

There are at least five unions involved in setting up and operating AV and stagecraft for meetings and events at hotels like the Chicago Hilton, Palmer House Hilton, Hyatt Regency Chicago or the Sheraton Chicago, as examples.

Teamsters Local #727

This workforce will unload the trucks at the loading dock, operate forklifts, and move freight from the truck to the dock. The stage crew takes the gear up the elevator and to the ballroom.

IATSE Projectionist Local #110

Projectionists have jurisdiction over all video projection. Local #110 projectionists may also operate video tape decks and video switchers as long as no live cameras are connected to the switcher. The rule of thumb for General Sessions is one projectionist per screen, but compromises may be negotiated for larger shows. For breakout rooms, service projectionists will be assigned to set, service and strike multiple rooms, generally 1 person per 3-4 rooms, dependent on the amount of equipment and geographic proximity of the rooms needing service.

IBEW Video Production Local #1220

Responsible for providing camera operators, video engineers, video switchers, computer graphics operators, and video utility techs. A show with IMAG and tape usually requires a TD, Engineer/Shader, and a Video Tape Operator, plus all Camera Operators. Any time a live camera source is introduced into the production system Local 1220 engineering personnel will be required to operate a production switcher or asynchronous AV switchers/scalers

IATSE Stagehand Local #2

Stagehands have jurisdiction over all things theatrical, such as rigging, lighting, audio, and scenic. Stagehands have also jurisdiction over teleprompters for business meetings. For a show at a hotel you will be expected to have at least one head of dept. for lighting, audio, and perhaps scenic on your running crew. Props moves will require additional hands, as will spot calls, entertainment setup/ strike, and scenic resets. Of course stagehands will also provide all of the setup and strike labor for departments in their jurisdiction. Stagehands are required to build all projection screens over 14' wide. Be mindful that at many facilities the hotel will require that rigging calls be exclusive to the in-house provider.

The Chicago Hilton is an anomaly, as the in-house IBEW 134 electricians sometimes supply a turn-key lighting package that includes the gear, truss, rigging, and all labor to rig, install, run, and strike the show. Some clients choose to go direct to the building for their lighting, but most bring it in from the outside, and when doing so use the IATSE for the rigging and lighting labor.

Decorators Local #17 - USWA

Responsible for installing signage, banners, bunting, and pipe & drape for exhibits, displays, and in meeting rooms. If drapery is limited to less than 20 running foot of screen "carryoff", it is possible that it may be set up by your stage labor and projectionists crew. For longer runs please consult us in advance so we may provide you with the labor from the appropriate jurisdictional area.

Please discuss the specific production requirements for your show with us to obtain a more through analysis of your labor needs and jurisdictional requirements. The jurisdictions noted above apply, in our experience, to most situations in a hotel ballroom environment. The rules are quite different for events taking place at MPEA (Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority) facilities such as Navy Pier, McCormick Place, or the Hyatt McCormick Place Hotel.