

FACTSHEET

How to apply capacity rules in your business or venue



The Risk Mitigation Guidance attached to the public health direction details the capacity limits for venue indoor and outdoor spaces.

Note: From Saturday 6 March 2021, all restricted businesses, venues and facilities will be required to register and use the Check In CBR app. Find out more on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All venues, facilities and businesses can have 25 people across the entire venue.

If businesses and venues want to have more than 25 people across their venue, they can apply the one person per two square metres of usable space rule.

Staff can be excluded from the maximum capacity for all venues.

Businesses must not exceed the capacity limit that applies under standard liquor or fire occupancy loading and regulatory conditions of the venue.

Square metreage is determined by usable space. Usable space is defined in the Public Health Direction as the space that people can freely move around in, but not including the following areas:

- › stages and similar areas
- › restrooms, changerooms and similar areas
- › areas occupied by fixtures, fittings, and displays; and
- › staff only areas and areas that are closed off or not being used.

Items and objects which businesses should consider as impacting usable space include pylons, countertops, benches and gaming machines.

How to calculate the capacity of your premises

1. Measure the length of your usable space.
2. Measure the width of your usable space.
3. Multiply the length by the width to calculate the area of your space in square metres.
4. Divide the area of your space by two to calculate the maximum number of people allowed in each space.
5. Ensure that you exclude those areas which are not included in the definition of usable space, as outlined above.

Example for those venues with indoor and outdoor spaces as part of their premises

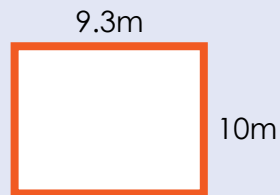
Example

Indoor space

9.3m x 10m = 93 square metres

93 square metres divided by 2 = 46.5

Maximum patrons allowed = 46



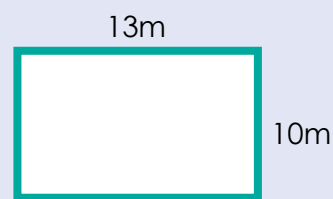
Outdoor space

13m x 10m = 130 square metres

130 square metres divided by 2 = 65

Maximum patrons allowed = 65

Total capacity across entire premises:
46 + 65 = 111 (provided each space is not over its individual limit)



Note: Always round down to the nearest whole number. Businesses must not exceed the capacity limit that applies under standard liquor or fire occupancy loading and regulatory conditions of the venue.

Remember to maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres between tables where possible and maintain good hand hygiene.

This information is correct as of 20 February 2021.

For the latest advice on restrictions please check the [COVID-19 website](#) or call the COVID-19 helpline on (02) 6207 7244.

The Business Resource Kit includes: guidelines for creating a COVID Safety Plan; posters for displaying in your business premises; fact sheets and case studies to

provide up-to date information and clear advice; and other useful resources.

Find the kit on the business resources page of the [COVID-19 website](#).

Canberra Business Advice and Support Service: Business owners can receive up to four hours of free, tailored advice and access online business development resources. Call (02) 6297 3121.