

Booster Seats: Guidance on Usage and Storage

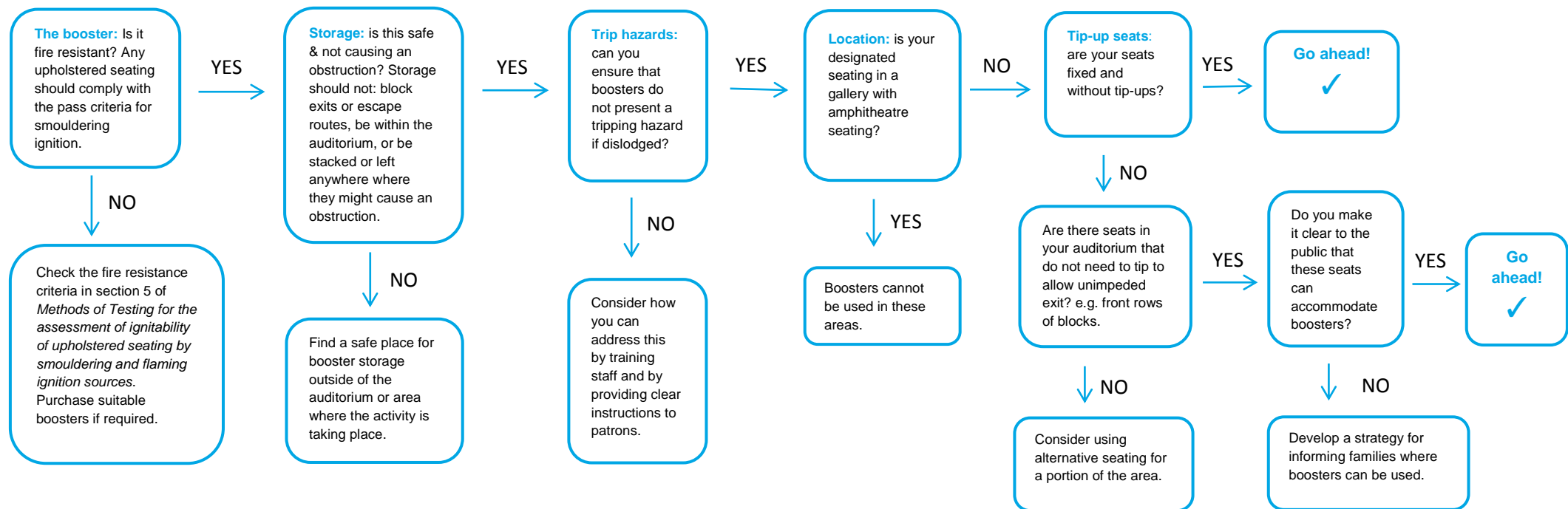
To be used alongside the Family Arts Standards, this guidance is designed to help organisations consider the needs of families attending an arts experience.

The Family Arts Campaign endorses the use of booster seats in order to enable younger family members to fully enjoy performances. The Campaign has worked with the Association of British Theatre Technicians to provide this good practice checklist - a simple guide to ensure you are using booster seats safely.

The Technical Standards for Places of Entertainment (2013) has identified booster seats as a potential hazard on two accounts: when preventing tip-up seats from functioning and when presenting a tripping hazard.

Although the Recommendations are not mandatory (para A1.06), responsible authorities have to be satisfied that “taken together the proposed arrangements will fully meet the intended function of the Technical Standards in A2 and, in the event of any dispute, may refer to that Technical Standards for Places of Entertainment in any appeal process”. (“Responsible authorities” include the police, the local fire and rescue authority, the local enforcement agency for health and safety, and the local authority with responsibility for environmental health.)

Organisations are therefore advised to complete the below checklist before using booster seats:



Technical Standards: N2.09: When performances are specifically presented for children there should be an attendant stationed in the area(s) occupied by the children in the vicinity of each exit. There should be a minimum number of attendants on duty of one attendant per 50 children or part thereof on each level occupied by children. Children should not be allowed to stand except in the stalls if permitted.

This guidance is designed for booster seats only and for indoor use. For outdoor events please refer to The Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Other Events. (For guidance on use of other forms of cushions or upholstery please consult the Technical Standards: recommendations C2.52, C2.53, C2.54 and E2.19.)