

Preliminary Note

Reason and purpose of the amendment

10 years after the entry into force VSVO [Event Safety Ordinance], and 12 years after the entry into force of the VFVO [Event Form Ordinance], it was necessary to revise and partially recast the provisions. The new provisions were drafted by a working group made up of lawyers, advisors and official experts.

The provisions have been restructured, partly in response to current developments (e.g. safety concept) and expanded to bring them in line with legislation in other Federal States, as well as simplified by adapting them to the current OIB Guidelines.

The benefits for events subject to notification, especially small events, are to be retained. Due to the division of responsibilities between municipalities and district authorities, the safety-related adjustments are primarily intended to apply to larger events with more than 1 000 people.

Contents

Administrative simplification

- by adapting the provisions to the OIB Guidelines,
- by merging the previous 2014 Event Safety Ordinance – VSVO and the previous 2012 Event Form Ordinance – VFVO into a single ordinance,
- by the possibility of recognising the authorisation to carry out mobile event operations or mobile events by the competent authority of another Federal State instead of the authorisation pursuant to § 10 of the StVAG.

Financial impacts on the State budget and other public budgets

The proposed legislation is unlikely to have any impact.

Impact on equality between men and women and social diversity

The proposed legislation is unlikely to have any impact.

Impact on the environment/climate

The proposed legislation is expected to have no/low impact.

Relationship with European Union legislation

The draft is not intended to implement or transpose European Union law.

Special features of the standard-setting process

Information procedures required under the Notification Act.

Explanatory notes

I. General part with simplified impact assessment

A simplified impact assessment of the proposed legislation will be carried out in accordance with § 7(3) VOWO 2020, 'Provincial Law Gazette (LGBL.) No 72/2020, as the administrative burden of carrying out a full assessment would be disproportionate to the scope and intensity of the desired impact of the proposed legislation.

Essentially, the provisions are being amended due to changes in the OIB Guidelines and current safety-related developments in the event industry. Entrepreneurs affected have long been calling for there to be a possibility of recognising provisions from other Federal States.

The proposed legislation has no financial implications.

Profile of the proposal

Name of the proposed legislation: Styrian Events Ordinance (2026 StVVO)

Submitting body:

Current fiscal year: 2026

Year of entry into force/effective date: 2026

Contribution to impact objective in the state budget

The project does not contribute to an impact objective.

Analysis of the problem

Cause and purpose, problem definition

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The provisions have been restructured, partly in response to current developments (e.g. safety concept) and expanded to align them with regulations in other Federal States, as well as simplified to comply with the current OIB Guidelines.

The benefits for events subject to notification, especially small events, are to be retained. Due to the division of responsibilities between municipalities and district authorities, the safety-related adjustments are primarily intended to apply to large events with more than 1 000 people.

Baseline scenario and any alternatives

The existing regulations, which are stricter than the provisions in the new Ordinance in several areas – e.g. in comparison with the regulations in the OIB Guidelines or for events involving 2 500 attendees – remain in place.

Objectives

Administrative simplification

- by harmonising with the OIB Guidelines and the special regulations applicable to assembly venues, as well as eliminating contradictory requirements,
- by simplifying requirements for events with up to 2 500 attendees (with regard to fire safety services, medical services, orientation lighting for outdoor events),

- by merging the previous 2014 Event Safety Ordinance 2014 – VSVO and the previous 2012 Ordinance on the form of events – VFVO into a single ordinance
- by the possibility of recognising the authorisation to carry out mobile event operations or mobile events by the competent authority of another Federal State instead of the authorisation pursuant to § 10 of the StVAG.

Measures

Deletion, revision, partial restructuring, and systematic reorganisation of the provisions.

Financial impacts on the State budget and other public budgets

The proposed legislation is unlikely to have any impact.

Impact on equality between men and women and social diversity

The proposed legislation is unlikely to have any impact.

Impact on the environment/climate

The proposed legislation is expected to have no/low impact.

Proportionality test within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2018/958

It was not necessary to carry out a proportionality assessment because the proposed legislation does not concern the taking up or pursuit of a profession subject to regulation.

II. Specific part

Re § 1:

The scope as per StVVO extends to the staging of public events, with the exception of those events specified in § 1(2) StVAG [Styrian Event Act].

Paragraph 6 clarifies that deviations from individual provisions of Sections 3 and 6 of the regulation are permissible in consultation with the authorities.

Paragraph 9 ensures the creation of a safety concept for event venues with a total capacity of more than 5 000 attendees.

Re § 2:

§ 2 essentially corresponds to § 2 VSVO.

The definitions are extended to include the term ‘total capacity’ in point 1.

The term ‘performance area’ in point 3 complies with OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, point 8.2.4.

Re § 3:

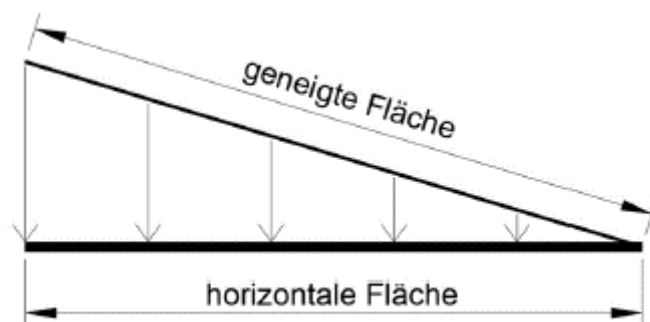
The forms from the previous VFVO have been revised and integrated into Section 1 of the Regulation. The forms must be used for applications under the StVAG.

Re § 4:

Paragraph 3 contains an illustrative list of areas that are not included in the calculation of the floor space of an event venue.

Re § 5:

In order to remove any doubt as to how the term ‘horizontal projection’ is to be understood and how the area is to be calculated, this is illustrated graphically:



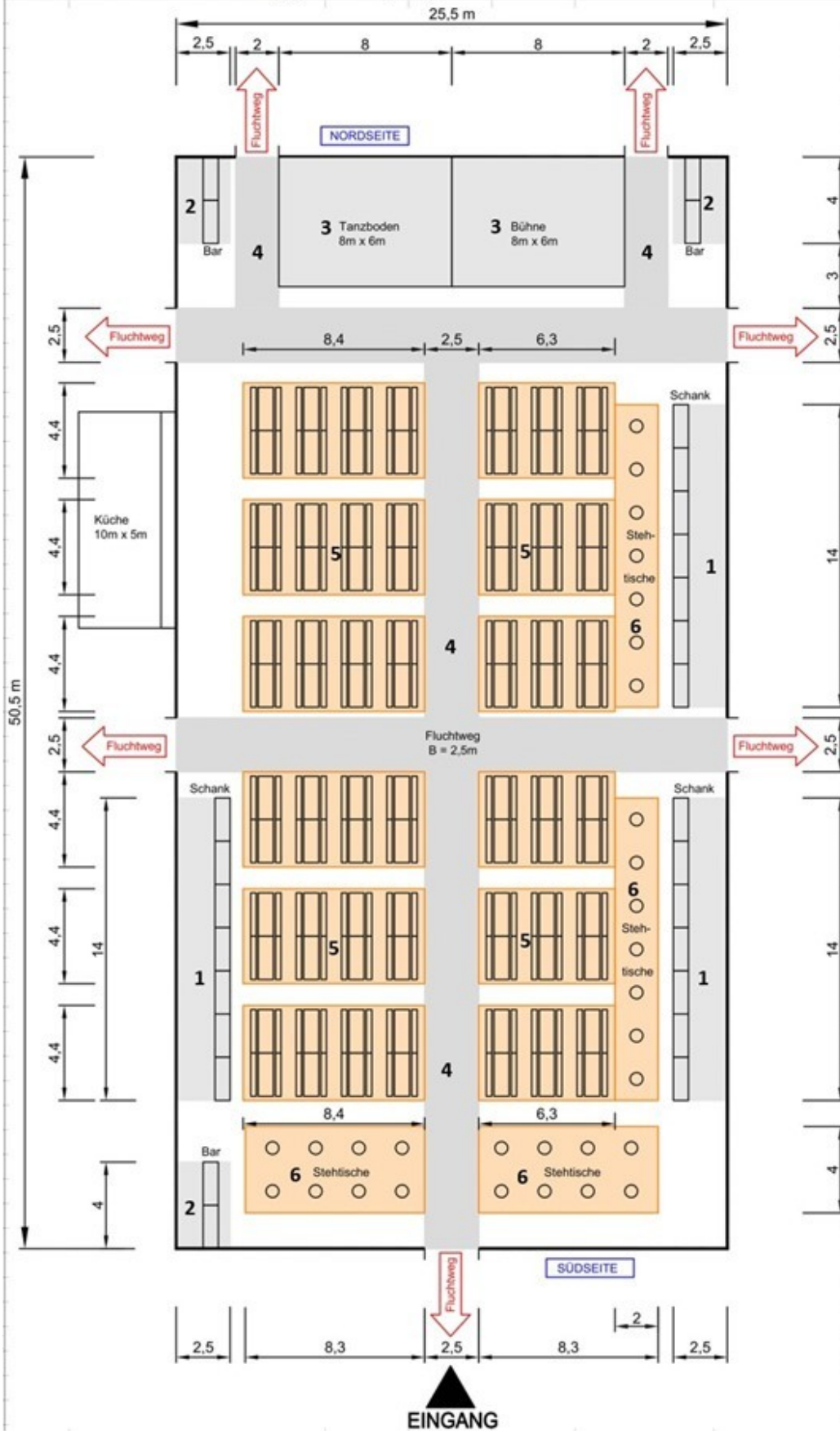
Geneigte Fläche, horizontale Fläche

Inclined surface, horizontal surface

Re §§ 4 and 5:

The marquee is shown with a floor plan as an illustration for calculating the number of people:

Festzelt - Planliche Darstellung (Grundrissplan):



An Excel spreadsheet for calculating the number of people in a marquee is available on the homepage of the Province of Styria – Department 3 Constitution and Internal Affairs – Civil Status, Foundations, Events at the following link:

Link to be added.

Calculation example for marquee

Number of people depending on the size of the marquee and various installations:

The individual measurement areas are determined in order to check whether the available space is sufficient for the maximum number of people present in the marquee at the same time. The measurement areas are multiplied by the maximum permissible number of people per m² of measurement area ^(*).

Item no.		Length [m]	Width [m]		Area [m ²]
	Marquee	5 0,5	2 5,5		1287,8

Maximum number of people allowed in the marquee at any given time	1600
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Item no.		Width [m]	Num ber	Total width [m]
	Emergency exits	2 ,5	5	12,5
	Emergency exits	2	2	4,0
Total emergency exits			7	16,5

Item no.	Areas (according to plan)	Length [m]	Width [m]	Num ber	Area [m ²]
	Areas <u>not</u> intended for attendee occupation: (escape routes, performance areas, areas for food preparation, bar area, service area, sales, etc.)				
1	Bar area	1 4,0	2 ,5	3	105,0
2	Bar	4 ,0	2 ,5	3	30,0
3	Performance areas (stage, dance floor)	8 ,0	6 ,0	2	96,0
4	Escape routes, crosswise	2 5,5	2 ,5	2	127,5
4	Escape routes, lengthwise	7 ,0	2 ,0	2	28,0
4	Escape routes, lengthwise	3 8,5	2 ,5	1	96,3

	Areas intended for attendee occupation (measured areas):					max. possible number of people
	Surface areas for seats at tables or for exhibition areas (1 pers. per m²)^(*):					
	-	-	-	-	0,0	0
	Surface areas for seats in rows and beer table sets (2 pers. per m²)^(*):					
5	Beer table sets (2 pers. per m ²)	8,4	4,4	6	221,8	44
5	Beer table sets (2 pers. per m ²)	6,3	4,4	6	166,3	33
	Surface areas for seats at standing tables (3 pers. per m²)^(*):					
6	Standing tables (3 pers. per m ²)	8,3	4,0	2	66,4	99
6	Standing tables (3 pers. per m ²)	14,0	2,0	2	56,0	68
	Area for rows of steps (2 pers. per metre)^(*):					
	-	-	-	-	0,0	0
	Remaining areas - areas for standing passengers (3 per m²)^(*):					
	Remaining (3 pers. per m ²)				294,5	84
Total area of marquee / Max. possible number of people					1287,8	2 027

Taking into account the maximum attendee density^(*), there is therefore **space for 2027** people (maximum possible number of people).

There is therefore sufficient space available for the maximum number of people present in the marquee at any one time.

(*): Calculation of attendee density in accordance with § 5 as per StVVO

Re § 6:

§ 6 essentially corresponds to § 3 (3) VSVO.

The following may be considered suitable counting systems for people: Turnstiles with counters, counting by stewards at the entrance or exit, light barriers with counters, counting cards, electronic people counting systems, admission tickets, etc.

Re §§ 7 to 12:

§§ 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 essentially correspond to §§ 4, 5, 6, 7, 19 and 23 VSVO. The individual provisions have been restructured and summarised.

The provisions on escape and rescue routes are based on the provisions of OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition.

Re § 8(8):

Buildings do not include event facilities (temporary structures, tents).

For requirements regarding the flammability of decorative materials, decorations, posters, boards, hangers and signs, please refer to ÖNORM A 3800-1 'Burning behaviour of materials excluding building products - Part 1: Requirements, tests and evaluations' and ÖNORM B 3822 'Burning behaviour of interior materials – Decorative items, testing and classification'.

Re § 9(1):

Corresponds to § 5(2) of VSVO.

Re § 9(2):

The permissible maximum escape route length is determined by the provisions for assembly areas in OIB Guideline 2 – Fire Protection, May 2023 edition, points 7.8.12 and 7.8.13.

Re § 9(3):

The escape route length of 80 m for events in stadiums was taken from OIB Guideline 2 - Fire Protection, May 2023 edition, point 7.8.14.

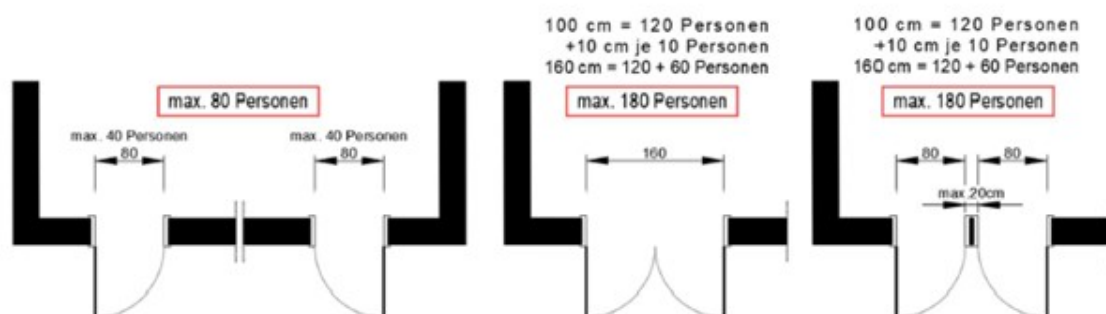
The escape route length of 80 m does not apply to outdoor events.

Re § 10(2):

The clear passage width of doors along escape routes is specified in OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, point 2.8.1.

A graphical representation is added to § 10 (2):

Re § 10(3):



The clear passage width of escape and rescue routes for outdoor events for up to 300 people must be at least 120 cm. See OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, point 2.8.2.

The clear passage width increases by 10 cm for each additional 50 persons or fraction thereof. See also OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, points 2.4.6 and 2.8.2.

Re § 11(1)(5):

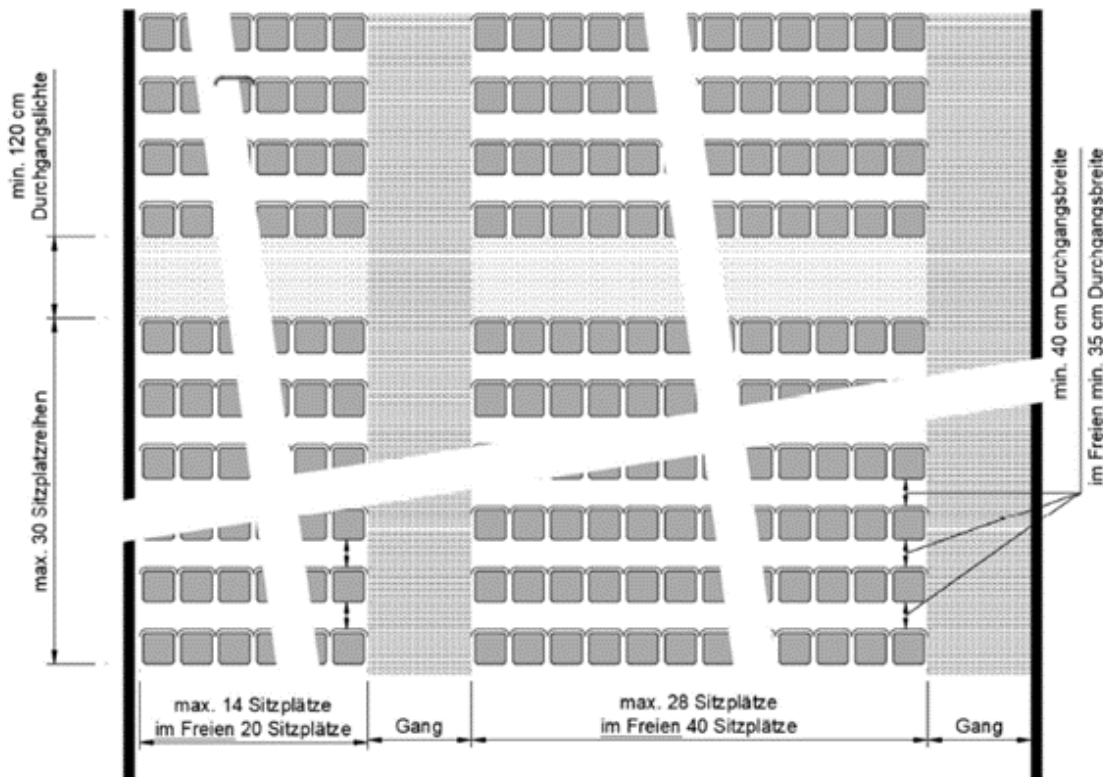
See also OIB Guideline 2 – Fire protection, May 2023 edition, point 7.8.4.

Re § 11(1):

The provision stipulating that chairs must be arranged in rows and that individual chairs within a row must be firmly connected to each other is taken from OIB Guideline 2 – Fire Protection, May 2023 edition, point 7.8.4.

Re § 11(2)(4):

A graphical representation is intended to help improve comprehensibility.

Re § 11(5):

The required escape route width is specified in § 10 of this regulation.

Re § 11(6):

Seats, seat shells, backrests and similar components must be flame-retardant in accordance with ÖNORM A 3800-1 'Burning behaviour of materials excluding building products'.

Re § 11(7):

Seat covers must be flame-retardant in accordance with ÖNORM B 3825 'Burning behaviour of interior materials', taking into account any upholstery materials.

Re § 12(1):

ÖNORM EN ISO 7010 'Graphical symbols - Safety colours and safety signs - Registered safety signs' and ÖNORM F 2030 'Signs for fire protection - Requirements, designs, implementation and mounting' must be used to mark escape and emergency exits.

Re § 12(2):

This provision corresponds to § 19(1) VSVO.

Re § 12(3):

Phosphorescent orientation aids and emergency signs must comply with the standard DIN 67510 series 'Phosphorescent pigments and products'.

Re § 13:

§ 13 essentially corresponds to § 8 VSVO.

Re § 14:

The definition of assembly places can be found in the OIB Guideline – Definitions, May 2023 edition.

Re § 15:

§ 15 is based on § 10 VSVO.

The definition of assembly places can be found in the OIB Guideline – Definitions, May 2023 edition.

Off-grid alarm systems must, in accordance with the multi-sensory principle, trigger at least visual and acoustic signals that enable all people present to be warned in the event of danger. With regard to the multi-sensory principle, reference is made to ÖNORM B 1600 'Barrier-free building', edition 15/02/2023.

Re §§ 16 and 17:

§ 16 essentially corresponds to § 11 VSVO.

§ 17 corresponds to § 12 VSVO.

Re §§ 18 to 24:

Sections 5 and 7 VSVO are summarised. The new Section 4 of this regulation contains provisions for event facilities, event operating facilities and registration.

The previous Section 4 VSVO concerning minimum standards for the retrofitting of event venues has been omitted.

Re §§ 20 and 21:

Event facilities may only be used if the organiser has a licence in accordance with § 10 of the StVAG and if this licence, together with the associated event facilities, is listed in the register in accordance with § 26 of the StVAG, unless they have been approved as part of a permanent event facility in accordance with § 15(1)(2) StVAG.

A detailed technical description of the event facility and an inspection report from an inspection body in accordance with § 20(6) StVAG, which must not be more than two years old and which confirms that the event facility is free of defects and is fit for use and safe, must be submitted to the authority.

The form 'Mobile event/mobile event operation – application' must be used for the authorisation. If further event facilities are registered after the authorisation has been granted, the form 'Registration of an event (operating) facility' must be used.

Re § 21:

Inflatable play equipment includes bouncy castles, bouncy cushions, bungee runs, snappies, inflatable obstacle courses, etc.

Inflatable play equipment must be inspected by a competent person after each reinstallation. In accordance with the ÖNORM EN 14960 series 'Inflatable play equipment', the following points, among others, must be checked during the acceptance inspection:

1. whether the installation site is suitable;
2. whether the installation site is suitable; whether all anchors are securely fastened and in the correct position;
3. whether the accessories are in the right place (e.g. shock-absorbing mats);
4. whether the fabric or seams have any significant holes or tears;
5. whether the correct blower is being used;
6. whether the air pressure is sufficient for a firm and reliable stand;
7. whether there are any exposed electrical parts and whether the cables show any signs of wear;
8. whether plugs, sockets, switches, etc. are undamaged;
9. whether the connecting pipe and blower are securely connected to each other;

10. whether the blower is securely installed in the correct position and the protective grilles are intact;
11. the controlled and safe access for users to the inflatable play equipment;
12. the employment of a minimum number of operators;
13. the attentive observation of all activities on the inflatable play equipment by the operator and/or employees.

Re § 22(3)(4):

According to point 6.3 of OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, a lightning protection system is required for assembly areas in buildings. Since marquees are not equivalent to buildings in every respect and the number of 120 people in marquees can be quickly reached, the requirement for a lightning protection system is based on a number of 240 people (in accordance with OIB definitions for assembly areas with several connected rooms).

When registering the marquee, only the external lightning protection (interception systems and discharge systems) can be included. The earthing must be carried out at the respective location of the marquee. The internal lightning protection must be carried out depending on the electrical system installed. It will therefore be necessary to request a certificate after the marquee has been erected.

Re § 22(5)(7):

According to point 6.3 of OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May 2023 edition, a lightning protection system is required for assembly areas in buildings. Although a grandstand is not equivalent to a building, the term ‘event venue’ also includes outdoor areas, and grandstands are also at risk of lightning strikes. As a grandstand can quickly reach a capacity of 120 people, the requirement for a lightning protection system is based on a capacity of 240 people.

When registering, only the external lightning protection (interception systems and discharge systems) can be included. The earthing must be carried out at the respective location. The internal lightning protection must be carried out depending on the electrical system installed. It will therefore be necessary to request a certificate after erecting.

Re § 24:

Permits issued by other Federal States may be recognised.

Re § 25:

§ 25(1), (2), (3) and (4) essentially corresponds to § 18 VSVO.

A new § 25(5) has been inserted.

Power generators are characterised by low efficiency on the one hand and high specific emissions, in particular nitrogen oxides, on the other. At events, they are used in areas where there are large numbers of people, with the exhaust pipe only slightly above the ground. Therefore, the use of these sources should be prevented wherever possible. When registering events, applicants for mobile power generators should be required to provide confirmation – issued by the relevant electricity supplier – that no mains power is available at the event location.

Re § 26:

§ 26 corresponds to § 20 VSVO.

Re §§ 27 and 28:

These provisions correspond to §§ 21 and 22 VSVO.

Re § 29:

This provision essentially corresponds to § 25 VSVO.

In order to enable people with disabilities to use the event without hindrance, a sufficient number of accessible toilet facilities must be available and accessible in accordance with the provisions of OIB Guideline 4 – Safety of Use and Accessibility, May edition 2023, Point 7.1. According to point 2.3.3 of OIB Guideline 3 – Hygiene, Health and Environmental Protection, May 2023 edition, a sufficient number is provided if there is one accessible toilet for every ten wheelchair spaces.

Re §§ 30 to 46:

Section 6 sets out safety regulations and is based on Section 9 VSVO, which previously regulated organisational requirements for event organisers.

Individual provisions are to be taken from the VSVO and restructured.

The safety concept in § 38, weather factors in § 39, noise protection provisions in §§ 40 and 41, protective equipment in § 45 and tree population in § 46 are newly added.

Re §§ 30 and 31:

These provisions correspond to §§ 40 and 41 VSVO.

Re § 33:

This provision corresponds to § 44 VSVO.

Re § 34:

§ 34 essentially corresponds to § 38 VSVO.

Care should also be taken to ensure that security service staff of different genders are deployed in order to take into account the gender distribution of the expected attendees.

Paragraph 3 relates to the safety concept.

Re § 35:

§ 35 (1) specifies the minimum requirements for the number of members of the fire protection service.

The fire protection service must be provided in the form of a fire safety guard, which may consist of members of fire brigades or fire protection officers. The fire safety officer must have completed training in accordance with TRVB 117 O/24 'ORGANISATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION – TRAINING'.

Guideline VB-02 is available from the Federal Fire Brigade Association (Bundesfeuerwehrverband) at the following internet address [VB-02 /04 RL "Durchführung der Brandsicherheitswachdienste" – ÖBFV](#).

Re § 36:

§ 3(2) of the Styrian Rescue Act (Steiermärkisches Rettungsdienstgesetz) regulates the requirements for recognition as a general emergency medical services organisation.

The provision of § 39 VSVO is to be expanded with regard to the calculation method for determining the minimum number of medical personnel, doctors and means of transport required.

An algorithm can be used to determine at any time how many emergency personnel and means of transport must be available for an event. The algorithm is based on international empirical values, which may need to be adapted to local conditions.

Re § 37:

§ 37(1) corresponds to § 3(2) VSVO and § 37(2) corresponds to § 4(10) VSVO.

Re § 38:

Based on practical experience, a safety concept must be developed to ensure the safety of attendees at events. Contrary to the submission date, the deployment plan for security service staff only needs to be kept on site.

Re § 39:

§ 39 is newly inserted. The organiser must ensure that it receives timely warnings of weather events from a meteorological agency and takes appropriate measures in good time before the weather event occurs to ensure the safety of attendees.

Re §§ 40 and 41:

The provisions on noise protection are being re-introduced and are in line with previous experience. The introduction of noise protection regulations is primarily intended to protect attendees.

Re §§ 42 and 43:

§ 42 corresponds to § 34 VSVO and § 43 corresponds to § 42 VSVO.

Re § 45:

Other examples of hazardous areas include tripping hazards caused by tree roots, uneven outdoor surfaces, steps, poorly visible fixtures such as bollards, rubbish bins, bicycle racks, kerbs, anchoring components from dismantled railings, fences, benches, playground equipment, mobile cash machines and sales stands.

Other hazardous areas may arise due to crowding at congestion points, e.g. underpasses, passageways or bridges.

These hazardous areas must be marked and secured accordingly.

Re § 46:

Health and road safety checks and visual inspections of trees shall be carried out in accordance with ÖNORM L 1122 'Tree care and tree control'.

Re §§ 47 to 51:

Section 7, relating to means of organising events, essentially corresponds to §§ 29 to 33 of Section 8 VSVO.

Re § 51:

The recognised rules of lighting technology are derived from ÖNORM O 1052 'Light emissions – measurement and assessment'.

Re §§ 52 and 53:

Section 8 concerning waste management corresponds to §§ 45 to 47 of Section 10 VSVO.

Re §§ 54 to 56:

Section 9 concerning tests and certificates essentially corresponds to §§ 48 to 50 of Section 11 VSVO.

Re § 58(2):

Anyone who fails to comply with the requirements or prohibitions of a regulation issued on the basis of this law is guilty of an administrative offence pursuant to § 29(1)(2) StVAG.