



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT**  
**600 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600**

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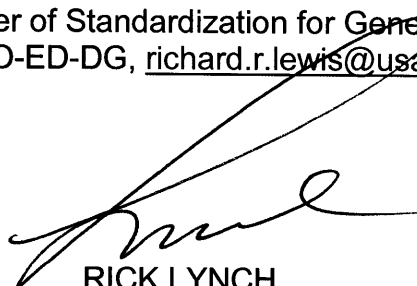
**MEMORANDUM FOR**

Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers (CEMP), 441 G Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20314  
Commander, Installation Management Command (IMLO), 2511 Jefferson Davis  
Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

**SUBJECT: Army Standard for General Congregation Chapels**

1. The enclosed Army Standard for General Congregation Chapels is hereby approved for implementation. The standard applies to all Army General Congregation Chapels. Only the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management has authority to approve exceptions to this standard. Waivers from the Army Standard must be approved in accordance with AR 420-1.
2. The standard is mandatory for all General Congregation Chapels construction projects FY15 and beyond.
3. The co-chairs for the Facilities Design Team (FDT) for General Congregation Chapels are: Mr. John Schupp, DAIM-ODC, [jack.schupp@conus.army.mil](mailto:jack.schupp@conus.army.mil), (703) 601-1650, and Chaplain (LTC) Raymond A. Robinson Jr., DACH-IRML, [raymond.robinsonjr@conus.army.mil](mailto:raymond.robinsonjr@conus.army.mil), (703) 601-1122.
4. The FDT POC at the USACE Center of Standardization for General Congregation Chapels is Mr. Richard Lewis, CENWO-ED-DG, [richard.r.lewis@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.r.lewis@usace.army.mil), (402) 995-2169.

Encl  
as



**RICK LYNCH**  
Lieutenant General, GS  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
for Installation Management



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**The Army Standard for General Congregation Chapels**

**March 2010**

**Description:**

These Army Standards for Chapels apply to Troop Chapels (i.e. Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or MTOE Unit), Post Chapels or Family Chapels (Category Code 73017) and are intended for use with military family congregations, AIT congregations, and congregations that are a mix of both. A complete Chapel "functional unit", capable of supporting the full slate of Chaplaincy programs, consists of a worship supporting component and a religious education supporting component. When the worship supporting component is combined in a project with another Chaplaincy facility type such as the religious education supporting component, it will be referred to as a Chapel Complex. Since the religious education component may be provided as a "stand-alone" project (and has a separate Category Code), it is addressed in a separate Army Standard for Religious Education Facilities. Functionally, both components will be placed together on the same site or as a single facility. Historically, this has not been what has been provided and many "legacy" worship supporting facilities exist that do not include space to provide religious education, and a few "legacy" religious education supporting facilities exist that do not include space to provide worship support. Legacy facilities representing every possible mix of these two components also exist. Creating the appropriate proportion of these two components at any garrison will require evaluation of the legacy facilities that exist, and this evaluation will be important when developing any project for new facilities. While not generally applicable to the Initial Entry Training (IET) (i.e. basic training) setting, the Army Standard Designs that come from these Standards may have applicability to specific IET settings. These facilities will serve all faiths and the military community without favoring any one distinctive group in orientation or design. These Standards are intended to apply to facilities for use anywhere in the continental United States or overseas locations. Features have been incorporated to give maximum ability to adapt to the different needs of all distinctive faith groups and the general military community. These Standards have been prepared to meet criteria established by the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, and the corresponding Architectural and Engineering design criteria established by the Headquarters U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Applicability:**

- This Army Standard applies to Active, Reserve, and National Guard Component facilities on Army Garrisons. Its application focus is to military family and/or AIT (there is a unique Army Standard for IET (i.e. basic training) setting congregations that accommodates their unique scheduling and functional needs) congregations.

- All USACE geographic districts will incorporate the mandatory design features described herein in close coordination with USACE designed Center of Standardization (COS) for Chaplaincy facility types.
- All Chapel and Chapel related projects must be reviewed by the COS to ensure conformance with the Army Standard.
- This Army Standard applies to the planning, design, and construction of all Army or Army related chapel facilities not specifically cited as exceptions above and will be used to the maximum extent in order to maximize the benefits of standardization.
- Specific projects will generally consist of the worship supporting component and the religious education supporting component. An evaluation of the garrison's ASIP population will determine the specific proportions of these space types to be provided within the limits defined by the Army Standard Design. There are multiple sizes of each component and some flexibility in how they are combined to coordinate with site constraints and other garrison specific circumstances. The primary source for determining authorized allowances is the step function criteria found in the Real Property Planning and Analysis System (RPLANS) IAW the data provided by Office of the Chief of Chaplains, the HQDA functional proponent for religious facilities.

#### **Waivers:**

- Only the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management has authority to approve exceptions to the Army Standard.
- Waivers from Army Standards must be requested in accordance with the AR 420-1 and the Army Facilities Standardization Program Charter, latest edition.
- All waiver requests to this Army Standard require COS conflict resolution prior to submission by the Garrison Commander.
- Garrison Army Standard waiver request submissions must be received in sufficient time to allow the Facility Design Team to complete review and development of recommendations or courses of action for the Army Facilities Standardization Committee to consider prior to implementation into project design.
- All Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) approved waivers will be documented in installation master plans if intended to be applicable for all installation locations, thereby serving as the installation's modified standards for the facility type affected.
- Late submissions and/or project delays are NOT sufficient stand alone justification for accelerated review or other dispensation to meeting the Army Standard contained herein.

## **The Army Standard**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Site Selection and Planning	<p>The Chapel will be in a visually prominent location that is appropriately related to the portion of the military community it is intended to serve. The site will also include space for an appropriate amount of parking and a bike rack. A location where adjacent existing parking lots are available during "off-hours" is an ideal arrangement for those times when special activities require additional space for parking. A complete Chapel "functional unit", capable of supporting the full slate of Chaplaincy programs, consists of a worship supporting component and a religious education supporting component. When the worship supporting component is combined in a project with another Chaplaincy facility type such as the religious education supporting component, it will be referred to as a "Chapel Complex" and will incorporate a covered walkway between the chapel and religious education facility. Functionally, both components will be placed together on the same site or as a single facility. Any requirement to separately site these facilities due to site constraints or other garrison specific circumstances must be validated.</p>
Primary Facility Scope and Capacity - "Worship Support Component"	<p>Provide Chapels (and corresponding Religious Education Facilities) with primary space for occupant loads based upon authorized allowances to support a garrison's ASIP population and the recognition that multiple congregations of varied faith groups will be sharing the buildings, often with overlapping activities. The Army Standard Design currently includes three sizes of worship support component facility. These size ranges and the provision requirements for them are as follows:</p> <p>Provide a Chapel Facility (Small) with a primary space for not less than 345 occupants. Provide a building scope of not less than 25,000 gross square feet.</p> <p>Provide a Chapel Facility (Medium) with a primary space for not less than 619 occupants. Provide a building scope of not less than 30,800 gross square feet.</p> <p>Provide a Chapel Facility (Large) with a primary space for not less than 1,181 occupants. Provide a building scope of not</p>

	less than 48,400 gross square feet.																																																															
	The Basis of Authorization. The Chapel will be authorized on garrisons IAW the following step function criteria:																																																															
	<table><tr><th>Installation Population (See Note 1)</th><th>Square Feet</th><th>Chapel Authorization (See Note 3)</th></tr><tr><td>Up to 7,100</td><td>21,300</td><td>Small</td></tr><tr><td>7,101 to 9,100</td><td>27,300</td><td>Medium</td></tr><tr><td>9,101 to 11,100</td><td>33,300</td><td>Medium</td></tr><tr><td>11,101 to 13,100</td><td>39,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>13,101 to 15,100</td><td>45,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>15,101 to 17,100</td><td>51,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>17,101 to 19,100</td><td>57,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>19,101 to 21,100</td><td>63,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>21,101 to 23,100</td><td>69,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>23,101 to 25,100</td><td>75,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>25,101 to 27,100</td><td>81,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>27,101 to 29,100</td><td>87,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>29,101 to 31,100</td><td>93,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>31,101 to 33,300</td><td>99,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>33,301 to 35,300</td><td>105,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>35,101 to 37,300</td><td>111,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>37,301 to 39,300</td><td>117,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>39,301 to 41,300</td><td>123,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>41,301 to 43,300</td><td>129,300</td><td>Large</td></tr><tr><td>43,301 to 45,300</td><td>135,300</td><td>Large</td></tr></table>	Installation Population (See Note 1)	Square Feet	Chapel Authorization (See Note 3)	Up to 7,100	21,300	Small	7,101 to 9,100	27,300	Medium	9,101 to 11,100	33,300	Medium	11,101 to 13,100	39,300	Large	13,101 to 15,100	45,300	Large	15,101 to 17,100	51,300	Large	17,101 to 19,100	57,300	Large	19,101 to 21,100	63,300	Large	21,101 to 23,100	69,300	Large	23,101 to 25,100	75,300	Large	25,101 to 27,100	81,300	Large	27,101 to 29,100	87,300	Large	29,101 to 31,100	93,300	Large	31,101 to 33,300	99,300	Large	33,301 to 35,300	105,300	Large	35,101 to 37,300	111,300	Large	37,301 to 39,300	117,300	Large	39,301 to 41,300	123,300	Large	41,301 to 43,300	129,300	Large	43,301 to 45,300	135,300	Large
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	Notes: 1. For each additional 2,000 add 6,000 GSF. 2. Requirement generated only where a chaplain is authorized. 3. Garrisons with populations over 11,000 will have at least one Large Chapel and will determine additional chapel size requirements based on an analysis of the total square footage needed to support its population. 4. Deviations from chapel sizes due to existing facilities will be requested from DACH-4/6/8/EN/Stratcom.																																																															
	Population is defined as: CONUS Population = Authorized Military Population + Dependent Population (Dependant Population = Military Population x 2.5). OCONUS Population = Authorized Military Population + Dependent Population + Civilian Population.																																																															
Worship Center	Provide a column free Worship Center space with a balcony. Balcony will have two primary stairwells leading to the main floor and one secondary rear stairwell. Worship Center ceiling height will not be																																																															

	lower than 20-feet above the floor. Provide fixed, padded pews with padded kneelers. Pew sections must be oriented in arc arrangement towards center of raised platform. Pew capacity: not less than 345 persons in the Small Chapel, not less than 619 persons in the Medium Chapel, and not less than 1,181 persons in the Large Chapel. The required net area for this space will be not less than 10,700 square feet (SF) for the Small Chapel, not less than 12,500 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 17,800 SF for the Large Chapel.
Immersion Baptistry	Provide an Immersion Baptistry with separate male/female changing areas, located adjacent to the Worship Center of not less than 700 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 800 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 1,300 SF for the Large Chapel.
Worship Center Religious Fixtures	Fixed, exposed-to-view distinctive religious symbols are not permitted.
Activity Center	Provide an Activity Center that is separate from the Worship Center of not less than 3,100 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 3,900 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 5,800 SF for the Large Chapel.
Activity Center Storage	Provide the capability to store Activity Center tables, chairs, and a portable stage where readily and easily accessible. (Size requirements for the Activity Center Storage are captured in the overall Storage Room(s) requirements).
Worship Center /Activity Center Audiovisual System	Provide an audio/visual system with multimedia projection capability for separate or simultaneous use in Worship Center, Activity Center, and Multi-Purpose Rooms by separate groups with the potential for feeding any and all of the signals into the Cry Room, Nursery, Nursing Mothers Room, Kitchen, Office Rooms, and the activity and classroom spaces in the adjacent religious education facility when sited together with this facility or to a remote or future location. The sound and visual aspects of the system and the spaces will be coordinated for optimum line of sight and sound clarity (i.e. see, hear and understand) by a certified audio/visual technician. The media system must be supported by a control space located in the balcony that is open to the Worship Center. Control space shall be NLT 200 SF.
Administrative Offices	Provide not less than two chaplain offices for the Small Chapel and not less than three for the Medium and Large Chapels. Each facility of any size will have not less than one NCO office and one group chaplain assistant work area. The required net area for this suite of spaces will be not less than 700 SF for the Small Chapel and not less than 1,040 SF for the Medium and Large Chapels.

Multi-purpose Rooms	Provide not less than two Multi-purpose Rooms. The required net area for these spaces (when added together) will be not less than 1,800 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 2,200 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 3,500 SF for the Large Chapel.
Choir Room	Provide a Choir Practice and Preparation Room of not less than 360 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 500 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 700 SF for the Large Chapel.
Blessed Sacrament Room	Provide a Blessed Sacrament Room (single space with expansion capability to an adjacent storage/flex space via an operable partition) of not less than 300 SF.
Sacristy Suite	Provide a Sacristy Storage/Robing area of not less than 300 SF.
Kitchen Suite	Provide a kitchen which accommodates two separate food preparation and pantry areas in support of distinctive faith group requirements. Kitchen will support the keeping, cooking/reheating and serving of food. Provide a kitchen area of not less than 260 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 340 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 500 SF for the Large Chapel.
Toddler and Infant Support Rooms	Provide a Cry Room with glass viewing panels connected to the Worship Center and three additional rooms for the support of small children of not less than (for this suite of spaces) 500 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 700 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 900 SF for the Large Chapel.
Toilet Facilities	Provide separate adult and children toilet facilities. Provide not less than 4 separate adult toilet facilities and not less than 1 separate children's toilet facility in the Small, Medium and Large Chapels. Provide toilet fixtures at a quantity per the Unified Facilities Criteria requirements for the building population. All toilets will provide the appropriate user access to urinals, lavatories, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers and toilet tissue dispensers. Toilets will be well-lighted. Provide a total toilet area of not less than 730 square feet in the Small Chapel, 870 square feet in the Medium Chapel, and of not less than 1,320 square feet in the Large Chapel. Provide two separate wash rooms (one male, one female) within the toilet rooms that accommodate Islamic worship requirements.
Entrance Areas	Provide primary and secondary entry areas, each with covered porch and integrated access for persons with disabilities. The facility plan may be mirror-imaged so that the primary entrance can relate appropriately to the major sections of parking. Other special purpose entrances and exits are also required as appropriate.
Coat Storage Room	Provide a minimum of one coat storage room located adjacent to primary entrance area. Providing a smaller area adjacent to the secondary entrance is also recommended.

Storage Rooms	Provide 14 storage rooms to store tables, chairs, and portable stage from the activity Center, and multipurpose room(s). Provide not less than 1,740 SF for the Small Chapel, not less than 2,060 SF for the Medium Chapel, and not less than 3,030 SF for the Large Chapel.
Storage Building	Provide a separate storage building (not less than 150 SF), except where an Installation has all yard and paving maintenance contracted out to others.
Exterior Appearance	Provide a steeple to identify it as religious facility.
Exterior Windows	Provide windows with capability for light control in all exterior rooms. Skylights or other natural light providing devices are not permitted in the Worship Center/Activity Center.
HVAC	Provide a minimum of 4 heating/cooling zones in HVAC system.
Energy	Facilities will be designed in compliance with all statutes and policies regarding energy conservation.
Sustainable Design Development	Facility will be designed to meet current sustainable design and development policy requirements as established by the Department of the Army.
Recycling Area	Provide a recycling area of not less than 80 SF in the large, medium, and small facilities. Every effort will be made to facilitate recycling/green facility operation.
Accessibility	The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) will be met.



## **BACKGROUND**

**Applicability:** These criteria apply to all (except that there is a different Army Standard and Army Standard Design for IET (i.e. basic training) settings) new MCA-funded chapels beginning in FY 15 using one of the three standard chapel designs targeted for use with military family congregations, advanced individual training congregations, and congregations that are a mix of both. The applicable standard (Army Standard Design) chapel designs are as follows: (1) Small Chapel (with Worship Center seating capacity of not less than 345 persons), (2) Medium Chapel (with Worship Center seating capacity of not less than 619 persons), and (3) Large Chapel (with Worship Center seating capacity of not less than 1,181 persons). This facility type is intended to work hand-in-hand with a Religious Education Facility to meet the full spectrum of Chaplaincy support-to-the-military-community programs. In some cases both facilities may be programmed and/or sited together to form a Chapel Complex.

**General Design Philosophy:** As the Army transforms to the future force, chapel facilities must also keep pace with the changing religious support needs of the warfighter and his/her family. These general (family congregation) standard chapel designs support the changing needs for chapel facilities. They will enable us to support more congregations of widely varying sizes and faith groups; increased family participation; and the temporary use of chapel facilities for appropriate garrison community meetings which do not detract from the perception of sacred space dedicated to the well being and spiritual health of individuals IAW AR 165-1, 12-3 (2). Additionally, the enhancements of these chapel facilities will increase our ability to provide quality religious support.

This Army Standard for general (family congregation) Chapel type facilities differs from previous Standards which incorporated religious education supporting components (albeit incomplete) and the worship supporting (of necessity, this is an oversimplification of the range of functions being supported) components in a single facility to try to improve the balance between these two component types in the Army. Subsequently, a more thorough evaluation of religious education needs led to the development of an Army Standard (and Army Standard design) for three sizes of Religious Education Facility. That Army Standard and this Army Standard are meant to work together to provide proper support for both Chaplaincy functions. At times they may each become the object of a stand-alone project, but in general they are intended to be provided as a combined set.

This Army Standard for general (family congregation) Chapel type facilities also incorporates a number of lessons learned from the facilities constructed under the 2004 Army Standard and has separated out those components specifically connected with religious education. The underlying concepts behind the 2004 Army Standard were generally validated by the experience gained in using those facilities and significant portions of this 2004 Army Standard are retained in this Army Standard.

## **GUIDANCE SECTION**

### **CATEGORY CODE**

73017

### **DESCRIPTION**

General Congregation Chapels

1. Site Selection and Planning. The Chapel will be sited in a visually prominent location that is appropriately related to the portion of the military community it is intended to serve. The site will also include space for an appropriate amount of parking. A location where adjacent existing parking lots are available during "off-hours" is an ideal arrangement for those times when special activities require additional space for parking. A complete Chapel "functional unit", capable of supporting the full slate of Chaplaincy programs, consists of a worship supporting component (Chapel) and a religious education supporting component (Religious Education Facility). When the worship supporting component is combined in a project with another Chaplaincy facility type such as the religious education supporting component, it will be referred to as a Chapel Complex. Functionally, both components will be placed together on the same site or as a single facility because the families being supported and the basis of both functions are essentially one. The more connectivity there is between worship (this includes numerous secondary functions such as fellowship, counseling, etc.) and religious education, the more successful the support to the Warfighter. Any requirement to separately site these facilities due to site constraints or other garrison specific circumstances must be validated.

2. Worship Center. Pews will be padded, will have padded kneelers and will be attached to the floor. Padding on pews may be part of the actual pew or may be attached to unpadded pews. For situations where the expected congregations include large numbers of advanced training troops, particularly when expected to arrive on foot in all kinds of weather, some latitude in pew surfacing is allowed to avoid damage from wet clothing and this may impact the degree of padding or whether other means of comfort-provision are substituted for typical padding solutions.

3. Immersion Baptistery. Immersion Baptistery with separate male/female changing areas is a key element for Worship Center's use.

4. Worship Center Religious Fixtures. Worship center must have capability to be religiously neutral. Distinctive religious symbols must either be removable or completely coverable by design.

5. Activity Center. Acoustic isolation between Worship Center and Activity Center are an essential element to the functionality of the entire facility.

6. Activity Center Storage. Activity Center folding tables, stacking chairs and a portable stage must be accommodated by easily accessible appropriate storage space.

7. Facility Audiovisual System. Multi-use design of the chapel requires ability to support more than one meeting/service in the facility at the same time. The Worship Center, Activity Center, and the Multi-Purpose Rooms must be able to be used by separate groups at the same time and must have an audio/visual system that supports this requirement. The most complete

control of this system is focused on the Worship Center, but secondary controls must be available at each of the other spaces as well.

8. Administrative Offices. There will be two (Small Chapel), three (Medium Chapel) or three (Large Chapel) individual chaplain offices, one NCO office and one group office area that accommodates two chaplain assistants. All offices will be wired for phone and computer/internet/LAN access with outlets strategically placed for maximum use of space. All office doors will have a glass viewing panel to allow full visual access to the space.

9. Multipurpose Rooms. Multipurpose rooms enable small congregations and groups to meet concurrently while larger congregations meet in the Worship Center or Activity Center.

10. Choir Room. Choir Rooms allow the various groups responsible for the musical part of the worship experience to have a place to practice and prepare.

11. Blessed Sacrament. A room suitable for daily small group Blessed Sacrament activities allows that worship experience and the particular items associated with it an appropriate setting.

12. Sacristy Suite. Sacristy suite is a critical element for storage of ecclesiastical items as well as robing/preparation area for chaplains prior to worship center use.

13. Kitchen Suite. Kitchen with two separate food preparation and pantry areas must be provided to accommodate kosher requirements of distinctive faith groups. Kitchen is designed for keeping, cooking/reheating, and serving of food.

14. Entrance Areas. Due to the multi-use design, two entrance areas with outside canopies are required to support the movement of people in and out of the facility.

15. Coat Storage Room. Coat storage room must be provided adjacent to the primary entrance area.

16. Storage Rooms. Must have sufficient storage room capability to store all chairs, tables, and a portable stage from all classrooms and multipurpose rooms.

17. Storage Building. A separate storage building is needed for lawn/landscaping equipment on most garrisons. Some garrisons have contracted out these activities and will not need this feature.

18. Exterior Appearance. Exterior design elements must identify the building as a chapel facility by use of steeple.

19. Exterior Windows. Exterior windows are an important element that provides daytime lighting to the overall chapel design. Due to the requirements for projection systems to be used in the worship center and the activity center, Skylights or other natural light providing devices are not permitted in the Worship Center/Activity Center.

20. Hallways. Hallways will be well lighted and large enough to move groups and equipment easily from one part of the building to another.

21. Janitor's Closet. Janitor's closet will have a mop sink and provide ample storage for cleaning equipment and supplies.

22. HVAC. Multiple zone HVAC will enable heating/cooling for parts of the building that are in use.

23. Electrical Room.

24. Telecommunication Room (TR). Telecommunications rooms and telecommunications entrance facilities will be provided for the network and voice equipment, and cabling infrastructure. There will be a minimum of one telecommunications room. Additional telecommunications rooms will be provided as necessary to ensure that the total copper cable length does not exceed the 295 foot limitation. The telecommunications room will be designed and provisioned in accordance with I3A and ANSI/TIA/EIA-569-B. A main TR with telecommunications entrance capability will be provided for the facility. Backbone cabling will be provided in accordance with I3A. The TR will also have the following requirements:

- Access will be from a centralized corridor within the building: (No exterior access will be allowed).
- Room will be a minimum of 8 feet wide to accommodate working clearances around data equipment and racks. Odd shaped TR's (e.g. "L" shaped) that decreases the useable area for backboards, racks, etc. will be avoided.