

There are several unions that claim jurisdiction when setting up audio-visual for booths and meetings at McCormick Place or Navy Pier, and a few more that usually work solely on trade show booths. This document is primarily oriented toward AV booth work and business events taking place on the show floor. Different jurisdictions apply for work in the Arie Crown Theater, Skyline Stage, and for meetings taking place in ballrooms and meeting rooms. Please contact us to discuss the specifics of your project before attempting to create a labor schedule or budget for MPEA venues.

Teamsters Local #727

This workforce will unload the trucks at the loading docks, operate forklifts, and move freight from the dock to the booths or meeting rooms.

However:

Exhibitors may carry in computers and small appliances, provided that the movement may be reasonably done by hand (such as a rollaboard suitcase, or small two-wheeled upright hand dolly – not a Magliner)

Focus One Electricians IBEW Local #134

Provided through MPEA (McCormick Place or Navy Pier), these techs are responsible for more than any other local. They must perform all theatrical rigging, assemble lighting systems, hang the units and cable them, install any and all sound systems and provide labor to operate, set all video monitors and computers on the show floor (they will offer to run video cameras if you are not using Local 1220). Set up of multiple computers for computer workshops or labs in a meeting room will be done by electricians. They are of course also responsible for bringing power to all booths and meetings at McCormick Place or the Pier. Focus One is the exclusive provider of electrical labor at both facilities. IBEW Local 134 maintains master jurisdiction over any electrically operated device and their jurisdictional directives can often supercede the jurisdictional claims of other locals within these facilities. For example, Focus One will install and dismantle plasma or LCD video screens, even though you might think that would fall under video or projection. Focus One works together with IATSE 110 Projectionists to install and remove LED screens and video walls.

IATSE Projectionists Local #110

Projectionists maintain jurisdiction over all video projection, video wall and LED screen operation, and video playback in meeting rooms and the show floor when live camera sources are not employed. Computer interfacing to on the show floor can be done by the exhibitor, but is accomplished by projectionists in meeting rooms. Local #110 projectionists may operate video tape decks and video switchers as long as no cameras are connected to the switcher. In the example of a booth with a projector showing images from a looping DVD or a laptop, the union will install the gear, then stop by daily for a show day "turn-on call" that is billed as an hour at the prevailing rate. However, if a device that requires cueing, such as a video deck, is feeding that same projector then a projectionist will operate and switch on a show call in that booth. Should a camera be connected to the switcher, however, then the jurisdiction for switching and tape moves to IBEW # 1220. Call to discuss minimum calls for set, strike, and meeting work.

IBEW Video Production Local #1220

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



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IATSE Stagehands Local #2

On the show floor and in meeting rooms, this group has a limited role to play at McCormick Place and Navy Pier. Many of their traditional set up roles are filled by Focus One Electricians, and the Stagehands have been relegated to operating lighting and performing on-stage operations. While Focus One rigs and installs lighting systems, the Stagehands are called in only to gel the lights and focus them. Stagehands also operate lighting consoles and do lighting programming. Stagehands have jurisdiction over Teleprompters for non-broadcast events. They also will construct and dismantle any projection screen over 14' wide. Installation and dismantle of hard set pieces and soft goods is done by Carpenters and Decorators at McCormick Place. However, any scenic elements that require "cued" operation during a show, or any prop movement required, will be done by stagehands.

If your event is in the Arie Crown Theater, stagehands will perform the lighting, sound and scenic work in line with their traditional theater contract.

Display Labor / Exhibit Trades

(Unified Force Combining Carpenters Local #10 and Decorators Local #17)

Responsible for crating and uncrating of exhibits and display materials, installing and dismantling exhibits, including cabinets, fixtures, shelving units, furniture; laying of carpet and floor tile; hanging and installation of non-electric signs; re-crating of exhibits and machinery; installing and dismantling larger scaffolding installations, (Projectionists can install smaller single screen units), bleachers, and ganging of chairs; installing all drape, cloth, and/or tacked fabric panels; and Velcro signs used in a booth that require tools or more than one person for installation. Of course this includes any and all pipe and drape / soft goods work for meetings and events.

However:

Exhibitors may hang their own signs using any other type of fastener, as long as no tools or ladders are required, and the total time to hang the sign does not exceed 30 minutes. Exhibitors may also skirt tables, provided they do it with their own custom-fit skirts and without the use of staples, snaps, or Velcro.

In connection with booths no larger than 300 net square feet, an exhibitor or full-time company representative may erect and tear down booths by hand without mechanical assistance or ladders. In booths larger than 300 net square feet, Union labor is required to hang signs or graphics.

This group also has jurisdiction over most elements commonly thought of as "theatrical scenery" in a meeting environment on the trade show floor. IATSE stagehands may have a part to play if the scenery is on a stage deck for a business meeting, or in a highly theatrical or tightly cued show. It is highly advisable to consult us well in advance, and we will take your plans to the appropriate parties for a jurisdictional ruling prior to your load-in.

Machinery Riggers

This local is responsible for the uncrating, positioning, and skidding of all machinery. They are not generally required for business meetings or events taking place on the show floor (this group does NOT do theatrical rigging, that is done by Focus One). They are primarily focused on trade show booths, and large equipment, like printing presses. Riggers are also responsible for movement of cars during automotive meetings and events, and it is important to have sufficient numbers on the call whenever movement of automobiles, motorcycles, etc. may be necessary.

Exhibitors may remove small computers and small appliances from crates or boxes, provided that this can be done without a forklift or any power equipment. If the use of tools is required to get something out of a crate, the Riggers are required.

Machinists

This group is responsible for handling the assembly of machinery, conveyors, and machinery parts, as well as the leveling of machinery and conveyors. They are not generally required for business meetings or events taking place on the show floor.