

**Table 3.17.: Assembly, Group A, B, C.**

ITEMS	REQUIREMENTS
<b>17. WALKING SURFACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Flooring for the surface of steps and ramps forming the aisles or gangways shall be finished using non-slip materials.</li> <li>ii. Illumination of steps shall be such that each step is clearly visible when the general lighting is switched off. Where the emergency lighting of the hall or auditorium is able to provide sufficient lighting to the steps, separate emergency power supply to illuminate the steps would not be required.</li> <li>iii. For changes of level, steps shall not be used to overcome differences in level in aisles or aisle accessway unless the slope exceeds 1 in 8.</li> </ul>
<b>18. WAITING SPACES IN ASSEMBLY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. In theaters and other assembly occupancies where seats are not available, persons are allowed to wait in a lobby or similar space until seats or space is available.</li> <li>ii. Such use of a lobby or similar space shall not encroach upon the required clear width of exits.</li> <li>iii. Exits for waiting spaces shall be in addition to the exits specified for the main auditorium area and shall conform in construction and arrangement to the general rules for exits given in this chapter.</li> </ul>
<b>19. TWO EXIT DOORS REQUIREMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Rooms exceeding 280 m<sup>2</sup> in area requires 2 exit doors from that room, remotely located as per <b>Section 4.4.</b></li> </ul>
<b>20. EXITS FROM OPEN PODIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Assembly occupancies having open podiums for assembly purposes, shall ensure 2 exits remotely located as per <b>Section 4.4.</b></li> <li>ii. Such required 2 exits shall be any of the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Exits leading back into building, to the building exit stairs.</li> <li>b. Enclosed exit stairs to exterior discharge from the podium.</li> <li>c. Open or outside exterior stairs as per <b>Table 3.4., 14.,</b> discharging directly outside to publicway.</li> <li>d. Combinations of above options a, b, and c.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Points to Ponder

Some of the worst fires have been the fires in Assembly Occupancies. Theater, Cinema, Night Clubs have been on fires with heavy casualties. Worst stampedes have taken toll in Assembly spaces such as sports arenas and night clubs.

Kiss night club fire in Santa Maria, Brazil started in the early morning hours of 27 January 2013. A fire broke out while students were holding a fresher's ball. A stampede occurred following the fire, and a lack of exit signs and emergency exits allegedly contributed to the deaths.

242 were killed and 630 were injured. Most of the victims were between 18 and 30 years old.