting minimum required lighting levels, open a [DSSP ticket](#).
- For concerns with electrical systems that are preventing your lighting from working properly, contact your **FE** or preferred approved electrician.
- For general concerns with lighting level settings, automation, or dimmers, open a [DSSP ticket](#) and a **TSE** or vendor will be dispatched to review and make changes, if needed.

ⁱ [FAC-1-20 -- Flooring Maintenance](#)