

Guidelines for Display Rules and Regulations

Updated for SIGGRAPH 2025



Made possible by a generous grant from

Freeman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LINE-OF-SIGHT STYLE 1

- Linear or In-line Booth 1
 - Dimensions 1
 - Use of Space..... 1
- Corner Booth 2
- Perimeter Booth..... 2
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 2
- End-cap Booth 3
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 3
- Peninsula Booth..... 4
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 4
- Split Island Booth 5
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 5
- Island Booth..... 6
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 6
- Extended Header Booth 20ft (6.10m) or Longer..... 7
 - Dimensions and Use of Space..... 7
- Remote-Controlled Devices 8

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS 8

- Canopies and Ceilings 9
- Structures and Tie-Offs 9
 - Structures..... 9
 - Tie-offs..... 9
- Hanging Signs and Graphics 9
- Teardrop Signs and Tents..... 9
- Truss 10
- Video Displays 10
- Towers and Multi-story Exhibits 10
- U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 10

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

ISSUES COMMON TO ALL BOOTH TYPES..... 10

- Structural Integrity 11
- Flammable and Toxic Materials 11
- Hazardous Waste 11
- Storage 11
- Electrical 12
- Lighting 12
- Demonstrations 12
- Sound/Music 12
- Vehicles (For Both Gas and Electric Vehicles) 14
- Badge Policy and Admittance 14

LINE-OF-SIGHT STYLE

Line-of-Sight display rules provide restrictions on certain areas of booths to allow attendees to view neighboring booths in their line of sight as they walk the floor. There are a variety of booth types, and each one is addressed below with specific insight on how to implement Line-of-Sight regulations.

LINEAR OR IN-LINE BOOTH

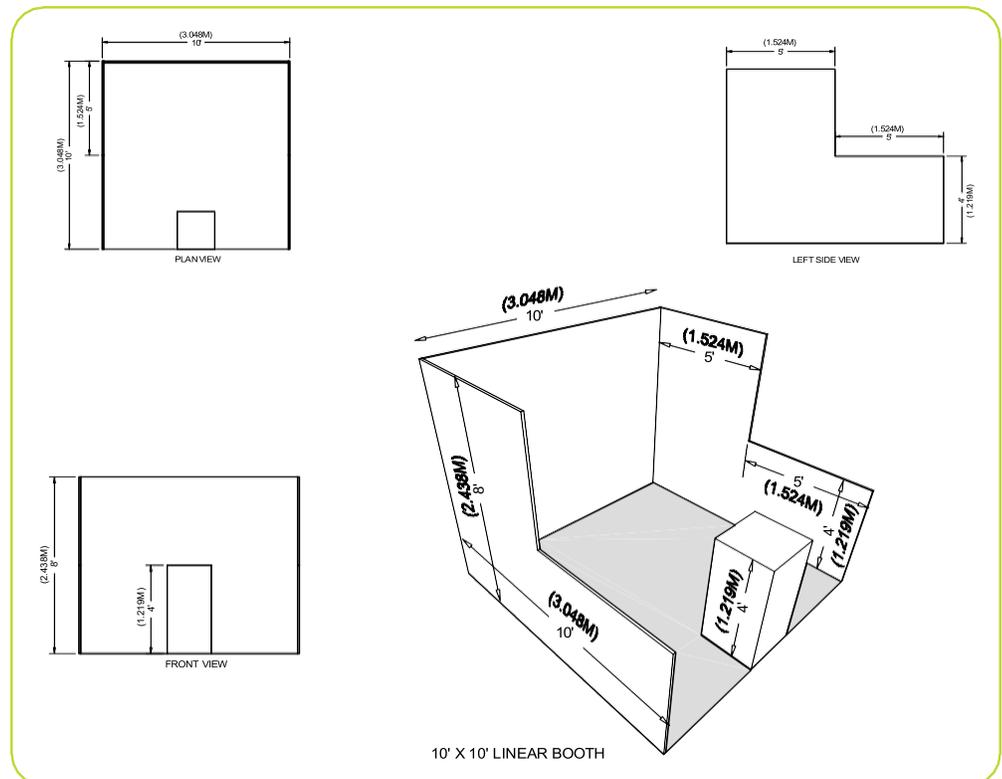
The ability to have products or services easily seen by attendees as they walk the aisles is essential to all exhibitors, and that is the basis for including a Linear Booth Line-of-Sight setback rule. Linear Booths, also called “in-line” booths, are generally arranged in a straight line and have neighboring exhibitors on their immediate right and left, leaving only one side exposed to the aisle.

Dimensions

For purposes of consistency and ease of layout and/or reconfiguration, floor plan design in increments of 10ft (3.05m) has become the de facto standard in the United States. Therefore, unless constricted by space or other limitations, Linear Booths are most commonly 10ft (3.05m) wide and 10ft (3.05m) deep, i.e. 10ft by 10ft (3.05m by 3.05m). A maximum back wall height limitation of 8ft (2.44m) is specified to prevent display materials from imposing on neighboring exhibits behind the back wall.

Use of Space

Regardless of the number of Linear Booths utilized, e.g. 10ft by 20ft (3.05m by 6.10m), 10ft by 30ft (3.05m by 9.14m), 10ft by 40ft (3.05m by 12.19m), etc., display materials should be arranged in such a manner so as not to obstruct sight lines of neighboring exhibitors. The maximum height of 8ft (2.44m) is allowed only in the rear half of the booth space, with a 4ft (1.22m) height restriction imposed on all materials in the remaining space forward to the aisle. Note: When three or more Linear Booths are used in combination as a single exhibit space, the 4ft (1.22m) height limitation is applied only to that portion of exhibit space which is within 10ft (3.05m) of an adjoining booth.

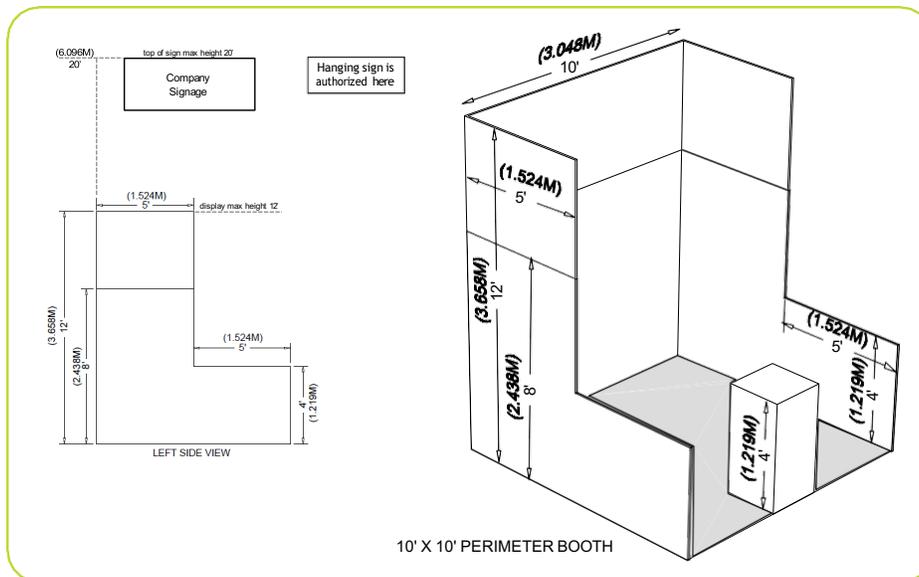


CORNER BOOTH

A Corner Booth is a Linear Booth at the end of a series of in-line booths with exposure to intersecting aisles on two sides. All guidelines for Linear Booths apply.

PERIMETER BOOTH

A Perimeter Booth is a Linear Booth that backs to an outside wall of the exhibit facility rather than to another exhibit.

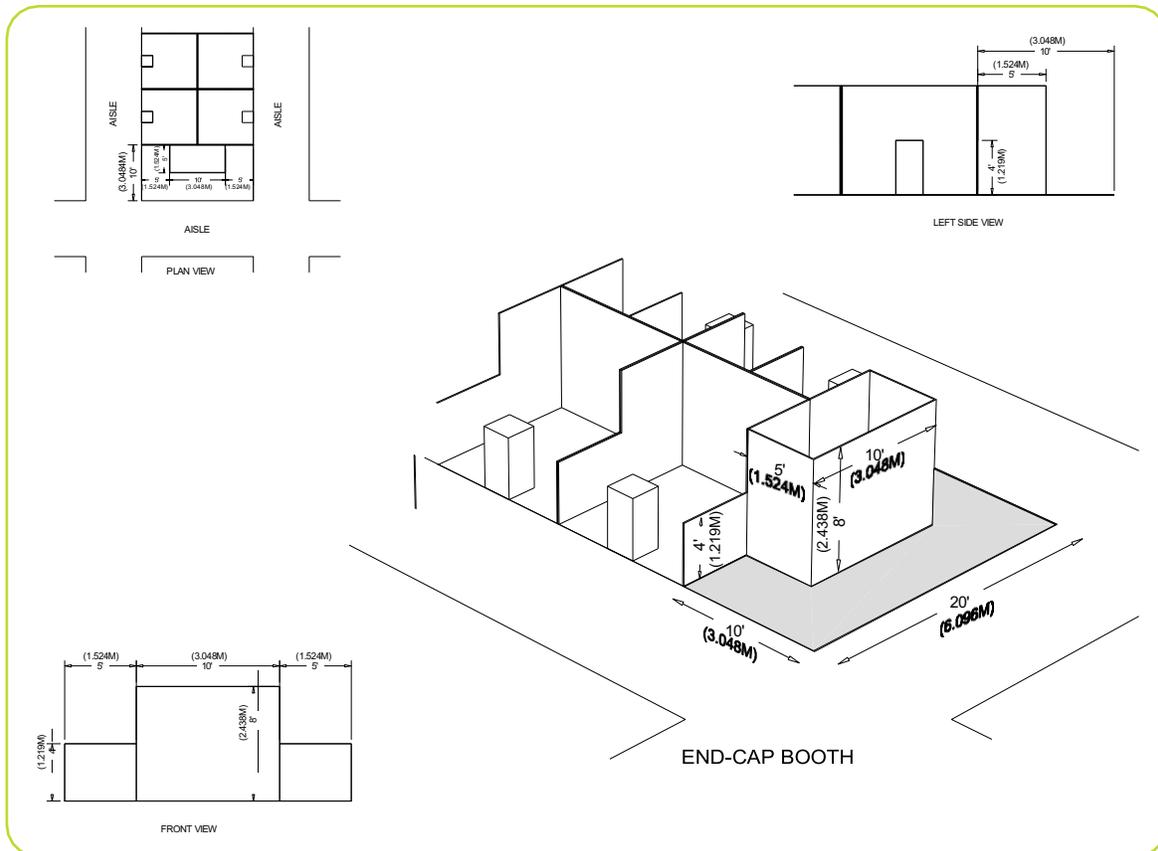


Dimensions and Use of Space

All guidelines for Linear Booths apply to Perimeter Booths except that the typical maximum back wall height for Perimeter Booths is 12ft (3.66m).

END-CAP BOOTH

An End-cap configuration is essentially an in-line (linear) booth placed in the position of a Peninsula or Split Island.

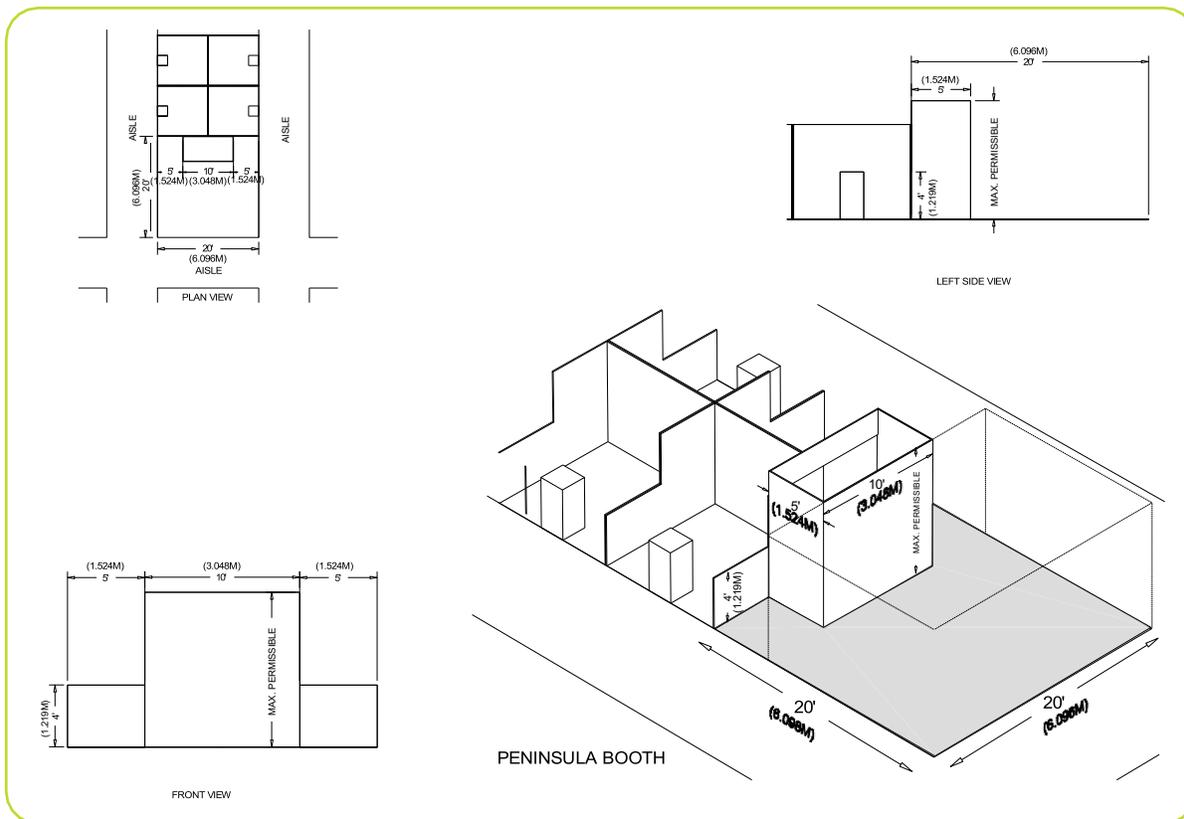


Dimensions and Use of Space

End-cap Booths are generally 10ft (3.05m) deep by 20ft (6.10m) wide. The maximum back wall height allowed is 8ft (2.44m) and the maximum backwall width allowed is 10ft (3.05m) at the center of the backwall with a maximum 5ft (1.52m) height on the two side aisles. Within 5ft of the two side aisles, the maximum height for any display materials is 4ft.

PENINSULA BOOTH

A Peninsula Booth is exposed to aisles on three sides. There are two types of Peninsula Booths: (a) one which backs to Linear Booths, and (b) one which backs to another Peninsula Booth which is referred to as a “Split Island Booth.”

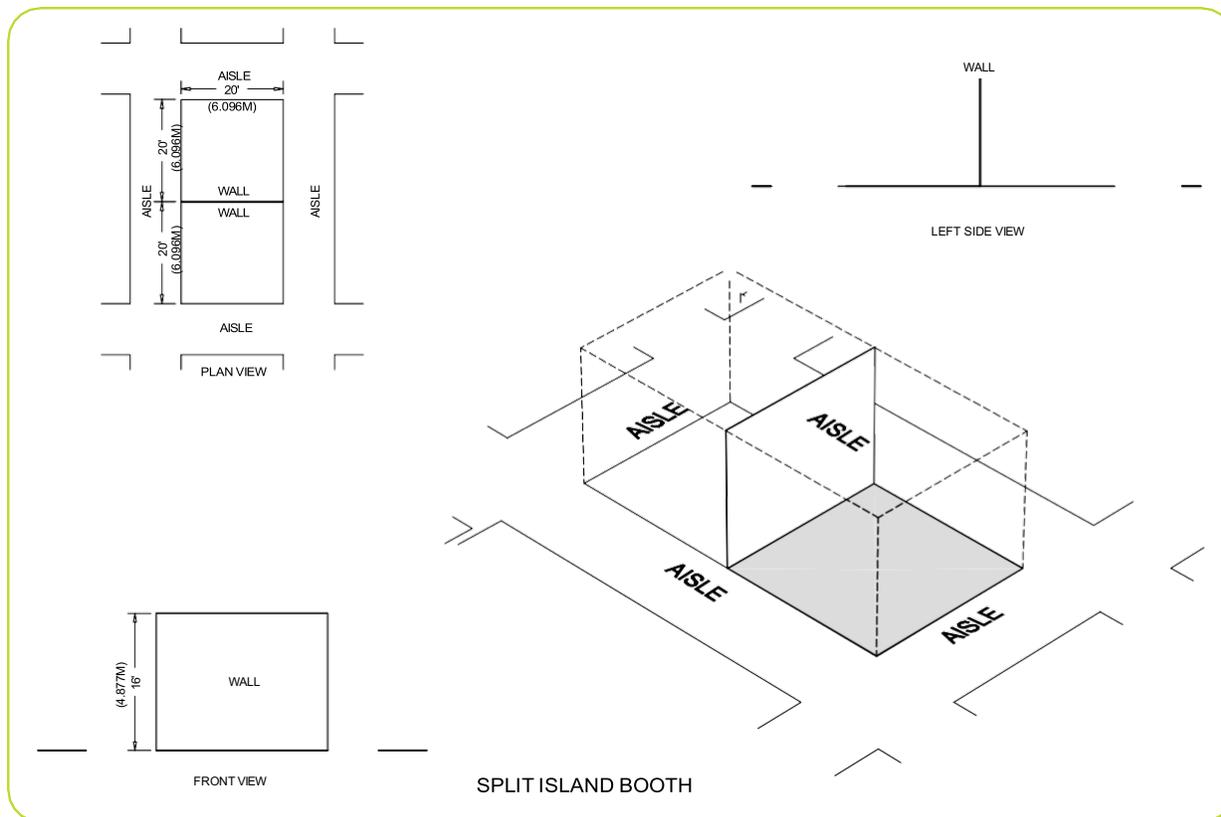


Dimensions and Use of Space

A Peninsula Booth is usually 20ft by 20ft (6.10m by 6.10m) or larger. When a Peninsula Booth backs up to two Linear Booths, the back wall is restricted to 4ft (1.22m) high within 5ft (1.52m) of each aisle, permitting adequate line of sight for the adjoining Linear Booths. A typical maximum height range allowance is 16ft to 20ft (4.88m to 6.10m), including signage for the center portion of the back wall. Double-sided signs, logos and graphics shall be set back 10ft (3.05m) from adjacent booths.

SPLIT ISLAND BOOTH

A Split Island Booth is a Peninsula Booth which shares a common back wall with another Peninsula Booth.

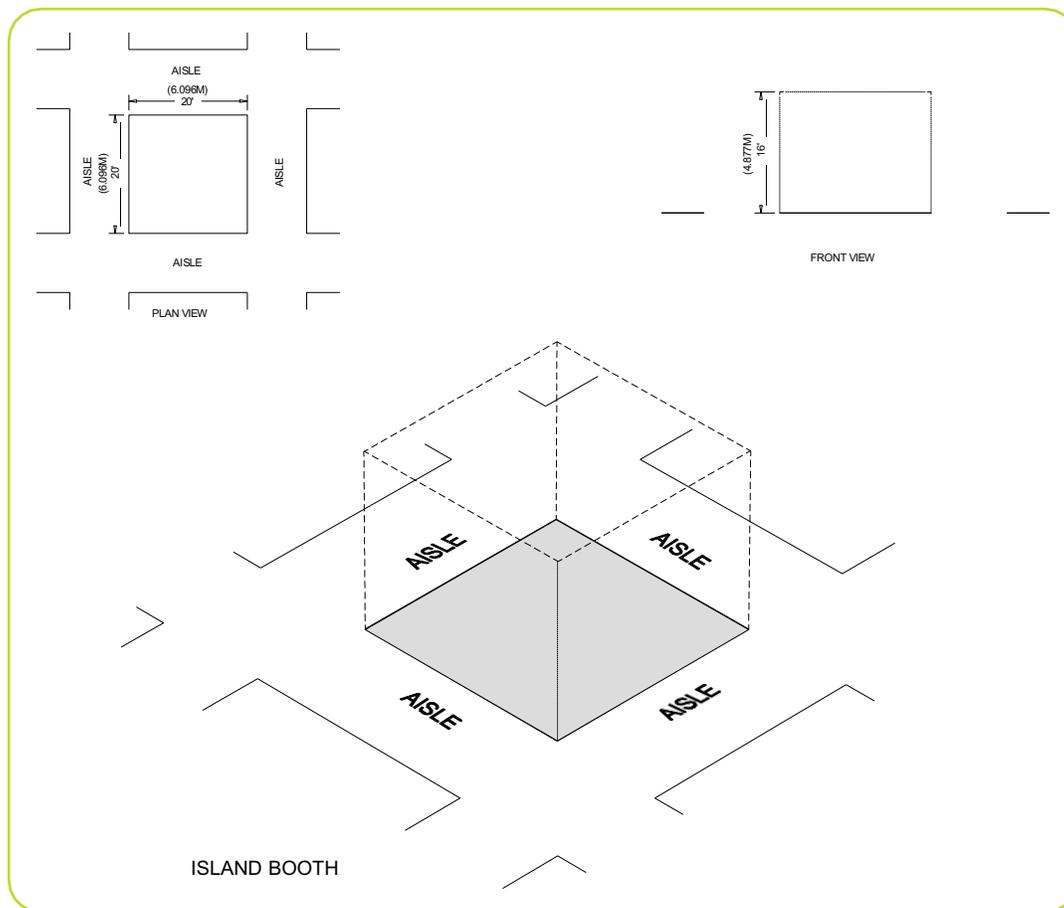


Dimensions and Use of Space

The entire Cubic Content of this booth may be used, up to the maximum allowable height, without any back wall Line-of-Sight restrictions. The maximum height allowance is 22ft (6.70m), including signage. The entire Cubic Content of the space may be used up to the maximum allowable height. Double-sided signs, logos and graphics shall be set back 10ft (3.05m) from adjacent booths.

ISLAND BOOTH

An Island Booth is any size booth exposed to aisles on all four sides.

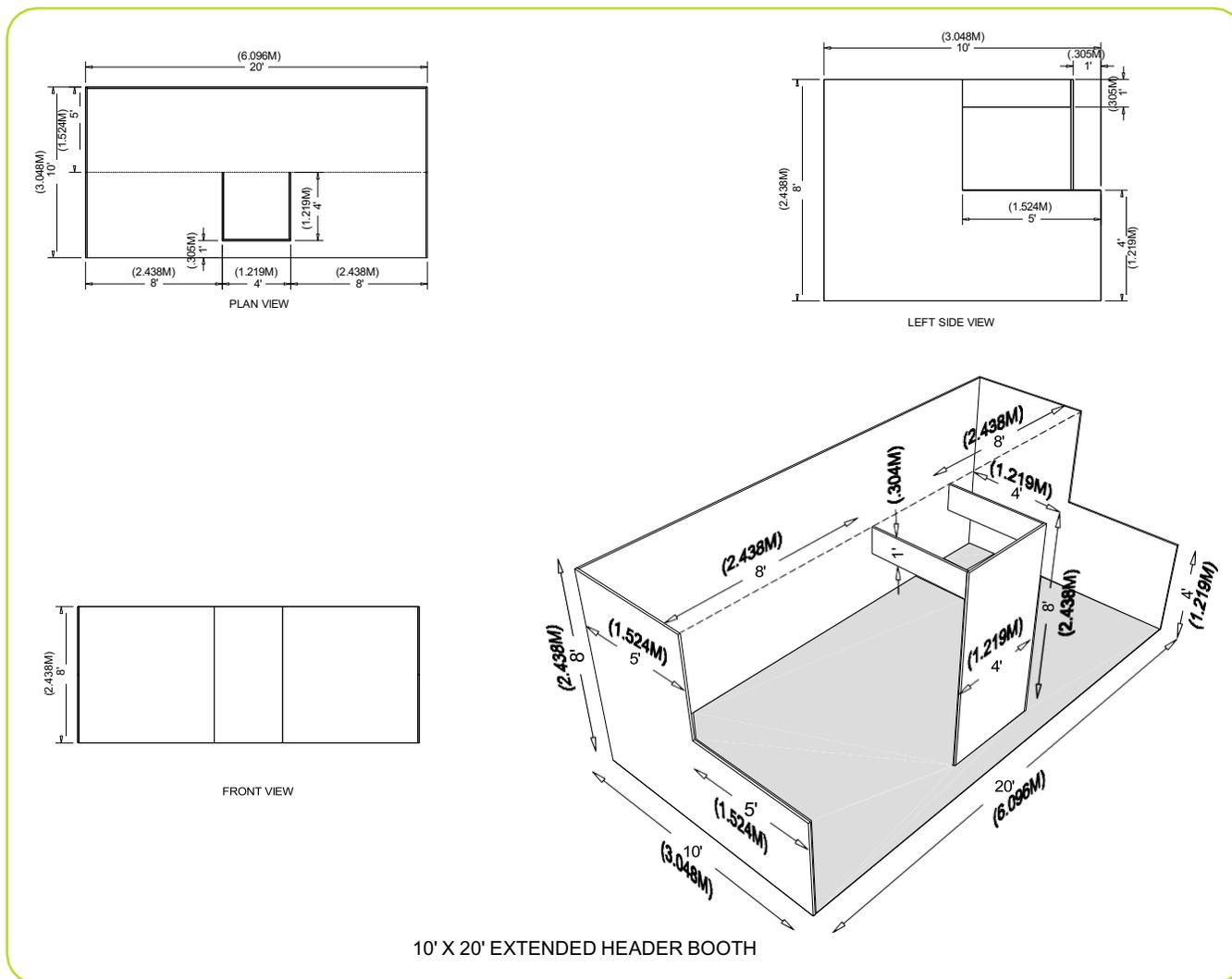


Dimensions and Use of Space

An Island Booth is typically 20ft by 20ft (6.10m by 6.10m) or larger, although it may be configured differently. Island booths should not be allowed at less than 400 sq ft. The entire Cubic Content of the space may be used up to the maximum allowable height of 22ft (6.70m), including signage.

EXTENDED HEADER BOOTH 20FT (6.10M) OR LONGER

An Extended Header Booth is a Linear Booth 20ft (6.10m) or longer with a center extended header.



Dimensions and Use of Space

All guidelines for Linear Booths apply to Extended Header Booths, except that the center extended header has a maximum height of 8ft (2.44m), a maximum width of 20 percent of the length of the booth, and a maximum depth of 9ft (2.7m) from the back wall.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

REMOTE-CONTROLLED DEVICES

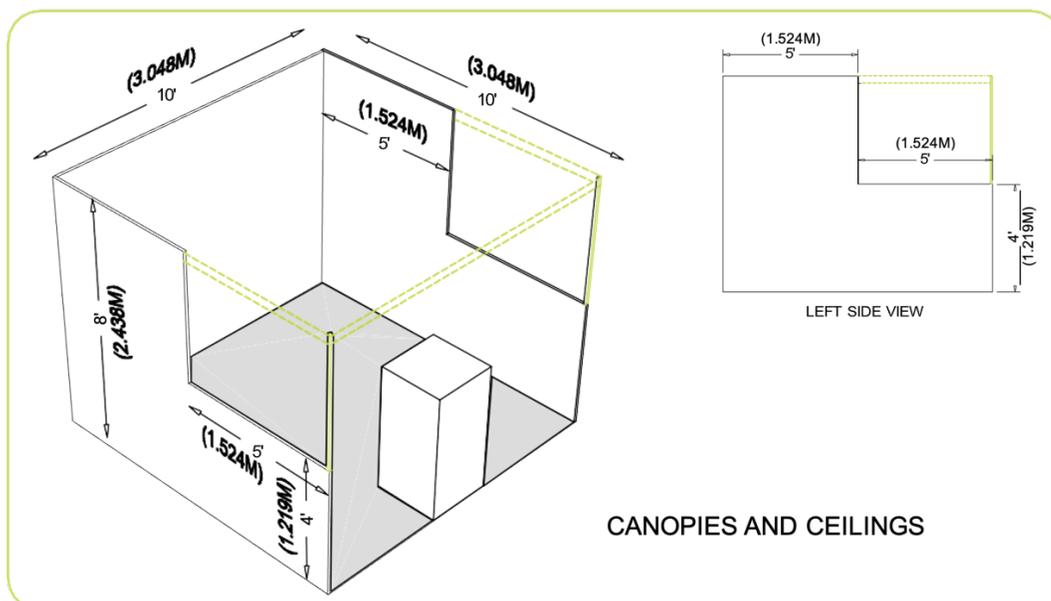
Products such as remote-controlled cars, drones, planes, helicopters, robots, etc. are to be demonstrated within the confines of the contracted exhibit space.

NOTE for Drone Operation: Local facility and city ordinances are in effect in most areas and prohibit drone activity near the public or in public spaces. The accepted drone default regulation is the [FAA Small UAS Rule Part 107](#) which requires drone operators to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate. Commercial regulations often require permits and insurance.

CANOPIES AND CEILINGS

A canopy sign is similar to an awning on a building, except it does not include the goal of providing shelter. It extends from a booth to serve the function as a marquee. Canopies, including ceilings, umbrellas and canopy frames, can be either decorative or functional (such as to shade computer monitors from ambient light or to allow for hanging products). Canopies for Linear or Perimeter Booths should comply with Line-of-Sight requirements. (See “Use of Space” for Linear or Perimeter Booths, and height limits).

The bottom of the canopy should not be lower than 7ft (2.13m) from the floor within 5ft (1.52m) of any aisle. Canopy supports should be no wider than three inches 3in (.08m). This applies to any booth configuration that has a sight line restriction, such as a Linear Booth. Fire and safety regulations in many facilities strictly govern the use of canopies, ceilings and other similar coverings. Check with the appropriate local agencies prior to determining specific exhibition rules.



STRUCTURES AND TIE-OFFS

Structures

Show Management requires a stamped certification from a design professional (Civil or Structural Engineer) registered in the state where the Event will be held affirming all calculations and specifications for any custom-built suspended elements such as but not limited to non-serially manufactured signs, lightboxes, headers, video wall surrounds, and entry portals. For additional assistance regarding these requirements, please reach out to the rigging vendor.

Tie-offs

Show Management reserves the right to request a stamped certification from a design professional (Civil or Structural Engineer) registered in the state where the Event will be held affirming all calculations and specifications and/or a peer review from such registered design professional for attachment of any structure to provide additional support terminating to the venue (Ex. Tie-off of header, seismic lines, tie-off of video walls). If you anticipate needing this service, please reach out to the rigging vendor review and pre-authorization.

HANGING SIGNS AND GRAPHICS

Most exhibition and event rules allow for Hanging Signs and Graphics in all standard Peninsula and Island Booths, usually to a maximum height of 22ft (6.70m) from the top of the sign. End-cap Booths do not qualify for Hanging Signs and Graphics. The distance is measured from the floor to the top of the sign. Whether suspended from above, or supported from below, they should comply with all ordinary use-of-space requirements. For example, the highest point of any sign should not exceed the maximum allowable height for the booth type.

Hanging Signs and Graphics should be set back 10ft (3.05m) from adjacent booths and be directly over contracted space only.

Approval for the use of Hanging Signs and Graphics, at any height, should be received from Show Management at least 60 days prior to installation. Drawings should be available for inspection.

Sign Hanging Points must be engineered, and the hardware must be domestic, forged, shouldered, rated, and stamped with Working Load Limit (WLL). All overhead rigging must comply with facility and show management regulations. The official contractor and/or facility will require an engineered print of all truss and lighting rigging including rigging point loads, as well as any ground supported truss structures or LED video walls. All submitted files should be in DWG format. This information is typically required at least three weeks out from the first day of move-in of an event. Electrical signs must be in working order and in accordance with the National Electrical Code. If any hang point exceeds 200 lbs. please notify the official contractor for official authorization.

TEARDROP SIGNS AND TENTS

Placement of Teardrop flags must be positioned in the back ½ of all linear booths.

Tents – must have no copy on the sides or back side and not exceed 8ft height limit. I would also specifically address the tents with extended ceilings, see below. Under no circumstances are these acceptable in a linear booth regardless of whether they have copy or not.

TRUSS

Truss is a frame used to carry a cover over a booth or suspend lighting or technical equipment over a booth. Some shows will allow to go over the height limit but require plans to the organizer and service contractor for approval.

VIDEO DISPLAYS

Show Management reserves the right to request approval from a registered design professional (Civil or Structural Engineer) and/ or a peer review from a registered design professional for all non-serially manufactured LED and Video Display systems. All LED and video display systems must comply to ANSI E1.50-1. This applies to ground supported and suspended LED and Video Display systems. If you anticipate needing this service, please reach out to your rigging vendor.

TOWERS AND MULTI-STORY EXHIBITS

A Tower is a free-standing exhibit component separate from the main exhibit fixture. The height restriction is the same as that which applies to the appropriate exhibit space configuration being used. Fire and safety regulations in many facilities strictly govern the use of Towers. A building permit or safety lines may be required.

A Multi-story Exhibit is a booth where the display fixture includes two or more levels. In many cities, a Multi-story Exhibit requires prior approval by the exhibit facility, and/or relevant local government agency, as well as Show Management because it is deemed to be a “structure” for building purposes. The city building department generally needs to issue a building permit based on an application and drawings prepared and submitted by a licensed architect or engineer. Exhibitors should obtain local building regulations early on to ensure that all time constraints are met.

Show Management requires exhibitors to provide engineering stamped documents for all Multi-story Exhibits and towers over 8ft (2.44m) in height. If engineering stamps are not required, exhibitors using these types of structures should, at a minimum, provide drawings for inspection.

ISSUES COMMON TO ALL BOOTH TYPES

U.S. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

In the U.S., all exhibiting companies are required to be in compliance with the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and are encouraged to be sensitive, and as reasonably accommodating as possible, to attendees with disabilities. Information regarding ADA compliance is available from the U.S. Department of Justice ADA Information Line (800) 514-0301, and from the ADA website at www.ada.gov.

Some examples of how to design an exhibit for ADA compliance:

- Make exhibits wheelchair accessible by ramping raised exhibit flooring without extending a ramp into the aisle. Note: a standard wheelchair ramp should have a grade no steeper than 1:12. This means that for every inch of rise (change in height), there should be 12 inches of run (change in length). Ramps should have a minimum width of 36 inches.
- Ramp the entry or use hydraulic lifts to trailer exhibits.
- Avoid double-padded plush carpet to ease mobility device navigation.
- Provide the same attendee experience on both levels of a two-story exhibit.

- Offer a signer or other auxiliary hearing-impaired apparatus for sound presentations or have a printed copy of the presentation available.
- Run an audio presentation for people with sight problems.
- Arrange touch screen displays at a height to accommodate a person sitting in a wheelchair.

To avoid potential fines by the U. S. Department of Justice, exhibitors must adhere to the ADA rules. Exhibits are not exempt from ADA compliance.

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

All exhibit displays should be designed and erected in a manner that will withstand normal contact or vibration caused by neighboring exhibitors, hall laborers, or installation/dismantling equipment, such as fork lifts. Displays should also be able to withstand moderate wind effects that may occur in the exhibit hall when freight doors are open. Refer to local building codes that regulate temporary structures.

It is recommended that all exhibits 20ft by 20ft (6.10m by 6.10m) and larger require a drawing, plans or renderings, preferably digital, to be submitted to Show Management, and to the show's Official Services Contractor for approval.

Exhibitors should ensure that any display fixtures such as tables, racks, or shelves are designed and installed properly to support the product or marketing materials to be displayed.

FLAMMABLE AND TOXIC MATERIALS

All materials used in display construction or decorating should be made of fire retardant materials and be certified as flame retardant. Samples should also be available for testing. Materials that cannot be treated to meet the requirements should not be used. A flame-proofing certificate should be available for inspection. Exhibitors should be aware of, and must adhere to, all local regulations regarding fire/safety and environment.

Exhibitors should dispose of any waste products they generate during the exhibition in accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the appropriate government entity in the country the exhibition will be held, and the facility.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste requires special arrangements to be prepared in advance of event dismantle with either the facility or a local independent disposal company. Exhibitors are responsible for all costs associated with such specialized removal.

STORAGE

Fire regulations in most exhibit facilities prohibit storing product, literature, empty packing containers, or packing materials behind back drapes or under draped tables. In most cases, however, exhibitors may store a limited supply of literature or product appropriately within the booth area, as long as these items do not impede access to utility services, create a safety problem, or look unsightly.

ELECTRICAL

Every exhibit facility has different electrical requirements and rules regarding who is permitted to provide equipment and labor; however, minimum guidelines are suggested:

- All 110-volt wiring should be grounded three-wire.
- Wiring that touches the floor should be “SO” cord (minimum 14-gauge/three-wire) flat cord, which is insulated to qualify for “extra hard usage.” It is particularly important for exhibitors to use flat electrical cord in under-carpet installations.
- Cord wiring above floor level can be “SJ” which is rated for “hard usage.”
- Using zip cords, two-wire cords, latex cords, plastic cords, lamp cords, open clip sockets, and two-wire clamp-on fixtures is not recommended and is often prohibited. Cube taps should be prohibited.
- Power strips (multi-plug connectors) should be UL approved, with built-in over-load surge protectors.
- Local code commonly requires access to electrical cords and connections along the back wall of exhibit booths; typically, the back 9 inches of the space should remain accessible for this purpose. (This would apply to all booth types with a back wall.)

To better understand electrical at exhibitions, see the CEIR article [Demystifying Electrical Services for the Exhibitor](#).

LIGHTING

It is important to remember that lighting issues need to be identified as early as possible during the move-in process so they can be addressed and corrected while the necessary equipment is still available on the show floor and booths can be accessed.

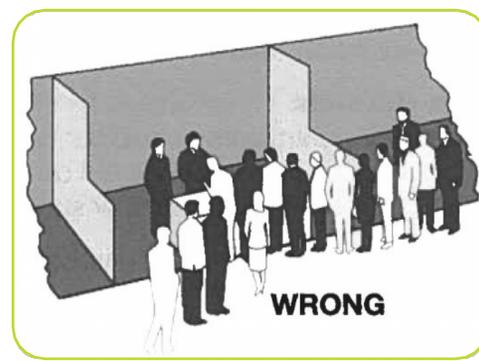
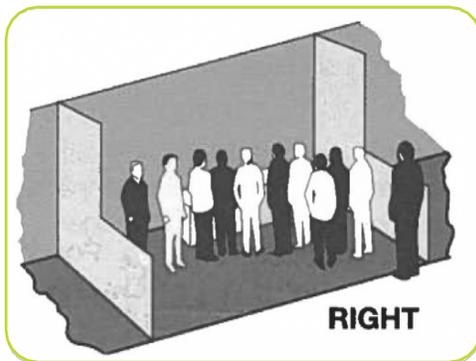
Exhibitors should adhere to the following suggested minimum guidelines when determining booth lighting:

- No lighting, fixtures, lighting trusses, or overhead lighting are allowed outside the boundaries of the exhibit space. Exhibitors intending to use hanging light systems should submit drawings to Show Management for approval.
- Lighting should not project onto other exhibits or exhibition aisles. Lighting, including gobos, should be directed to the inner confines of the booth space.
- Lighting that is potentially harmful, such as lasers, ultraviolet lights or flashing or strobe lights that can trigger photosensitive epilepsy should comply with facility rules and be approved in writing by the Organizer.
- Lighting that spins, rotates, pulsates, and other specialized lighting effects should be in good taste and not interfere with neighboring exhibitors or otherwise detract from the general atmosphere of the event.
- LED lights can be very bright yet generally generate less heat.
- Currently, some convention facilities are not allowing certain types of quartz halogen lighting fixtures in exhibits due to potential fire hazards.
- Reduced lighting for theater areas should be approved by Show Management, the utility provider, and the facility.

DEMONSTRATIONS

As a matter of safety and courtesy to others, exhibitors should conduct sales presentations, product demonstrations, press conferences and other media events in a manner which assures all exhibitor personnel and attendees of such in-booth events are within the contracted exhibit space and not encroaching on the aisles or neighboring exhibits. Any queue lines formed for exhibitor customer interaction must also be contained within the booth footprint. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to arrange displays, product presentation, audio visual presentations, and demonstration areas to ensure compliance with all other previously listed rules and regulations. Exhibitors should be aware of, and adhere to, local regulations regarding fire/safety and environment.

Special caution should be taken when demonstrating machinery or equipment that has moving parts, cooking equipment with an open flame, or any product that is otherwise potentially dangerous. Exhibitors should establish a minimum setback of 3ft (.91m) and/or install hazard barriers as necessary to prevent accidental injury to spectators. Additionally, demonstrations should only be conducted by qualified exhibitor personnel.



SOUND/MUSIC

In general, the use of sound equipment in booths is permitted as long as the noise level does not disrupt the activities of neighboring exhibitors. Speakers and other sound devices should be positioned to direct sound inward (to be contained within the booth) rather than outward (toward aisles and other exhibitor booths). Generally, sound and noise should not exceed 85 decibels when measured from the aisle immediately in front of a booth. If an exhibitor or attendee is standing within ten feet of an exhibitor's booth and cannot carry on a normal voice-level conversation, the noise source is too loud. (Refer to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act [OSHA] at www.osha.gov for more information.)

Exhibitors should be aware that music played in their booths, whether live or recorded, may be subject to laws governing the use of copyrighted compositions. Authorized licensing organizations, including but not limited to [ASCAP](http://www.ascap.com), [BMI](http://www.bmi.com) and [SESAC](http://www.sesac.com), collect copyright fees on behalf of composers and publishers of music. It is the exhibitors' responsibility to be informed of copyright laws and submit fees to the appropriate organizations.

VEHICLES (FOR BOTH GAS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES)

Rules for display vehicles vary widely depending on the facility and local fire and safety regulations. Compliance with fire, safety, the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other city, county, federal, and provincial government requirements is the responsibility of the Organizer.

Important Note: Always check with local exhibition service contractors and/or the facility for all requirements regarding display vehicles.

Below are a few common examples of display vehicle regulations:

- Display vehicles must have battery cables disconnected and taped, and alarm systems deactivated.
- Fuel tank openings shall be locked or sealed in a manner to prevent escape of vapors through filler caps.
- Vehicles shall be limited in the amount of fuel that can remain in the tanks; specific amounts vary but one example is no more than one-quarter the tank capacity or a maximum of five gallons of fuel, whichever is less.
- Fueling or de-fueling of vehicles on the facility premises is prohibited.
- Once placed, display vehicles may not be started or moved without the approval and direction of show management.
- Auxiliary batteries not connected to engine starting system may remain connected. External power is recommended for demonstration purposes. No battery charging is permitted inside buildings.
- Combustible/flammable materials must not be stored beneath display vehicle. There may be no leaks underneath vehicles.
- It is not recommended that Organizers hold or take possession of display vehicle keys during the event. However, it is recommended that an official policy be established for the handling of vehicle keys which might include identifying booth contacts with mobile numbers should vehicles need to be moved in an emergency or some other unforeseen situation. Need to get guidelines for placing, displaying electric vehicles.
- Check with your facility regarding any weight load limits.
- Show organizers should request information from exhibitors in advance of the show if they are bringing in a vehicle Usually 45 days is the standard.
- Vehicles can only be moved to and from their booth outside show hours and under the supervision of show management and/or Official Service Contractor depending on the rules in the building.

BADGE POLICY AND ADMITTANCE

Admittance during non-show hours without permission from ACM and/or Show Management is prohibited. Children 17 and under are permitted in the exhibit hall only during official exhibit hours and must be accompanied by a registered adult. Show Management shall have the sole control over admission policies. All persons visiting the exhibit area, including exhibit booth representatives, will be required to register and to wear an appropriate badge.

Exhibitor shall assume responsibility for having a badged exhibitor representative present in the exhibit booth and keeping the exhibit neat, staffed, and operational during exhibit hours.