



## Festival Viewing Platforms and Areas Factsheet

- **Location**

- Viewing platforms

- Viewing platforms should be positioned to sit within the expected crowd whilst being far enough back to allow for convenient access. Where possible the best location is to the left or right of the front of house mixing position.
    - If this is not possible then ensuring the position is not greater than two thirds of the expected crowd back from the stage means the platform is still fully engaged in the atmosphere.
    - If possible make best use of hard standing provided in the area for access routes to the Viewing Platform.

- Viewing areas

- Viewing areas should be in a position directly in front of the stage / stage barrier, with an access route preserved off one side in order to enable people to navigate to it through crowds.

- **Accessible toilets**

- Viewing platforms:

- If possible provide two accessible toilets. The second accessible toilet means if one becomes unusable there is still one that can be used.
    - We recommend that you also provide a standard toilet, this way the accessible toilet can be kept exclusively for those that need it instead of being used by personal assistants or non-disabled companions.
    - Best practice is to have a minimum of one accessible toilet by each viewing platform, preferably within the barriered area.

- Viewing areas:

- Place an accessible toilet as close as possible to the viewing area.
    - In the case of viewing areas within tents, aim to place a unit directly outside the tent within barrier at the point at which customers enter in order to get to the viewing area i.e. an access route marked by barrier or bunting etc.

- **Seating**
  - Best practice is to provide seating at viewing platforms and within viewing areas with and without arms, as some people require arms on seating in order to lift themselves up.
- **Additional provision on the viewing platform or in the viewing area:**
  - Rubbish bags
  - Charging point if possible
  - Broom for stewards to clear rubbish and puddles.
- **Stewarding and security**
  - Stewards and/or security should be positioned:
    - a) At the bottom of the viewing platform ramp / at entrance point for the viewing area.
    - b) On the viewing platform / within the viewing area
      - The person at the bottom of the ramp / entrance to the viewing area can ensure those arriving have the correct accreditation and also ensure that any accessible toilet present is not abused.
      - The person on the viewing platform / within the viewing area can ensure customers gain easy access, manage positioning of customers and keep the area clean of litter.
  - Stewards and/or security should have undertaken Disability Awareness Training and have been briefed on how to manage the platform/area for the event.
- **Checks during the show**
  - Viewing platforms and areas should be continually checked - during the build/set-up, in order to sign them off before customer use, and then during the event.
  - This way, any issues concerning the build/set-up can be dealt with prior to customer use.
  - Checking during the event ensures that any wear and tear can be reported in and fixed.
  - We recommend planning a rota of checks in order to keep on top of this.

# Viewing Platform Specifications

- Size

- The aim should be to provide viewing platforms of sufficient size to enable access by anyone who requires use of them at any given time at an event.
- Additional pace will be needed around the entry point / top of any ramp, and those using the platform must have space to move around when necessary, to let others off and on.
- A general rule of thumb for size calculations can be found in ‘Accessible Stadia’, page 37. This however only relates to provision for wheelchair users as other seating is available for non-wheelchair using people with mobility impairments in stadiums.

- Green Guide Table 4:

Seated capacity	Number of wheelchair spaces
Under 10,000	Minimum of 6 or 1 in 100 of seated capacity (whichever is greater)
10,000 to 20,000	100 plus 5 per 1,000 above 10,000
20,000 to 40,000	150 plus 3 per 1,000 above 20,000
40,000 or more	210 plus 2 per 1,000 above 40,000

- For festivals this can be used as a guide, but we recommend that these ratios are used plus 10%.
- Each wheelchair or seated space will also need a default companion seat.
- Once you have established the number of wheelchair spaces and seated spaces required by people with other impairments, you can calculate the size of platform you need using the following dimensions taken from the document ‘Temporary Structures 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed 2007’:
  - Space for wheelchair user = 900mm x 1350mm
  - Space for seated person or companion = 500mm x 1350mm

Therefore:

- 1 wheelchair user and companion total dimensions = 1400mm x 1350mm
  - 1 non-wheelchair user and companion = 1000mm x 1350mm
- **Given that it is unlikely that you will know the exact composition of your audience, we recommend using the wheelchair-user and companion dimensions as the default space per customer to ensure sufficient space.**

- **Shape**

- Often the ideal viewing platform is long and thin, affording its users the best possible view - ideally a single row so that everyone has a 'front row' view. Aim to maximise the number of 'front row' positions.
- If a squarer shape is the only option, you could use tiers to maximize the view.
- Try to place the platform so that it directly faces the stage.

- **Height**

- Any platform should be designed to give a clear sightline of the performance from every seated position.
- Attitude is Everything recommend that the height of any viewing platform should be between 850mm and 1000mm from ground level.
- This height should be applied across the entire front of the platform – in the event of any viewing platform being built across a gradient the end closest to the ground should meet this height specification, with the other end built to a sufficient height to allow for a level viewing platform.
- The average eye level of a sitting person is between 950mm and 1250mm. A platform between the suggested heights allows for a 6-foot tall person standing directly in front of the platform with at least 120mm between the top of their head and the platform users' eye height.

- **Ramp**

- Less than 1:12 is not advised as wheelchair users would become in danger of tipping.
- A long ramp (5m+) should include one or more flat 'rest areas' at intervals. These should be at least 1.5m long.
- Ramp gradients need to follow the guidance provided in 'Approved Document Part M', Sections 1.19 to 1.26.

- Length of Ramp vs Gradient vs Rise:

Going of a flight	Max gradient	Max rise
10m	1:20	500mm
5m	1:15	333mm
2m	1:12	166mm

Note: For goings between 2m and 10m, it is acceptable to interpolate between the maximum gradients, i.e. 1:14 for 4m going or 1:19 for a 9m going.

- Where ramps are unable to follow Part M guidance the gradient must not exceed 1:12 or have a greater run than 5m's
- Where possible ramps should be designed with a 'dog leg' layout. This will give a flat level half way up the ramp that can be used as a resting spot if needed.
- Where this is not achievable ramps should have a flat section to provide a rest stop as necessary.
- There should be a clear 'landing' at the top and bottom of any ramp that is 1.2m deep.
- In the case of large viewing platforms, best practice would be to add stepped access alongside a ramp.

- **Fixtures and finish**

- Double handrails (high and low bars) around the platform and down the length of the ramp.
- Handrails should have a minimum diameter of 40mm.
- If possible, lower top rails at the front of the platform to better facilitate views.
- Padding on all exposed scaffold ends, wrapped in white gaffer for contrast.
- 100mm high kickboards around the platform and down to the base of the ramp, to prevent feet and wheelchair wheels slipping off the platform or ramp.
- Non-slip surface – roofing felt or gloss paint with sharp sand works well.
- Ramp and platform free of holes or trip hazards
- Colour contrast edges by running white gaffer across the bottom of the ramp and around the base of the kickboard on the ramp and platform.
- For larger platforms, Attitude is Everything recommends taping out a designated standing area across the back of the platform, and an access lane leading to it from the top of any ramp down one side of the platform.

- **Barriers and fencing**
  - Any viewing platform needs to have mojo barriers surrounding it and any associated toilets.
    - This will stop those that should not be on the platform climbing onto it, or under it.
    - This will stop people sitting on the front of the platform.
    - This will assist in keeping the access to the ramp clear for people to get to the platform.
    - This will assist in keeping the accessible toilet safe from abuse as it can be placed within the barriered area at the bottom of the ramp and so stewarded at all times.

## Viewing Area Specifications

- Viewing areas may be more appropriate than platforms in small tents or at smaller stages at festivals.
- These will only work if they are at the front of the stage, unless the audience remains seated, - consider the access to and from the area, maintaining a clear path from the entrance.
  - The position at the front of the stage does not have to be centred, it can be too the left or right.
- Best practice would be to provide disposable hearing protection to customers and staff in this area.
- Viewing areas need to be:
  - Located in a position that has a clear view of the stage
  - Clearly signposted
  - Barriered to ensure a safe area
  - Stewarded
  - Have access to services and toilets
    - Due to the potential position of any viewing areas direct access to toilets may not be possible, if this is the case then a steward should be able to obtain drinks for the users of this area and assist customers through the crowd to toilets and on the return journey.