

## CHAPTER 10

# MEANS OF EGRESS

### SECTION 1001 ADMINISTRATION

**1001.1 General.** Buildings or portions thereof shall be provided with a *means of egress* system as required by this chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall control the design, construction and arrangement of *means of egress* components required to provide an *approved means of egress* from structures and portions thereof.

**1001.2 Alterations to existing means of egress.** It shall be unlawful to alter a building or structure in a manner that will reduce the number of *exits* or the capacity of the *means of egress* to less than required by this code.

**[F] 1001.3 Maintenance.** *Means of egress* shall be maintained in accordance with the *Fire Code*.

**[F] 1001.4 Fire safety and evacuation plans.** Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be provided for all occupancies and buildings where required by the *Fire Code*. Such fire safety and evacuation plans shall comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 401.2 and 404 of the *Fire Code* as approved by the fire code official.

### SECTION 1002 DEFINITIONS

**1002.1 Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS.

AISLE.

AISLE ACCESSWAY.

ALTERNATING TREAD DEVICE.

AREA OF REFUGE.

BLEACHERS.

COMMON PATH OF EGRESS TRAVEL.

CORRIDOR.

DOOR, BALANCED.

EGRESS COURT.

EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENING.

EXIT.

EXIT ACCESS.

EXIT ACCESS DOORWAY.

EXIT ACCESS RAMP.

EXIT ACCESS STAIRWAY.

EXIT DISCHARGE.

EXIT DISCHARGE, LEVEL OF.

EXIT, HORIZONTAL.

EXIT PASSAGEWAY.

FIRE EXIT HARDWARE.

FIXED SEATING.

FLIGHT.

FLOOR AREA, GROSS.

FLOOR AREA, NET.

FOLDING AND TELESCOPIC SEATING.

GRANDSTAND.

GUARD.

HANDRAIL.

INTERIOR EXIT RAMP.

INTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAY.

MEANS OF EGRESS.

MERCHANDISE PAD.

NOSING.

OCCUPANT LOAD.

PANIC HARDWARE.

PHOTOLUMINESCENT.

PUBLIC WAY.

RAMP.

SCISSOR STAIR.

SELF-LUMINOUS.

SMOKE-PROTECTED ASSEMBLY SEATING.

STAIR.

STAIRWAY.

STAIRWAY, EXTERIOR.

STAIRWAY, INTERIOR.

STAIRWAY, SPIRAL.

WINDER.

### SECTION 1003 GENERAL MEANS OF EGRESS

**1003.1 Applicability.** The general requirements specified in Sections 1003 through 1013 shall apply to all three elements of the *means of egress* system, in addition to those specific requirements for the *exit access*, the *exit* and the *exit discharge* detailed elsewhere in this chapter.

**1003.2 Ceiling height.** The *means of egress* shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet 6 inches (2286 mm).

#### Exceptions:

1. Sloped ceilings in accordance with Section 1208.2.

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2. Ceilings of *dwelling units* and *sleeping units* within residential occupancies in accordance with Section 1208.2.
3. Allowable projections in accordance with Section 1003.3.
4. *Stair* headroom in accordance with Section 1009.5.
5. Door height in accordance with Section 1008.1.1.
6. *Ramp* headroom in accordance with Section 1010.6.2.
7. The clear height of floor levels in vehicular and pedestrian traffic areas in parking garages in accordance with Section 406.4.1.
8. Areas above and below *mezzanine* floors in accordance with Section 505.2.
9. Hallways and corridors shall be permitted to be not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) in height.

**1003.3 Protruding objects.** Protruding objects shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1003.3.1 through 1003.3.4.

**1003.3.1 Headroom.** Protruding objects are permitted to extend below the minimum ceiling height required by Section 1003.2 provided a minimum headroom of 80 inches (2032 mm) shall be provided for any walking surface, including walks, *corridors*, *aisles* and passageways. Not more than 50 percent of the ceiling area of a *means of egress* shall be reduced in height by protruding objects.

**Exception:** Door closers and stops shall not reduce headroom to less than 78 inches (1981 mm).

A barrier shall be provided where the vertical clearance is less than 80 inches (2032 mm) high. The leading edge of such a barrier shall be located 27 inches (686 mm) maximum above the floor.

**1003.3.2 Post-mounted objects.** A free-standing object mounted on a post or pylon shall not overhang that post or pylon more than 4 inches (102 mm) where the lowest point of the leading edge is more than 27 inches (686 mm) and less than 80 inches (2032 mm) above the walking surface. Where a sign or other obstruction is mounted between posts or pylons and the clear distance between the posts or pylons is greater than 12 inches (305 mm), the lowest edge of such sign or obstruction shall be 27 inches (686 mm) maximum or 80 inches (2032 mm) minimum above the finished floor or ground.

**Exception:** These requirements shall not apply to sloping portions of *handrails* between the top and bottom riser of *stairs* and above the *ramp* run.

**1003.3.3 Horizontal projections.** Structural elements, fixtures or furnishings shall not project horizontally from either side more than 4 inches (102 mm) over any walking surface between the heights of 27 inches (686 mm) and 80 inches (2032 mm) above the walking surface.

**Exception:** *Handrails* are permitted to protrude 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (114 mm) from the wall.

**1003.3.4 Clear width.** Protruding objects shall not reduce the minimum clear width of *accessible routes*.

**1003.4 Floor surface.** Walking surfaces of the *means of egress* shall have a slip-resistant surface and be securely attached.

**1003.5 Elevation change.** Where changes in elevation of less than 12 inches (305 mm) exist in the *means of egress*, sloped surfaces shall be used. Where the slope is greater than one unit vertical in 20 units horizontal (5-percent slope), *ramps* complying with Section 1010 shall be used. Where the difference in elevation is 6 inches (152 mm) or less, the *ramp* shall be equipped with either *handrails* or floor finish materials that contrast with adjacent floor finish materials.

### Exceptions:

1. A single step with a maximum riser height of 7 inches (178 mm) is permitted for buildings with occupancies in Groups F, H, R-2, R-3, S and U at exterior doors not required to be *accessible* by Chapter 11.
2. A *stair* with a single riser or with two risers and a tread is permitted at locations not required to be *accessible* by Chapter 11, provided that the risers and treads comply with Section 1009.7, the minimum depth of the tread is 13 inches (330 mm) and at least one *handrail* complying with Section 1012 is provided within 30 inches (762 mm) of the centerline of the normal path of egress travel on the *stair*.
3. A step is permitted in *aisles* serving seating that has a difference in elevation less than 12 inches (305 mm) at locations not required to be *accessible* by Chapter 11, provided that the risers and treads comply with Section 1028.11 and the *aisle* is provided with a *handrail* complying with Section 1028.13.

Throughout a story in a Group I-2 occupancy, any change in elevation in portions of the *means of egress* that serve non-ambulatory persons shall be by means of a *ramp* or sloped walkway.

**1003.6 Means of egress continuity.** The path of egress travel along a *means of egress* shall not be interrupted by any building element other than a *means of egress* component as specified in this chapter. Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a *means of egress* except projections permitted by this chapter. The required capacity of a *means of egress* system shall not be diminished along the path of egress travel.

**1003.7 Elevators, escalators and moving walks.** Elevators, escalators and moving walks shall not be used as a component of a required *means of egress* from any other part of the building.

**Exception:** Elevators used as an *accessible means of egress* in accordance with Section 1007.4.

## SECTION 1004 OCCUPANT LOAD

**1004.1 Design occupant load.** In determining *means of egress* requirements, the number of occupants for whom *means of egress* facilities shall be provided shall be determined in accordance with this section.

**1004.1.1 Cumulative occupant loads.** Where the path of egress travel includes intervening rooms, areas or spaces, cumulative *occupant loads* shall be determined in accordance with this section.

**1004.1.1.1 Intervening spaces.** Where occupants egress from one room, area or space through another, the design *occupant load* shall be based on the cumulative *occupant loads* of all rooms, areas or spaces to that point along the path of egress travel.

**1004.1.1.2 Adjacent levels.** The *occupant load* of a *mezzanine* or story with egress through a room, area or space on an adjacent level shall be added to the *occupant load* of that room, area or space.

**1004.1.2 Areas without fixed seating.** The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.2. For areas without *fixed seating*, the occupant load shall not be less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the *occupant load* factor assigned to the function of the space as set forth in Table 1004.1.2. Where an intended function is not listed in Table 1004.1.2, the *building official* shall establish a function based on a listed function that most nearly resembles the intended function.

**Exception:** Where *approved* by the *building official*, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation, shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design *occupant load*.

**1004.2 Increased occupant load.** The *occupant load* permitted in any building, or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.1.2, provided that all other requirements of the code are also met based on such modified number and the *occupant load* does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet (0.65 m<sup>2</sup>) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the *building official*, an *approved aisle*, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in *occupant load* shall be submitted. Where required by the *building official*, such diagram shall be posted.

**1004.3 Posting of occupant load.** Every room or space that is an assembly occupancy shall have the *occupant load* of the room or space posted in a conspicuous place, near the main *exit* or *exit access doorway* from the room or space. Posted signs shall be of an *approved* legible permanent design and shall be maintained by the owner or authorized agent.

**1004.4 Fixed seating.** For areas having fixed seats and *aisles*, the *occupant load* shall be determined by the number of *fixed seats* installed therein. The *occupant load* for areas in which *fixed seating* is not installed, such as waiting spaces, shall be determined in accordance with Section 1004.1.2 and added to the number of *fixed seats*.

The *occupant load* of *wheelchair spaces* and the associated companion seat shall be based on one occupant for each *wheelchair space* and one occupant for the associated companion seat provided in accordance with Section 1108.2.3.

**TABLE 1004.1.2  
MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA ALLOWANCES PER OCCUPANT**

FUNCTION OF SPACE	OCCUPANT LOAD FACTOR <sup>a</sup>
Accessory storage areas, mechanical equipment room	300 gross
Agricultural building	300 gross
Aircraft hangars	500 gross
Airport terminal	
Baggage claim	20 gross
Baggage handling	300 gross
Concourse	100 gross
Waiting areas	15 gross
Assembly	
Gaming floors (keno, slots, etc.)	11 gross
Exhibit Gallery and Museum	30 net
Assembly with fixed seats	See Section 1004.4
Assembly without fixed seats	
Concentrated (chairs only-not fixed)	7 net
Standing space	5 net
Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	15 net
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway, and for additional areas	7 net
Business areas	100 gross
Courtrooms—other than fixed seating areas	40 net
Day care	35 net
Dormitories	50 gross
Educational	
Classroom area	20 net
Shops and other vocational room areas	50 net
Exercise rooms	50 gross
Group H-5 Fabrication and manufacturing areas	200 gross
Industrial areas	100 gross
Institutional areas	
Inpatient treatment areas	240 gross
Outpatient areas	100 gross
Sleeping areas	120 gross
Kitchens, commercial	200 gross
Library	
Reading rooms	50 net
Stack area	100 gross
Mall buildings—covered and open	See Section 402.8.2
Mercantile	
Areas on other floors	60 gross
Basement and grade floor areas	30 gross
Storage, stock, shipping areas	300 gross
Parking garages	200 gross
Residential	200 gross
Skating rinks, swimming pools	
Rink and pool	50 gross
Decks	15 gross
Stages and platforms	15 net
Warehouses	500 gross

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.  
a. Floor area in square feet per occupant.

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For areas having *fixed seating* without dividing arms, the occupant load shall not be less than the number of seats based on one person for each 18 inches (457 mm) of seating length.

The occupant load of seating booths shall be based on one person for each 24 inches (610 mm) of booth seat length measured at the backrest of the seating booth.

**1004.5 Outdoor areas.** *Yards, patios, courts* and similar outdoor areas accessible to and usable by the building occupants shall be provided with *means of egress* as required by this chapter. The *occupant load* of such outdoor areas shall be assigned by the *building official* in accordance with the anticipated use. Where outdoor areas are to be used by persons in addition to the occupants of the building, and the path of egress travel from the outdoor areas passes through the building, *means of egress* requirements for the building shall be based on the sum of the *occupant loads* of the building plus the outdoor areas.

### Exceptions:

1. Outdoor areas used exclusively for service of the building need only have one *means of egress*.
2. Both outdoor areas associated with Group R-3 and individual dwelling units of Group R-2.

**1004.6 Multiple occupancies.** Where a building contains two or more occupancies, the *means of egress* requirements shall apply to each portion of the building based on the occupancy of that space. Where two or more occupancies utilize portions of the same *means of egress* system, those egress components shall meet the more stringent requirements of all occupancies that are served.

## SECTION 1005 MEANS OF EGRESS SIZING

**1005.1 General.** All portions of the *means of egress* system shall be sized in accordance with this section.

**Exception:** *Means of egress* complying with Section 1028.

**1005.2 Minimum width based on component.** The minimum width, in inches (mm), of any *means of egress* components shall not be less than that specified for such component, elsewhere in this code.

**1005.3 Required capacity based on occupant load.** The required capacity, in inches (mm), of the *means of egress* for any room, area, space or story shall not be less than that determined in accordance with Sections 1005.3.1 and 1005.3.2:

**1005.3.1 Stairways.** The capacity, in inches (mm), of *means of egress stairways* shall be calculated by multiplying the *occupant load* served by such *stairway* by a *means of egress* capacity factor of 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) per occupant. Where *stairways* serve more than one story, only the *occupant load* of each story considered individually shall be used in calculating the required capacity of the *stairways* serving that story.

**Exception:** For other than Group H and I-2 occupancies, the capacity, in inches (mm), of *means of egress stairways* shall be calculated by multiplying the *occu-*

*pant load* served by such *stairway* by a *means of egress* capacity factor of 0.2 inch (5.1 mm) per occupant in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and an *emergency voice/alarm communication system* in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

**1005.3.2 Other egress components.** The capacity, in inches (mm), of *means of egress* components other than *stairways* shall be calculated by multiplying the *occupant load* served by such component by a *means of egress* capacity factor of 0.2 inch (5.1 mm) per occupant.

**Exception:** For other than Group H and I-2 occupancies, the capacity, in inches (mm), of *means of egress* components other than *stairways* shall be calculated by multiplying the *occupant load* served by such component by a *means of egress* capacity factor of 0.15 inch (3.8 mm) per occupant in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and an *emergency voice/alarm communication system* in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

**1005.4 Continuity.** The capacity of the *means of egress* required from any story of a building shall not be reduced along the path of egress travel until arrival at the *public way*.

**1005.5. Distribution of egress capacity.** Where more than one *exit*, or access to more than one *exit*, is required, the *means of egress* shall be configured such that the loss of any one *exit*, or access to one *exit*, shall not reduce the available capacity to less than 50 percent of the required capacity.

**1005.6 Egress convergence.** Where the *means of egress* from stories above and below converge at an intermediate level, the capacity of the *means of egress* from the point of convergence shall not be less than the sum of the required capacities for the two adjacent stories.

**1005.7 Encroachment.** Encroachments into the required *means of egress* width shall be in accordance with the provisions of this section.

**1005.7.1 Doors.** Doors, when fully opened, shall not reduce the required width by more than 7 inches (178 mm). Doors in any position shall not reduce the required width by more than one-half.

### Exceptions:

1. Surface-mounted latch release hardware shall be exempt from inclusion in the 7-inch maximum (178 mm) encroachment where:
  - 1.1. The hardware is mounted to the side of the door facing away from the adjacent wall where the door is in the open position; and
  - 1.2. The hardware is mounted not less than 34 inches (865 mm) nor more than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the finished floor.
2. The restrictions on door swing shall not apply to doors within individual *dwelling units* and *sleep-*

*ing units* of Group R-2 occupancies and *dwelling units* of Group R-3 occupancies.

**1005.7.2 Other projections.** *Handrail* projections shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 1012.8. Other nonstructural projections such as trim and similar decorative features shall be permitted to project into the required width a maximum of 1½ inches (38 mm) on each side.

**1005.7.3 Protruding objects.** Protruding objects shall comply with the applicable requirements of Section 1003.3.

## SECTION 1006 MEANS OF EGRESS ILLUMINATION

**1006.1 Illumination required.** The *means of egress*, including the *exit discharge*, shall be illuminated at all times the building space served by the *means of egress* is occupied.

### Exceptions:

1. Occupancies in Group U.
2. *Aisle accessways* in Group A.
3. *Dwelling units* and *sleeping units* in Groups R-1, R-2 and R-3.
4. *Sleeping units* of Group I occupancies.

**1006.2 Illumination level.** The *means of egress* illumination level shall not be less than 1 footcandle (11 lux) at the walking surface.

**Exception:** For auditoriums, theaters, concert or opera halls and similar assembly occupancies, the illumination at the walking surface is permitted to be reduced during performances to not less than 0.2 footcandle (2.15 lux), provided that the required illumination is automatically restored upon activation of a premises' fire alarm system where such system is provided.

**1006.3 Emergency power for illumination.** The power supply for *means of egress* illumination shall normally be provided by the premises' electrical supply.

In the event of power supply failure, an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate all of the following areas:

1. *Aisles* and unenclosed egress stairways in rooms and spaces that require two or more *means of egress*.
2. *Corridors*, *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* and *exit passageways* in buildings required to have two or more *exits*.
3. Exterior egress components at other than their levels of *exit discharge* until *exit discharge* is accomplished for buildings required to have two or more *exits*.
4. *Interior exit discharge* elements, as permitted in Section 1027.1, in buildings required to have two or more *exits*.
5. Exterior landings as required by Section 1008.1.6 for *exit discharge* doorways in buildings required to have two or more *exits*.

The emergency power system shall provide power for a duration of not less than 90 minutes and shall consist of storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator. The installation of the emergency power system shall be in accordance with Section 2702.

### 1006.3.1 Illumination level under emergency power.

Emergency lighting facilities shall be arranged to provide initial illumination that is at least an average of 1 footcandle (11 lux) and a minimum at any point of 0.1 footcandle (1 lux) measured along the path of egress at floor level. Illumination levels shall be permitted to decline to 0.6 footcandle (6 lux) average and a minimum at any point of 0.06 footcandle (0.6 lux) at the end of the emergency lighting time duration. A maximum-to-minimum illumination uniformity ratio of 40 to 1 shall not be exceeded.

## SECTION 1007 ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS

**1007.1 Accessible means of egress required.** *Accessible means of egress* shall comply with this section. *Accessible spaces* shall be provided with not less than one *accessible means of egress*. Where more than one *means of egress* are required by Section 1015.1 or 1021.1 from any *accessible space*, each *accessible* portion of the space shall be served by not less than two *accessible means of egress*.

### Exceptions:

1. *Accessible means of egress* are not required in alterations to existing buildings.
2. One *accessible means of egress* is required from an *accessible mezzanine* level in accordance with Section 1007.3, 1007.4 or 1007.5.
3. In assembly areas with sloped or stepped *aisles*, one *accessible means of egress* is permitted where the common path of travel is *accessible* and meets the requirements in Section 1028.8.

**1007.2 Continuity and components.** Each required *accessible means of egress* shall be continuous to a *public way* and shall consist of one or more of the following components:

1. *Accessible routes* complying with Section 1104.
2. *Interior exit stairways* complying with Sections 1007.3 and 1022.
3. *Interior exit access stairways* complying with Sections 1007.3 and 1009.3.
4. *Exterior exit stairways* complying with Sections 1007.3 and 1026 and serving levels other than the *level of exit discharge*.
5. Elevators complying with Section 1007.4.
6. Platform lifts complying with Section 1007.5.
7. *Horizontal exits* complying with Section 1025.
8. *Ramps* complying with Section 1010.
9. *Areas of refuge* complying with Section 1007.6.
10. Exterior area for assisted rescue complying with Section 1007.7.

**1007.2.1 Elevators required.** In buildings where a required *accessible* floor is four or more stories above or below a *level of exit discharge*, at least one required *accessible means of egress* shall be an elevator complying with Section 1007.4.

**Exceptions:**

1. In buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a *horizontal exit* and located at or above the *levels of exit discharge*.
2. In buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a *ramp* conforming to the provisions of Section 1010.

**1007.3 Stairways.** In order to be considered part of an *accessible means of egress*, a *stairway* between stories shall have a clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum between *handrails* and shall either incorporate an *area of refuge* within an enlarged floor-level landing or shall be accessed from either an *area of refuge* complying with Section 1007.6 or a *horizontal exit*. *Exit access stairways* that connect levels in the same story are not permitted as part of an *accessible means of egress*.

**Exceptions:**

1. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *stairways* in buildings equipped throughout by an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
3. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required for *stairways* accessed from a *horizontal exit*.
4. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *stairways* serving *open parking garages*.
5. *Areas of refuge* are not required for smoke protected seating areas complying with Section 1028.6.2.
6. The *areas of refuge* are not required in Group R-2 occupancies.

**1007.4 Elevators.** In order to be considered part of an *accessible means of egress*, an elevator shall comply with the emergency operation and signaling device requirements of Section 2.27 of ASME A17.1. Standby power shall be provided in accordance with Chapter 27 and Section 3003. The elevator shall be accessed from either an *area of refuge* complying with Section 1007.6 or a *horizontal exit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Elevators are not required to be accessed from an *area of refuge* or *horizontal exit* in *open parking garages*.

2. Elevators are not required to be accessed from an *area of refuge* or *horizontal exit* in buildings and facilities equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
3. Elevators not required to be located in a shaft in accordance with Section 712 are not required to be accessed from an *area of refuge* or *horizontal exit*.
4. Elevators are not required to be accessed from an *area of refuge* or *horizontal exit* for smoke protected seating areas complying with Section 1028.6.2.

**1007.5 Platform lifts.** Platform (wheelchair) lifts shall not serve as part of an *accessible means of egress*, except where allowed as part of a required *accessible route* in Section 1109.8, Items 1 through 9. Standby power shall be provided in accordance with Chapter 27 for platform lifts permitted to serve as part of a *means of egress*.

**1007.5.1 Openness.** Platform lifts on an *accessible means of egress* shall not be installed in a fully enclosed hoistway.

**1007.6 Areas of refuge.** Every required *area of refuge* shall be *accessible* from the space it serves by an *accessible means of egress*. The maximum travel distance from any *accessible* space to an *area of refuge* shall not exceed the travel distance permitted for the occupancy in accordance with Section 1016.1. Every required *area of refuge* shall have direct access to a *stairway* complying with Sections 1007.3 or an elevator complying with Section 1007.4. Where an elevator lobby is used as an *area of refuge*, the shaft and lobby shall comply with Section 1022.10 for smokeproof enclosures except where the elevators are in an *area of refuge* formed by a *horizontal exit* or smoke barrier.

**1007.6.1 Size.** Each *area of refuge* shall be sized to accommodate one *wheelchair space* of 30 inches by 48 inches (762 mm by 1219 mm) for each 200 occupants or portion thereof, based on the *occupant load* of the *area of refuge* and areas served by the *area of refuge*. Such *wheelchair spaces* shall not reduce the required *means of egress* width. Access to any of the required *wheelchair spaces* in an *area of refuge* shall not be obstructed by more than one adjoining *wheelchair space*.

**1007.6.2 Separation.** Each *area of refuge* shall be separated from the remainder of the story by a *smoke barrier* complying with Section 709 or a *horizontal exit* complying with Section 1025. Each *area of refuge* shall be designed to minimize the intrusion of smoke.

**Exception:** *Areas of refuge* located within an enclosure for *exit access stairways* or *interior exit stairways*.

**1007.6.3 Two-way communication.** *Areas of refuge* shall be provided with a two-way communication system complying with Sections 1007.8.1 and 1007.8.2.

**1007.7 Exterior area for assisted rescue.** Exterior areas for assisted rescue shall be accessed by an *accessible route* from the area served. Exterior areas for assisted rescue shall be permitted in accordance with Section 1007.7.1 or 1007.7.2.

**1007.7.1 Level of exit discharge.** Where the *exit discharge* does not include an *accessible route* from an *exit* located on a *level of exit discharge* to a *public way*, an exterior area of assisted rescue shall be provided on the exterior landing in accordance with Sections 1007.7.3 through 1007.7.6.

**1007.7.2 Outdoor facilities.** Where *exit access* from the area serving outdoor facilities is essentially open to the outside, an exterior area of assisted rescue is permitted as an alternative to an *area of refuge*. Every required exterior area of assisted rescue shall have direct access to an *interior exit stairway*, *exterior stairway*, or elevator serving as an *accessible means of egress* component. The exterior area of assisted rescue shall comply with Sections 1007.7.3 through 1007.7.6 and shall be provided with a two-way communication system complying with Sections 1007.8.1 and 1007.8.2.

**1007.7.3 Size.** Each exterior area for assisted rescue shall be sized to accommodate *wheelchair spaces* in accordance with Section 1007.6.1.

**1007.7.4 Separation.** Exterior walls separating the exterior area of assisted rescue from the interior of the building shall have a minimum *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour, rated for exposure to fire from the inside. The fire-resistance-rated *exterior wall* construction shall extend horizontally 10 feet (3048 mm) beyond the landing on either side of the landing or equivalent fire-resistance-rated construction is permitted to extend out perpendicular to the *exterior wall* 4 feet (1219 mm) minimum on the side of the landing. The fire-resistance-rated construction shall extend vertically from the ground to a point 10 feet (3048 mm) above the floor level of the area for assisted rescue or to the roof line, whichever is lower. Openings within such fire-resistance-rated *exterior walls* shall be protected in accordance with Section 716.

**1007.7.5 Openness.** The exterior area for assisted rescue shall be open to the outside air. The sides other than the separation walls shall be at least 50 percent open, and the open area shall be distributed so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

**1007.7.6 Stairway.** *Stairways* that are part of the *means of egress* for the exterior area for assisted rescue shall provide a clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails*.

**Exception:** The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required at *stairways* serving buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

**1007.8 Two-way communication.** A two-way communication system shall be provided at the elevator landing on each *accessible* floor that is one or more stories above or below the *story of exit discharge* complying with Sections 1007.8.1 and 1007.8.2.

**Exceptions:**

1. Two-way communication systems are not required at the elevator landing where the two-way commu-

nication system is provided within *areas of refuge* in accordance with Section 1007.6.3.

2. Two-way communication systems are not required on floors provided with *ramps* conforming to the provisions of Section 1010.

**1007.8.1 System requirements.** Two-way communication systems shall provide communication between each required location and the fire command center or a central control point location *approved* by the fire department. Where the central control point is not constantly attended, a two-way communication system shall have a timed automatic telephone dial-out capability to a monitoring location or 9-1-1. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

**1007.8.2 Directions.** Directions for the use of the two-way communication system, instructions for summoning assistance via the two-way communication system and written identification of the location shall be posted adjacent to the two-way communication system.

**1007.9 Signage.** Signage indicating special accessibility provisions shall be provided as shown:

1. Each door providing access to an *area of refuge* from an adjacent floor area shall be identified by a sign stating: AREA OF REFUGE.
2. Each door providing access to an exterior area for assisted rescue shall be identified by a sign stating: EXTERIOR AREA FOR ASSISTED RESCUE.

Signage shall comply with the ICC A117.1 requirements for visual characters and include the International Symbol of Accessibility. Where exit sign illumination is required by Section 1011.3, the signs shall be illuminated. Additionally, raised character and Braille signage complying with ICC A117.1 shall be located at each door to an *area of refuge* and exterior area for assisted rescue in accordance with Section 1011.4.

**1007.10 Directional signage.** Direction signage indicating the location of the other *means of egress* and which are *accessible means of egress* shall be provided at the following:

1. At *exits* serving a required *accessible* space but not providing an *approved accessible means of egress*.
2. At elevator landings.
3. Within *areas of refuge*.

**1007.11 Instructions.** In *areas of refuge* and exterior areas for assisted rescue, instructions on the use of the area under emergency conditions shall be posted. The instructions shall include all of the following:

1. Persons able to use the *exit stairway* do so as soon as possible, unless they are assisting others.
2. Information on planned availability of assistance in the use of *stairs* or supervised operation of elevators and how to summon such assistance.
3. Directions for use of the two-way communications system where provided.

## SECTION 1008 DOORS, GATES AND TURNSTILES

**1008.1 Doors.** *Means of egress* doors shall meet the requirements of this section. Doors serving a *means of egress* system shall meet the requirements of this section and Section 1020.2. Doors provided for egress purposes in numbers greater than required by this code shall meet the requirements of this section.

*Means of egress* doors shall be readily distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on *means of egress* doors. *Means of egress* doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials.

**1008.1.1 Size of doors.** The minimum width of each door opening shall be sufficient for the *occupant load* thereof and shall provide a clear width of 32 inches (813 mm). Clear openings of doorways with swinging doors shall be measured between the face of the door and the stop, with the door open 90 degrees (1.57 rad). Where this section requires a minimum clear width of 32 inches (813 mm) and a door opening includes two door leaves without a mullion, one leaf shall provide a clear opening width of 32 inches (813 mm). The maximum width of a swinging door leaf shall be 48 inches (1219 mm) nominal. *Means of egress* doors in a Group I-2 occupancy used for the movement of beds shall provide a clear width not less than 41½ inches (1054 mm). The height of door openings shall not be less than 80 inches (2032 mm).

### Exceptions:

1. The minimum and maximum width shall not apply to door openings that are not part of the required *means of egress* in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies.
2. Door openings to resident *sleeping units* in Group I-3 occupancies shall have a clear width of not less than 28 inches (711 mm).
3. Door openings to storage closets less than 10 square feet (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) in area shall not be limited by the minimum width.
4. Width of door leaves in revolving doors that comply with Section 1008.1.4.1 shall not be limited.
5. Door openings within a *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* shall not be less than 78 inches (1981 mm) in height.
6. Exterior door openings in *dwelling units* and *sleeping units*, other than the required *exit* door, shall not be less than 76 inches (1930 mm) in height.
7. In other than Group R-1 occupancies, the minimum widths shall not apply to interior egress doors within a *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* that is not required to be an *Accessible unit*, *Type A unit* or *Type B unit*.

8. Door openings required to be *accessible* within *Type B units* shall have a minimum clear width of 31.75 inches (806 mm).

**1008.1.1.1 Projections into clear width.** There shall not be projections into the required clear width lower than 34 inches (864 mm) above the floor or ground. Projections into the clear opening width between 34 inches (864 mm) and 80 inches (2032 mm) above the floor or ground shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm).

**Exception:** Door closers and door stops shall be permitted to be 78 inches (1980 mm) minimum above the floor.

**1008.1.2 Door swing.** Egress doors shall be of the pivoted or side-hinged swinging type.

### Exceptions:

1. Private garages, office areas, factory and storage areas with an *occupant load* of 10 or less.
2. Group I-3 occupancies used as a place of detention.
3. Critical or intensive care patient rooms within suites of health care facilities.
4. Doors within or serving a single *dwelling unit* in Groups R-2 and R-3.
5. In other than Group H occupancies, revolving doors complying with Section 1008.1.4.1.
6. In other than Group H occupancies, horizontal sliding doors complying with Section 1008.1.4.3 are permitted in a *means of egress*.
7. Power-operated doors in accordance with Section 1008.1.4.2.
8. Doors serving a bathroom within an individual *sleeping unit* in Group R-1.
9. In other than Group H occupancies, manually operated horizontal sliding doors are permitted in a *means of egress* from spaces with an *occupant load* of 10 or less.

Doors shall swing in the direction of egress travel where serving a room or area containing an *occupant load* of 50 or more persons or a Group H occupancy.

**1008.1.3 Door opening force.** The force for pushing or pulling open interior swinging egress doors, other than *fire doors*, shall not exceed 5 pounds (22 N). For other swinging doors, as well as sliding and folding doors, the door latch shall release when subjected to a 15-pound (67 N) force. The door shall be set in motion when subjected to a 30-pound (133 N) force. The door shall swing to a full-open position when subjected to a 15-pound (67 N) force.

**1008.1.3.1 Location of applied forces.** Forces shall be applied to the latch side of the door.

**1008.1.4 Special doors.** Special doors and security grilles shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1008.1.4.1 through 1008.1.4.4.

**1008.1.4.1 Revolving doors.** Revolving doors shall comply with the following:

1. Each revolving door shall be capable of collapsing into a bookfold position with parallel egress paths providing an aggregate width of 36 inches (914 mm).
2. A revolving door shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the foot of or top of *stairs* or escalators. A dispersal area shall be provided between the *stairs* or escalators and the revolving doors.
3. The revolutions per minute (rpm) for a revolving door shall not exceed those shown in Table 1008.1.4.1.
4. Each revolving door shall have a side-hinged swinging door which complies with Section 1008.1 in the same wall and within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the revolving door.
5. Revolving doors shall not be part of an *accessible route* required by Section 1007 and Chapter 11.

**TABLE 1008.1.4.1  
REVOLVING DOOR SPEEDS**

INSIDE DIAMETER (feet-inches)	POWER-DRIVEN-TYPE SPEED CONTROL (rpm)	MANUAL-TYPE SPEED CONTROL (rpm)
6-6	11	12
7-0	10	11
7-6	9	11
8-0	9	10
8-6	8	9
9-0	8	9
9-6	7	8
10-0	7	8

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

**1008.1.4.1.1 Egress component.** A revolving door used as a component of a *means of egress* shall comply with Section 1008.1.4.1 and the following three conditions:

1. Revolving doors shall not be given credit for more than 50 percent of the required egress capacity.
2. Each revolving door shall be credited with no more than a 50-person capacity.
3. Each revolving door shall be capable of being collapsed when a force of not more than 130 pounds (578 N) is applied within 3 inches (76 mm) of the outer edge of a wing.

**1008.1.4.1.2 Other than egress component.** A revolving door used as other than a component of a *means of egress* shall comply with Section 1008.1.4.1. The collapsing force of a revolving door not used as a component of a *means of egress* shall not be more than 180 pounds (801 N).

**Exception:** A collapsing force in excess of 180 pounds (801 N) is permitted if the collapsing force is reduced to not more than 130 pounds

(578 N) when at least one of the following conditions is satisfied:

1. There is a power failure or power is removed to the device holding the door wings in position.
2. There is an actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* where such system is provided.
3. There is an actuation of a smoke detection system which is installed in accordance with Section 907 to provide coverage in areas within the building which are within 75 feet (22 860 mm) of the revolving doors.
4. There is an actuation of a manual control switch, in an *approved* location and clearly defined, which reduces the holding force to below the 130-pound (578 N) force level.

**1008.1.4.2 Power-operated doors.** Where *means of egress* doors are operated by power, such as doors with a photoelectric-actuated mechanism to open the door upon the approach of a person, or doors with power-assisted manual operation, the design shall be such that in the event of power failure, the door is capable of being opened manually to permit *means of egress* travel or closed where necessary to safeguard *means of egress*. The forces required to open these doors manually shall not exceed those specified in Section 1008.1.3, except that the force to set the door in motion shall not exceed 50 pounds (220 N). The door shall be capable of swinging from any position to the full width of the opening in which such door is installed when a force is applied to the door on the side from which egress is made. Full-power-operated doors shall comply with BHMA A156.10. Power-assisted and low-energy doors shall comply with BHMA A156.19.

**Exceptions:**

1. Occupancies in Group I-3.
2. Horizontal sliding doors complying with Section 1008.1.4.3.
3. For a biparting door in the emergency break-out mode, a door leaf located within a multiple-leaf opening shall be exempt from the minimum 32-inch (813 mm) single-leaf requirement of Section 1008.1.1, provided a minimum 32-inch (813 mm) clear opening is provided when the two biparting leaves meeting in the center are broken out.

**1008.1.4.3 Horizontal sliding doors.** In other than Group H occupancies, horizontal sliding doors permitted to be a component of a *means of egress* in accordance with Exception 6 to Section 1008.1.2 shall comply with all of the following criteria:

1. The doors shall be power operated and shall be capable of being operated manually in the event of power failure.

2. The doors shall be openable by a simple method from both sides without special knowledge or effort.
3. The force required to operate the door shall not exceed 30 pounds (133 N) to set the door in motion and 15 pounds (67 N) to close the door or open it to the minimum required width.
4. The door shall be openable with a force not to exceed 15 pounds (67 N) when a force of 250 pounds (1100 N) is applied perpendicular to the door adjacent to the operating device.
5. The door assembly shall comply with the applicable *fire protection rating* and, where rated, shall be self-closing or automatic closing by smoke detection in accordance with Section 716.5.9.3, shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 80 and shall comply with Section 716.
6. The door assembly shall have an integrated standby power supply.
7. The door assembly power supply shall be electrically supervised.
8. The door shall open to the minimum required width within 10 seconds after activation of the operating device.

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**1008.1.4.4 Security grilles.** In Groups B, F, M and S, horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles are permitted at the main *exit* and shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort during periods that the space is occupied. The grilles shall remain secured in the full-open position during the period of occupancy by the general public. Where two or more *means of egress* are required, not more than one-half of the *exits* or *exit access doorways* shall be equipped with horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles.

**1008.1.5 Floor elevation.** There shall be a floor or landing on each side of a door. Such floor or landing shall be at the same elevation on each side of the door. Landings shall be level except for exterior landings, which are permitted to have a slope not to exceed 0.25 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent slope).

**Exceptions:**

1. Doors serving individual *dwelling units* in Groups R-2 and R-3 where the following apply:
  - 1.1. A door is permitted to open at the top step of an interior *flight of stairs*, provided the door does not swing over the top step.
  - 1.2. Screen doors and storm doors are permitted to swing over *stairs* or landings.
2. Exterior doors as provided for in Section 1003.5, Exception 1, and Section 1020.2, which are not on an *accessible route*.
3. In Group R-3 occupancies not required to be *Accessible units, Type A units* or *Type B units*, the landing at an exterior doorway shall not be more

than  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (197 mm) below the top of the threshold, provided the door, other than an exterior storm or screen door, does not swing over the landing.

4. Variations in elevation due to differences in finish materials, but not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm).
5. Exterior decks, patios or balconies that are part of *Type B* dwelling units, have impervious surfaces and that are not more than 4 inches (102 mm) below the finished floor level of the adjacent interior space of the dwelling unit.

**1008.1.6 Landings at doors.** Landings shall have a width not less than the width of the *stairway* or the door, whichever is greater. Doors in the fully open position shall not reduce a required dimension by more than 7 inches (178 mm). When a landing serves an *occupant load* of 50 or more, doors in any position shall not reduce the landing to less than one-half its required width. Landings shall have a length measured in the direction of travel of not less than 44 inches (1118 mm).

**Exception:** Landing length in the direction of travel in Groups R-3 and U and within individual units of Group R-2 need not exceed 36 inches (914 mm).

**1008.1.7 Thresholds.** Thresholds at doorways shall not exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19.1 mm) in height above the finished floor or landing for sliding doors serving *dwelling units* or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) above the finished floor or landing for other doors. Raised thresholds and floor level changes greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) at doorways shall be beveled with a slope not greater than one unit vertical in two units horizontal (50-percent slope).

**Exception:** In occupancy Group R-2 or R-3, threshold heights for sliding and side-hinged exterior doors shall be permitted to be up to  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (197 mm) in height if all of the following apply:

1. The door is not part of the required *means of egress*.
2. The door is not part of an *accessible route* as required by Chapter 11.
3. The door is not part of an *Accessible unit, Type A unit* or *Type B unit*.

**1008.1.8 Door arrangement.** Space between two doors in a series shall be 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum plus the width of a door swinging into the space. Doors in a series shall swing either in the same direction or away from the space between the doors.

**Exceptions:**

1. The minimum distance between horizontal sliding power-operated doors in a series shall be 48 inches (1219 mm).
2. Storm and screen doors serving individual *dwelling units* in Groups R-2 and R-3 need not be spaced 48 inches (1219 mm) from the other door.

- Doors within individual *dwelling units* in Groups R-2 and R-3 other than within *Type A* dwelling units.

**1008.1.9 Door operations.** Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.

**1008.1.9.1 Hardware.** Door handles, pulls, latches, locks and other operating devices on doors required to be *accessible* by Chapter 11 shall not require tight grasping, tight pinching or twisting of the wrist to operate.

**1008.1.9.2 Hardware height.** Door handles, pulls, latches, locks and other operating devices shall be installed 34 inches (864 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1219 mm) maximum above the finished floor. Locks used only for security purposes and not used for normal operation are permitted at any height.

**Exception:** Access doors or gates in barrier walls and fences protecting pools, spas and hot tubs shall be permitted to have operable parts of the release of latch on self-latching devices at 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum above the finished floor or ground, provided the self-latching devices are not also self-locking devices operated by means of a key, electronic opener or integral combination lock.

**1008.1.9.3 Locks and latches.** Locks and latches shall be permitted to prevent operation of doors where any of the following exists:

- Places of detention or restraint.
- In buildings in occupancy Group A having an *occupant load* of 300 or less, Groups B, F, M and S, and in *places of religious worship*, the main exterior door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided:
  - The locking device is readily distinguishable as locked;
  - A readily visible durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating: THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED. The sign shall be in letters 1 inch (25 mm) high on a contrasting background; and
  - The use of the key-operated locking device is revokable by the *building official* for due cause.
- Where egress doors are used in pairs, *approved* automatic flush bolts shall be permitted to be used, provided that the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts has no doorknob or surface-mounted hardware.
- Doors from individual *dwelling* or *sleeping units* of Group R occupancies having an *occupant load* of 10 or less are permitted to be equipped with a

night latch, dead bolt or security chain, provided such devices are openable from the inside without the use of a key or tool.

- Fire doors* after the minimum elevated temperature has disabled the unlatching mechanism in accordance with listed fire door test procedures.

**1008.1.9.4 Bolt locks.** Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.

**Exceptions:**

- On doors not required for egress in individual dwelling units or sleeping units.
- Where a pair of doors serves a storage or equipment room, manually operated edge- or surface-mounted bolts are permitted on the inactive leaf.
- Where a pair of doors serves an *occupant load* of less than 50 persons in a Group B, F or S occupancy, manually operated edge- or surface-mounted bolts are permitted on the inactive leaf. The inactive leaf shall contain no doorknobs, panic bars or similar operating hardware.
- Where a pair of doors serves a Group B, F or S occupancy, manually operated edge- or surface-mounted bolts are permitted on the inactive leaf provided such inactive leaf is not needed to meet egress width requirements and the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The inactive leaf shall contain no doorknobs, panic bars or similar operating hardware.
- Where a pair of doors serves patient care rooms in Group I-2 occupancies, self-latching edge- or surface-mounted bolts are permitted on the inactive leaf provided that the inactive leaf is not needed to meet egress width requirements and the inactive leaf contains no doorknobs, panic bars or similar operating hardware.

**1008.1.9.5 Unlatching.** The unlatching of any door or leaf shall not require more than one operation.

**Exceptions:**

- Places of detention or restraint.
- Where manually operated bolt locks are permitted by Section 1008.1.9.4.
- Doors with automatic flush bolts as permitted by Section 1008.1.9.3, Exception 3.
- Doors from individual dwelling units and sleeping units of Group R occupancies as permitted by Section 1008.1.9.3, Exception 4.

**1008.1.9.5.1 Closet and bathroom doors in Group R-4 occupancies.** In Group R-4 occupancies, closet doors that latch in the closed position shall be openable from inside the closet, and bathroom doors that

latch in the closed position shall be capable of being unlocked from the ingress side.

**1008.1.9.6 Special locking arrangements in doors in Groups I-1, I-2, R-3 and R-4 facilities providing care.** In facilities subject to licensure by the State, *approved* special egress locks shall be permitted in a Group I-1, I-2, R-3 or R-4 facilities providing care where the clinical needs of persons receiving care require such locking. Special egress locks shall be permitted in such occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 in Groups I-1 and I-2, 903.3.1.3 in Group R-3 and 903.3.1.2 in Group R-4 facilities providing care, or an *approved* automatic smoke or heat detection system installed in accordance with Section 907, provided that the doors are installed and operate in accordance with Items 1 through 7.

1. The doors unlock upon actuation of the automatic sprinkler system or automatic fire detection system.
2. The doors unlock upon loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
3. The door locks shall have the capability of being unlocked by a signal from the *fire command center*, a nursing station or other *approved* location.
4. A building occupant shall not be required to pass through more than two doors equipped with a special egress lock before entering an *exit*.
5. The procedures for the operation(s) of the unlocking system shall be described and *approved* as part of the emergency planning and preparedness required by Chapter 4 of the *Fire Code*.
6. All clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking devices.
7. Emergency lighting shall be provided at the door.

**Exceptions:**

1. Items 1 through 4 shall not apply to doors to areas where persons, which because of clinical needs, require restraint or containment as part of the function of a psychiatric treatment area.
2. In Group I-1, Condition 2, Group R-3, and Group R-4, Condition 2 facilities providing care, where the refuge area is located in a fenced or walled yard, special egress locks located on doors or gates in the fence or wall need not automatically deactivate when the refuge area is exterior to and not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) away from the building and access to the public way is provided. Except where provided in a public way, each refuge area shall have a minimum of 15 square feet (1.41 m<sup>2</sup>) of net clear area for each occupant.

**1008.1.9.7 Delayed egress locks.** *Approved, listed*, delayed egress locks shall be permitted to be installed

on doors serving any occupancy except Group A, E and H occupancies in buildings that are equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or an *approved* automatic smoke or heat detection system installed in accordance with Section 907, provided that the doors unlock in accordance with Items 1 through 6 below. A building occupant shall not be required to pass through more than one door equipped with a delayed egress lock before entering an *exit*.

1. The doors unlock upon actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* or automatic fire detection system.
2. The doors unlock upon loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
3. The door locks shall have the capability of being unlocked by a signal from the fire command center.
4. The initiation of an irreversible process which will release the latch in not more than 15 seconds when a force of not more than 15 pounds (67 N) is applied for 1 second to the release device. Initiation of the irreversible process shall activate an audible signal in the vicinity of the door. Once the door lock has been released by the application of force to the releasing device, relocking shall be by manual means only.
 

**Exception:** Where *approved*, a delay of not more than 30 seconds is permitted.
5. A sign shall be provided on the door located above and within 12 inches (305 mm) of the release device reading: PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS. DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 [30] SECONDS.
6. Emergency lighting shall be provided at the door.

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**1008.1.9.8 Access-controlled egress doors.** The entrance doors in a *means of egress* in buildings with an occupancy in Groups A, B, E, I-2, M, R-1 or R-2, and entrance doors to tenant spaces in occupancies in Groups A, B, E, I-2, M, R-1 or R-2, are permitted to be equipped with an *approved* entrance and egress access control system, listed in accordance with UL 294, which shall be installed in accordance with all of the following criteria:

1. A sensor shall be provided on the egress side arranged to detect an occupant approaching the doors. The doors shall be arranged to unlock by a signal from or loss of power to the sensor.
2. Loss of power to that part of the access control system which locks the doors shall automatically unlock the doors.
3. The doors shall be arranged to unlock from a manual unlocking device located 40 inches to 48 inches (1016 mm to 1219 mm) vertically above the floor and within 5 feet (1524 mm) of the secured doors. Ready access shall be provided to

the manual unlocking device and the device shall be clearly identified by a sign that reads “PUSH TO EXIT.” When operated, the manual unlocking device shall result in direct interruption of power to the lock—independent of the access control system electronics—and the doors shall remain unlocked for a minimum of 30 seconds.

4. Activation of the building fire alarm system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors, and the doors shall remain unlocked until the fire alarm system has been reset.
5. Activation of the building automatic sprinkler or fire detection system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors. The doors shall remain unlocked until the fire alarm system has been reset.
6. Entrance doors in buildings with an occupancy in Group A, B, E or M shall not be secured from the egress side during periods that the building is open to the general public.

#### 1008.1.9.9 Electromagnetically locked egress doors.

Doors in the *means of egress* in buildings with an occupancy in Group A, B, E, M, R-1 or R-2, and doors to tenant spaces in Group A, B, E, M, R-1 or R-2, shall be permitted to be electromagnetically locked if equipped with listed hardware that incorporates a built-in switch and meet the requirements below:

1. The listed hardware that is affixed to the door leaf has an obvious method of operation that is readily operated under all lighting conditions.
2. The listed hardware is capable of being operated with one hand.
3. Operation of the listed hardware directly interrupts the power to the electromagnetic lock and unlocks the door immediately.
4. Loss of power to the listed hardware automatically unlocks the door.
5. Where panic or *fire exit hardware* is required by Section 1008.1.10, operation of the listed panic or *fire exit hardware* also releases the electromagnetic lock.

#### 1008.1.9.10 Locking arrangements in correctional facilities.

In occupancies in Groups A-2, A-3, A-4, B, E, F, I-2, I-3, M and S within correctional and detention facilities, doors in *means of egress* serving rooms or spaces occupied by persons whose movements are controlled for security reasons shall be permitted to be locked when equipped with egress control devices which shall unlock manually and by at least one of the following means:

1. Activation of an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1;
2. Activation of an *approved* manual alarm box; or
3. A signal from a *constantly attended location*.

**1008.1.9.11 Stairway doors.** Interior *stairway means of egress* doors shall be openable from both sides without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.

#### Exceptions:

1. *Stairway* discharge doors shall be openable from the egress side and shall only be locked from the opposite side.
2. This section shall not apply to doors arranged in accordance with Section 403.5.3.
3. In *stairways* serving not more than four stories, doors are permitted to be locked from the side opposite the egress side, provided they are openable from the egress side and capable of being unlocked simultaneously without unlatching upon a signal from the fire command center, if present, or a signal by emergency personnel from a single location inside the main entrance to the building.
4. *Stairway exit* doors shall be openable from the egress side and shall only be locked from the opposite side in Group B, F, M and S occupancies where the only interior access to the tenant space is from a single *exit stair* where permitted in Section 1021.2.
5. *Stairway exit* doors shall be openable from the egress side and shall only be locked from the opposite side in Group R-2 occupancies where the only interior access to the dwelling unit is from a single *exit stair* where permitted in Section 1021.2.

**1008.1.10 Panic and fire exit hardware.** Doors serving a Group H occupancy and doors serving rooms or spaces with an *occupant load* of 50 or more in a Group A or E occupancy shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is *panic hardware* or *fire exit hardware*.

**Exception:** A main *exit* of a Group A occupancy in compliance with Section 1008.1.9.3, Item 2.

Electrical rooms with equipment rated 1,200 amperes or more and over 6 feet (1829 mm) wide that contain over-current devices, switching devices or control devices with *exit* or *exit access* doors shall be equipped with *panic hardware* or *fire exit hardware*. The doors shall swing in the direction of egress travel.

**1008.1.10.1 Installation.** Where *panic* or *fire exit hardware* is installed, it shall comply with the following:

1. *Panic hardware* shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 305;
2. *Fire exit hardware* shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 10C and UL 305;
3. The actuating portion of the releasing device shall extend at least one-half of the door leaf width; and
4. The maximum unlatching force shall not exceed 15 pounds (67 N).

**1008.1.10.2 Balanced doors.** If *balanced doors* are used and *panic hardware* is required, the *panic hardware* shall be the push-pad type and the pad shall not extend more than one-half the width of the door measured from the latch side.

**1008.2 Gates.** Gates serving the *means of egress* system shall comply with the requirements of this section. Gates used as a component in a *means of egress* shall conform to the applicable requirements for doors.

**Exception:** Horizontal sliding or swinging gates exceeding the 4-foot (1219 mm) maximum leaf width limitation are permitted in fences and walls surrounding a stadium.

**1008.2.1 Stadiums.** *Panic hardware* is not required on gates surrounding stadiums where such gates are under constant immediate supervision while the public is present, and where safe dispersal areas based on 3 square feet (0.28 m<sup>2</sup>) per occupant are located between the fence and enclosed space. Such required safe dispersal areas shall not be located less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from the enclosed space. See Section 1027.5 for *means of egress* from safe dispersal areas.

**1008.3 Turnstiles.** Turnstiles or similar devices that restrict travel to one direction shall not be placed so as to obstruct any required *means of egress*.

**Exception:** Each turnstile or similar device shall be credited with no more than a 50-person capacity where all of the following provisions are met:

1. Each device shall turn free in the direction of egress travel when primary power is lost, and upon the manual release by an employee in the area.
2. Such devices are not given credit for more than 50 percent of the required egress capacity.
3. Each device is not more than 39 inches (991 mm) high.
4. Each device has at least 16½ inches (419 mm) clear width at and below a height of 39 inches (991 mm) and at least 22 inches (559 mm) clear width at heights above 39 inches (991 mm).

Where located as part of an *accessible route*, turnstiles shall have at least 36 inches (914 mm) clear at and below a height of 34 inches (864 mm), at least 32 inches (813 mm) clear width between 34 inches (864 mm) and 80 inches (2032 mm) and shall consist of a mechanism other than a revolving device.

**1008.3.1 High turnstile.** Turnstiles more than 39 inches (991 mm) high shall meet the requirements for revolving doors.

**1008.3.2 Additional door.** Where serving an *occupant load* greater than 300, each turnstile that is not portable shall have a side-hinged swinging door which conforms to Section 1008.1 within 50 feet (15 240 mm).

## SECTION 1009 STAIRWAYS

**1009.1 General.** *Stairways* serving occupied portions of a building shall comply with the requirements of this section.

**1009.2 Interior exit stairways.** *Interior exit stairways* shall lead directly to the exterior of the building or shall be extended to the exterior of the building with an *exit passageway* conforming to the requirements of Section 1023, except as permitted in Section 1027.1.

**1009.2.1 Where required.** *Interior exit stairways* shall be included, as necessary, to meet one or more *means of egress* design requirements, such as required number of *exits* or *exit access* travel distance.

**1009.2.2 Enclosure.** All *interior exit stairways* shall be enclosed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1022.

**1009.3 Exit access stairways.** Floor openings between stories created by *exit access stairways* shall be enclosed.

### Exceptions:

1. In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, *exit access stairways* that serve, or atmospherically communicate between, only two stories are not required to be enclosed.
2. *Exit access stairways* serving and contained within a single residential *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* in Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies are not required to be enclosed.
3. In buildings with only Group B or M occupancies, *exit access stairway* openings are not required to be enclosed provided that the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the area of the floor opening between stories does not exceed twice the horizontal projected area of the *exit access stairway*, and the opening is protected by a draft curtain and closely spaced sprinklers in accordance with NFPA 13.
4. In other than Group B and M occupancies, *exit access stairway* openings are not required to be enclosed provided that the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the floor opening does not connect more than four stories, the area of the floor opening between stories does not exceed twice the horizontal projected area of the *exit access stairway*, and the opening is protected by a draft curtain and closely spaced sprinklers in accordance with NFPA 13.
5. *Exit access stairways* within an *atrium* complying with the provisions of Section 404 are not required to be enclosed.

6. *Exit access stairways* and *ramps* in open parking garages that serve only the parking garage are not required to be enclosed.
7. *Stairways* serving outdoor facilities where all portions of the *means of egress* are essentially open to the outside are not required to be enclosed.
8. *Exit access stairways* serving stages, platforms and *technical production areas* in accordance with Sections 410.6.2 and 410.6.3 are not required to be enclosed.
9. *Stairways* are permitted to be open between the balcony, gallery or press box and the main assembly floor in occupancies such as theaters, *places of religious worship*, auditoriums and sports facilities.
10. In Group I-3 occupancies, *exit access stairways* constructed in accordance with Section 408.5 are not required to be enclosed.

**1009.3.1 Construction.** Where required, enclosures for *exit access stairways* shall be constructed in accordance with this section. *Exit access stairway* enclosures shall be constructed as *fire barriers* in accordance with Section 707 or *horizontal assemblies* in accordance with Section 711, or both.

**1009.3.1.1 Materials.** *Exit access stairway* enclosures shall be of materials permitted by the building type of construction.

**1009.3.1.2 Fire-resistance rating.** *Exit access stairway* enclosures shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 2 hours where connecting four stories or more, and not less than 1 hour where connecting less than four stories. The number of stories connected by the *exit access stairway* enclosures shall include any basements, but not any mezzanines. *Exit access stairway* enclosures shall have a *fire-resistance rating* not less than the floor assembly penetrated, but need not exceed 2 hours.

**1009.3.1.3 Continuity.** *Exit access stairway* enclosures shall have continuity in accordance with Section 707.5 for *fire barriers* or Section 711.4 for *horizontal assemblies* as applicable.

**1009.3.1.4 Openings.** Openings in an *exit access stairway* enclosure shall be protected in accordance with Section 716 as required for *fire barriers*. Doors shall be self- or automatic-closing by smoke detection in accordance with Section 716.5.9.3.

**1009.3.1.4.1 Prohibited openings.** Openings other than those necessary for the purpose of the *exit access stairway* enclosure shall not be permitted in *exit access stairway* enclosures.

**1009.3.1.5 Penetrations.** Penetrations in an *exit access stairway* enclosure shall be protected in accordance with Section 714 as required for *fire barriers*.

**1009.3.1.5.1 Prohibited penetrations.** Penetrations other than those necessary for the purpose of the *exit access stairway* enclosure shall not be permitted in *exit access stairway* enclosures.

**1009.3.1.6 Joints.** Joints in an *exit access stairway* enclosure shall comply with Section 715.

**1009.3.1.7 Ducts and air transfer openings.** Penetrations of an *exit access stairway* enclosure by ducts and air transfer openings shall comply with Section 717.

**1009.3.1.8 Exterior walls.** Where *exterior walls* serve as a part of an *exit access stairway* enclosure, such walls shall comply with the requirements of Section 705 for *exterior walls* and the fire-resistance-rated enclosure requirements shall not apply.

**1009.4 Width.** The width of *stairways* shall be determined as specified in Section 1005.1, but such width shall not be less than 44 inches (1118 mm). See Section 1007.3 for *accessible means of egress stairways*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Stairways* serving an *occupant load* of less than 50 shall have a width of not less than 36 inches (914 mm).
2. *Spiral stairways* as provided for in Section 1009.12.
3. *Aisle stairs* complying with Section 1028.
4. Where an incline platform lift or *stairway* chairlift is installed on *stairways* serving occupancies in Group R-3, or within *dwelling units* in occupancies in Group R-2, a clear passage width not less than 20 inches (508 mm) shall be provided. If the seat and platform can be folded when not in use, the distance shall be measured from the folded position.

**1009.5 Headroom.** *Stairways* shall have a minimum headroom clearance of 80 inches (2032 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the edge of the *nosings*. Such headroom shall be continuous above the *stairway* to the point where the line intersects the landing below, one tread depth beyond the bottom riser. The minimum clearance shall be maintained the full width of the *stairway* and landing.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Spiral stairways* complying with Section 1009.12 are permitted a 78-inch (1981 mm) headroom clearance.
2. In Group R-3 occupancies; within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy or accessory to individual *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; where the *nosings* of treads at the side of a *flight* extend under the edge of a floor opening through which the *stair* passes, the floor opening shall be allowed to project horizontally into the required headroom a maximum of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches (121 mm).

**1009.6 Walkline.** The walkline across *winder* treads shall be concentric to the direction of travel through the turn and located 12 inches (305 mm) from the side where the *winders* are narrower. The 12-inch (305 mm) dimension shall be measured from the widest point of the clear *stair* width at the walking surface of the *winder*. If *winders* are adjacent within the *flight*, the point of the widest clear *stair* width of the adjacent *winders* shall be used.

**1009.7 Stair treads and risers.** Stair treads and risers shall comply with Sections 1009.7.1 through 1009.7.5.3.

**1009.7.1 Dimension reference surfaces.** For the purpose of this section, all dimensions are exclusive of carpets, rugs or runners.

**1009.7.2 Riser height and tread depth.** Stair riser heights shall be 7 inches (178 mm) maximum and 4 inches (102 mm) minimum. The riser height shall be measured vertically between the *nosings* of adjacent treads. Rectangular tread depths shall be 11 inches (279 mm) minimum measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's *nosing*. *Winder* treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 11 inches (279 mm) between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads at the intersections with the walkline and a minimum tread depth of 10 inches (254 mm) within the clear width of the *stair*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Alternating tread devices* in accordance with Section 1009.13.
2. Ship ladders in accordance with Section 1009.14.
3. *Spiral stairways* in accordance with Section 1009.12.
4. *Aisle stairs* in assembly seating areas where the stair pitch or slope is set, for sightline reasons, by the slope of the adjacent seating area in accordance with Section 1028.11.2.
5. In Group R-3 occupancies; within dwelling units in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy or accessory to individual dwelling units in Group R-2 occupancies; the maximum riser height shall be  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (197 mm); the minimum tread depth shall be 10 inches (254 mm); the minimum *winder* tread depth at the walkline shall be 10 inches (254 mm); and the minimum *winder* tread depth shall be 6 inches (152 mm). A *nosing* projection not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19.1 mm) but not more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) shall be provided on *stairways* with solid risers where the tread depth is less than 11 inches (279 mm).
6. See Section 3404.1 for the replacement of existing *stairways*.
7. In Group I-3 facilities, *stairways* providing access to guard towers, observation stations and control rooms, not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) in area, shall be permitted to have a maximum riser height of 8 inches (203 mm) and a minimum tread depth of 9 inches (229 mm).

**1009.7.3 Winder treads.** *Winder* treads are not permitted in *means of egress stairways* except within a *dwelling unit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Curved *stairways* in accordance with Section 1009.11.

2. *Spiral stairways* in accordance with Section 1009.12.

**1009.7.4 Dimensional uniformity.** *Stair* treads and risers shall be of uniform size and shape. The tolerance between the largest and smallest riser height or between the largest and smallest tread depth shall not exceed  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm) in any *flight* of *stairs*. The greatest *winder* tread depth at the walkline within any *flight* of *stairs* shall not exceed the smallest by more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm).

**Exceptions:**

1. Nonuniform riser dimensions of *aisle stairs* complying with Section 1028.11.2.
2. Consistently shaped *winders*, complying with Section 1009.7, differing from rectangular treads in the same *stairway flight*.

Where the bottom or top riser adjoins a sloping *public way*, walkway or driveway having an established grade and serving as a landing, the bottom or top riser is permitted to be reduced along the slope to less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height, with the variation in height of the bottom or top riser not to exceed one unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (8-percent slope) of *stairway* width. The *nosings* or leading edges of treads at such nonuniform height risers shall have a distinctive marking stripe, different from any other *nosing* marking provided on the *stair flight*. The distinctive marking stripe shall be visible in descent of the *stair* and shall have a slip-resistant surface. Marking stripes shall have a width of at least 1 inch (25 mm) but not more than 2 inches (51 mm).

**1009.7.5 Nosing and riser profile.** The radius of curvature at the leading edge of the tread shall be not greater than  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch (14.3 mm). Beveling of *nosings* shall not exceed  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch (14.3 mm). Risers shall be solid and vertical or sloped under the tread above from the underside of the *nosing* above at an angle not more than 30 degrees (0.52 rad) from the vertical.

**1009.7.5.1 Nosing projection size.** The leading edge (*nosings*) of treads shall project not more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) beyond the tread below.

**1009.7.5.2 Nosing projection uniformity.** All *nosing* projections of the leading edges shall be of uniform size, including the projections of the *nosings* leading edge of the floor at the top of a *flight*.

**1009.7.5.3 Solid risers.** Risers shall be solid.

**Exceptions:**

1. Solid risers are not required for *stairways* that are not required to comply with Section 1007.3, provided that the opening between treads does not permit the passage of a sphere with a diameter of 4 inches (102 mm).
2. Solid risers are not required for occupancies in Group I-3 or in Group F, H and S occupancies other than areas accessible to the public. There are no restrictions on the size of the opening in the riser.

3. Solid risers are not required for *spiral stairways* constructed in accordance with Section 1009.12.
4. Solid risers are not required for *alternating tread devices* constructed in accordance with Section 1009.13.

**1009.8 Stairway landings.** There shall be a floor or landing at the top and bottom of each *stairway*. The width of landings shall not be less than the width of *stairways* they serve. Every landing shall have a minimum width measured perpendicular to the direction of travel equal to the width of the *stairway*. Where the *stairway* has a straight run the depth need not exceed 48 inches (1219 mm). Doors opening onto a landing shall not reduce the landing to less than one-half the required width. When fully open, the door shall not project more than 7 inches (178 mm) into a landing. When *wheelchair spaces* are required on the *stairway* landing in accordance with Section 1007.6.1, the *wheelchair space* shall not be located in the required width of the landing and doors shall not swing over the *wheelchair spaces*.

**Exception:** *Aisle stairs* complying with Section 1028.

**1009.9 Stairway construction.** All *stairways* shall be built of materials consistent with the types permitted for the type of construction of the building, except that wood *handrails* shall be permitted for all types of construction.

**1009.9.1 Stairway walking surface.** The walking surface of treads and landings of a *stairway* shall not be sloped steeper than one unit vertical in 48 units horizontal (2-percent slope) in any direction. *Stairway* treads and landings shall have a solid surface. Finish floor surfaces shall be securely attached.

**Exceptions:**

1. Openings in stair walking surfaces shall be a size that does not permit the passage of  $1/2$ -inch-diameter (12.7 mm) sphere. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the direction of travel.
2. In Group F, H and S occupancies, other than areas of parking structures accessible to the public, openings in treads and landings shall not be prohibited provided a sphere with a diameter of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches (29 mm) cannot pass through the opening.

**1009.9.2 Outdoor conditions.** Outdoor *stairways* and outdoor approaches to *stairways* shall be designed so that water will not accumulate on walking surfaces.

**1009.9.3 Enclosures under interior stairways.** The walls and soffits within enclosed usable spaces under enclosed and unenclosed *stairways* shall be protected by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or the *fire-resistance rating* of the *stairway* enclosure, whichever is greater. Access to the enclosed space shall not be directly from within the *stair* enclosure.

**Exception:** Spaces under *stairways* serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit in Group

R-2 or R-3 shall be permitted to be protected on the enclosed side with  $1/2$ -inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board.

**1009.9.4 Enclosures under exterior stairways.** There shall be no enclosed usable space under *exterior exit stairways* unless the space is completely enclosed in 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction. The open space under *exterior stairways* shall not be used for any purpose.

**1009.10 Vertical rise.** A *flight of stairs* shall not have a vertical rise greater than 12 feet (3658 mm) between floor levels or landings.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Aisle stairs* complying with Section 1028.
2. *Alternating tread devices* used as a *means of egress* shall not have a rise greater than 20 feet (6096 mm) between floor levels or landings.
3. *Spiral stairways* used as a *means of egress* from *technical production areas*.

**1009.11 Curved stairways.** Curved *stairways* with *winder* treads shall have treads and risers in accordance with Section 1009.7 and the smallest radius shall not be less than twice the required width of the *stairway*.

**Exception:** The radius restriction shall not apply to curved *stairways* for occupancies in Group R-3 and within individual *dwelling units* in occupancies in Group R-2.

**1009.12 Spiral stairways.** *Spiral stairways* are permitted to be used as a component in the *means of egress* only within *dwelling units* or from a space not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and serving not more than five occupants, or from *technical production areas* in accordance with Section 410.6.

A *spiral stairway* shall have a  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (191 mm) minimum clear tread depth at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the narrow edge. The risers shall be sufficient to provide a headroom of 78 inches (1981 mm) minimum, but riser height shall not be more than  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches (241 mm). The minimum *stairway* clear width at and below the *handrail* shall be 26 inches (660 mm).

**1009.13 Alternating tread devices.** *Alternating tread devices* are limited to an element of a *means of egress* in buildings of Groups F, H and S from a mezzanine not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and which serves not more than five occupants; in buildings of Group I-3 from a guard tower, observation station or control room not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and for access to unoccupied roofs.

**1009.13.1 Handrails of alternating tread devices.** *Handrails* shall be provided on both sides of *alternating tread devices* and shall comply with Section 1012.

**1009.13.2 Treads of alternating tread devices.** *Alternating tread devices* shall have a minimum tread depth of 5 inches (127 mm), a minimum projected tread depth of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches (216 mm), a minimum tread width of 7 inches (178 mm) and a maximum riser height of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches (241 mm). The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projections of adjacent treads. The riser height shall be measured vertically

between the leading edges of adjacent treads. The riser height and tread depth provided shall result in an angle of ascent from the horizontal of between 50 and 70 degrees (0.87 and 1.22 rad). The initial tread of the device shall begin at the same elevation as the platform, landing or floor surface.

**Exception:** *Alternating tread devices* used as an element of a *means of egress* in buildings from a *mezzanine* area not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) in area which serves not more than five occupants shall have a minimum tread depth of 3 inches (76 mm) with a minimum projected tread depth of 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (267 mm). The rise to the next alternating tread surface shall not exceed 8 inches (203 mm).

**1009.14 Ship ladders.** Ship ladders are permitted to be used in Group I-3 as a component of a *means of egress* to and from control rooms or elevated facility observation stations not more than 250 square feet (23 m<sup>2</sup>) with not more than three occupants and for access to unoccupied roofs.

Ship ladders shall have a minimum tread depth of 5 inches (127 mm). The tread shall be projected such that the total of the tread depth plus the *nosing* projection is no less than 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (216 mm). The maximum riser height shall be 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (241 mm).

*Handrails* shall be provided on both sides of ship ladders. The minimum clear width at and below the *handrails* shall be 20 inches (508 mm).

**1009.15 Handrails.** *Stairways* shall have *handrails* on each side and shall comply with Section 1012. Where glass is used to provide the *handrail*, the *handrail* shall also comply with Section 2407.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Handrails* for *aisle stairs* provided in accordance with Section 1028.13.
2. *Stairways* within dwelling units and *spiral stairways* are permitted to have a *handrail* on one side only.
3. Decks, patios and walkways that have a single change in elevation where the landing depth on each side of the change of elevation is greater than what is required for a landing do not require *handrails*.
4. In Group R-3 occupancies, decks, patios and walkways that have a change in elevation consisting of a flight of stairs with three or fewer risers, where the landing depth on each side of the change of elevation is greater than what is required for a landing, do not require *handrails*.
5. In Group R-3 occupancies, a change in elevation consisting of a flight of stairs with three or fewer risers at an entrance or egress door does not require *handrails*.
6. Changes in room elevations consisting of a flight of stairs with three or fewer risers within dwelling units and sleeping units in Groups R-2 and R-3 do not require *handrails*.

**1009.16 Stairway to roof.** In buildings four or more stories above *grade plane*, one *stairway* shall extend to the roof sur-

face, unless the roof has a slope steeper than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). In buildings without an occupied roof, access to the roof from the top story shall be permitted to be by an *alternating tread device*, a ship stair or ladder that is constructed of steel and is a minimum of 30 inches (762 mm) between handrails; has a rise and run of the stair or ladder of 12 inches (305 mm) maximum and 4 inches (102 mm) minimum, respectively; and has handrails provided on both sides of the stair or ladder.

**1009.16.1 Roof access.** Where a *stairway* is provided to a roof, access to the roof shall be provided through a *penthouse* complying with Section 1509.2.

**Exception:** In buildings without an occupied roof, access to the roof shall be permitted to be a roof hatch or trap door not less than 30 inches (762 mm) wide and 8 feet (2438 mm) long.

**1009.16.2 Protection at roof hatch openings.** Where the roof hatch opening providing the required access is located within 10 feet (3049 mm) of the roof edge, such roof access or roof edge shall be protected by *guards* installed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1013.

**1009.17 Stairway to elevator equipment.** Roofs and *penthouses* containing elevator equipment that must be accessed for maintenance are required to be accessed by a *stairway*.

**SECTION 1010  
RAMPS**

**1010.1 Scope.** The provisions of this section shall apply to *ramps* used as a component of a *means of egress*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Other than *ramps* that are part of the *accessible routes* providing access in accordance with Sections 1108.2 through 1108.2.4 and 1108.2.6, ramped *aisles* within assembly rooms or spaces shall conform with the provisions in Section 1028.11.
2. Curb ramps shall comply with ICC A117.1.
3. Vehicle ramps in parking garages for pedestrian *exit access* shall not be required to comply with Sections 1010.4 through 1010.10 when they are not an *accessible route* serving *accessible* parking spaces, other required *accessible* elements or part of an *accessible means of egress*.

**1010.2 Enclosure.** All *interior exit ramps* shall be enclosed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 1022. *Exit access ramps* shall be enclosed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1009.3 for enclosure of *stairways*.

**1010.3 Slope.** *Ramps* used as part of a *means of egress* shall have a running slope not steeper than one unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (8-percent slope). The slope of other pedestrian *ramps* shall not be steeper than one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope).

**Exception:** *Aisle ramp* slope in a room or space used for assembly purposes shall comply with Section 1028.11.

**1010.4 Cross slope.** The slope measured perpendicular to the direction of travel of a *ramp* shall not be steeper than one unit vertical in 48 units horizontal (2-percent slope).

**1010.5 Vertical rise.** The rise for any *ramp* run shall be 30 inches (762 mm) maximum.

**1010.6 Minimum dimensions.** The minimum dimensions of *means of egress ramps* shall comply with Sections 1010.6.1 through 1010.6.3.

**1010.6.1 Width.** The minimum width of a *means of egress ramp* shall not be less than that required for *corridors* by Section 1018.2. The clear width of a *ramp* between *handrails*, if provided, or other permissible projections shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum.

**1010.6.2 Headroom.** The minimum headroom in all parts of the *means of egress ramp* shall not be less than 80 inches (2032 mm).

**1010.6.3 Restrictions.** *Means of egress ramps* shall not reduce in width in the direction of egress travel. Projections into the required *ramp* and landing width are prohibited. Doors opening onto a landing shall not reduce the clear width to less than 42 inches (1067 mm).

**1010.7 Landings.** *Ramps* shall have landings at the bottom and top of each *ramp*, points of turning, entrance, *exits* and at doors. Landings shall comply with Sections 1010.7.1 through 1010.7.5.

**1010.7.1 Slope.** Landings shall have a slope not steeper than one unit vertical in 48 units horizontal (2-percent slope) in any direction. Changes in level are not permitted.

**1010.7.2 Width.** The landing shall be at least as wide as the widest *ramp* run adjoining the landing.

**1010.7.3 Length.** The landing length shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum.

**Exceptions:**

1. In Group R-2 and R-3 individual dwelling and sleeping units that are not required to be *Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units* in accordance with Section 1107, landings are permitted to be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum.
2. Where the *ramp* is not a part of an *accessible route*, the length of the landing shall not be required to be more than 48 inches (1220 mm) in the direction of travel.

**1010.7.4 Change in direction.** Where changes in direction of travel occur at landings provided between *ramp* runs, the landing shall be 60 inches by 60 inches (1524 mm by 1524 mm) minimum.

**Exception:** In Group R-2 and R-3 individual dwelling or sleeping units that are not required to be *Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units* in accordance with Section 1107, landings are permitted to be 36 inches by 36 inches (914 mm by 914 mm) minimum.

**1010.7.5 Doorways.** Where doorways are located adjacent to a *ramp* landing, maneuvering clearances required by ICC A117.1 are permitted to overlap the required landing area.

**1010.8 Ramp construction.** All ramps shall be built of materials consistent with the types permitted for the type of construction of the building, except that wood *handrails* shall be permitted for all types of construction.

**1010.8.1 Ramp surface.** The surface of *ramps* shall be of slip-resistant materials that are securely attached.

**1010.8.2 Outdoor conditions.** Outdoor *ramps* and outdoor approaches to *ramps* shall be designed so that water will not accumulate on walking surfaces.

**1010.9 Handrails.** *Ramps* with a rise greater than 6 inches (152 mm) shall have *handrails* on both sides. *Handrails* shall comply with Section 1012.

**Exception:** *Handrails* for ramped *aisles* provided in accordance with Section 1028.13.

**1010.10 Edge protection.** Edge protection complying with Section 1010.10.1 or 1010.10.2 shall be provided on each side of *ramp* runs and at each side of *ramp* landings.

**Exceptions:**

1. Edge protection is not required on *ramps* that are not required to have *handrails*, provided they have flared sides that comply with the ICC A117.1 curb ramp provisions.
2. Edge protection is not required on the sides of *ramp* landings serving an adjoining *ramp* run or *stairway*.
3. Edge protection is not required on the sides of *ramp* landings having a vertical drop off of not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) within 10 inches (254 mm) horizontally of the required landing area.
4. In assembly spaces with *fixed seating*, edge protection is not required on the sides of *ramps* where the *ramps* provide access to the adjacent seating and *aisle accessways*.

**1010.10.1 Curb, rail, wall or barrier.** A curb, rail, wall or barrier shall be provided to serve as edge protection. A curb must be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) in height. Barriers must be constructed so that the barrier prevents the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere, where any portion of the sphere is within 4 inches (102 mm) of the floor or ground surface.

**1010.10.2 Extended floor or ground surface.** The floor or ground surface of the *ramp* run or landing shall extend 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beyond the inside face of a *handrail* complying with Section 1012.

**1010.11 Guards.** *Guards* shall be provided where required by Section 1013 and shall be constructed in accordance with Section 1013.

## SECTION 1011 EXIT SIGNS

**1011.1 Where required.** *Exits* and *exit access* doors shall be marked by an *approved* exit sign readily visible from any direction of egress travel. The path of egress travel to *exits* and within *exits* shall be marked by readily visible exit signs to clearly indicate the direction of egress travel in cases

## MEANS OF EGRESS

where the *exit* or the path of egress travel is not immediately visible to the occupants. Intervening *means of egress* doors within *exits* shall be marked by exit signs. Exit sign placement shall be such that no point in an *exit access corridor* or *exit passageway* is more than 100 feet (30 480 mm) or the *listed* viewing distance for the sign, whichever is less, from the nearest visible *exit* sign.

### Exceptions:

1. Exit signs are not required in rooms or areas that require only one *exit* or *exit access*.
2. Main exterior *exit* doors or gates that are obviously and clearly identifiable as *exits* need not have exit signs where *approved* by the *building official*.
3. Exit signs are not required in occupancies in Group U and individual *sleeping units* or *dwelling units* in Group R-1, R-2 or R-3.
4. Exit signs are not required in dayrooms, sleeping rooms or dormitories in occupancies in Group I-3.
5. In occupancies in Groups A-4 and A-5, exit signs are not required on the seating side of vomitories or openings into seating areas where exit signs are provided in the concourse that are readily apparent from the vomitories. Egress lighting is provided to identify each vomitory or opening within the seating area in an emergency.

**1011.2 Floor-level exit signs in Group R-1.** Where exit signs are required in Group R-1 occupancies by Section 1011.1, additional low-level exit signs shall be provided in all areas serving guestrooms in Group R-1 occupancies and shall comply with Section 1011.5.

The bottom of the sign shall be not less than 10 inches (254 mm) nor more than 12 inches (305 mm) above the floor level. The sign shall be flush mounted to the door or wall. Where mounted on the wall, the edge of the sign shall be within 4 inches (102 mm) of the door frame on the latch side.

**1011.3 Illumination.** Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated.

**Exception:** Tactile signs required by Section 1011.4 need not be provided with illumination.

**1011.4 Raised character and Braille exit signs.** A sign stating EXIT in raised characters and Braille and complying with ICC A117.1 shall be provided adjacent to each door to an *area of refuge*, an exterior area for assisted rescue, an *exit stairway*, an *exit ramp*, an *exit passageway* and the *exit discharge*.

**1011.5 Internally illuminated exit signs.** Electrically powered, *self-luminous* and *photoluminescent* exit signs shall be *listed* and labeled in accordance with UL 924 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapter 27. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times.

**1011.6 Externally illuminated exit signs.** Externally illuminated exit signs shall comply with Sections 1011.6.1 through 1011.6.3.

**1011.6.1 Graphics.** Every exit sign and directional exit sign shall have plainly legible letters not less than 6 inches

(152 mm) high with the principal strokes of the letters not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19.1 mm) wide. The word "EXIT" shall have letters having a width not less than 2 inches (51 mm) wide, except the letter "I," and the minimum spacing between letters shall not be less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm). Signs larger than the minimum established in this section shall have letter widths, strokes and spacing in proportion to their height.

The word "EXIT" shall be in high contrast with the background and shall be clearly discernible when the means of exit sign illumination is or is not energized. If a chevron directional indicator is provided as part of the exit sign, the construction shall be such that the direction of the chevron directional indicator cannot be readily changed.

**1011.6.2 Exit sign illumination.** The face of an exit sign illuminated from an external source shall have an intensity of not less than 5 footcandles (54 lux).

**1011.6.3 Power source.** Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a duration of not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss, the sign illumination means shall be connected to an emergency power system provided from storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator. The installation of the emergency power system shall be in accordance with Chapter 27.

**Exception:** *Approved* exit sign illumination means that provide continuous illumination independent of external power sources for a duration of not less than 90 minutes, in case of primary power loss, are not required to be connected to an emergency electrical system.

## SECTION 1012 HANDRAILS

**1012.1 Where required.** *Handrails* for *stairways* and *ramps* shall be adequate in strength and attachment in accordance with Section 1607.8. *Handrails* required for *stairways* by Section 1009.15 shall comply with Sections 1012.2 through 1012.9. *Handrails* required for *ramps* by Section 1010.9 shall comply with Sections 1012.2 through 1012.8.

**1012.2 Height.** *Handrail* height, measured above *stair tread nosings*, or finish surface of *ramp* slope, shall be uniform, not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm). *Handrail* height of *alternating tread devices* and ship ladders, measured above tread *nosings*, shall be uniform, not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 34 inches (864 mm).

### Exceptions:

1. When handrail fittings or bendings are used to provide continuous transition between *flights*, the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed the maximum height.
2. In Group R-3 occupancies; within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are associated with a Group R-3 occupancy or associated with individual *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; when handrail fittings or

bendings are used to provide continuous transition between *flights*, transition at *winder* treads, transition from *handrail* to *guard*, or when used at the start of a *flight*, the *handrail* height at the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed the maximum height.

**1012.3 Handrail graspability.** All required *handrails* shall comply with Section 1012.3.1 or shall provide equivalent graspability.

**Exception:** In Group R-3 occupancies; within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy or accessory to individual *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; *handrails* shall be Type I in accordance with Section 1012.3.1, Type II in accordance with Section 1012.3.2 or shall provide equivalent graspability.

**1012.3.1 Type I.** *Handrails* with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of at least  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) and not greater than 2 inches (51 mm). Where the *handrail* is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches (102 mm) and not greater than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches (160 mm) with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches (57 mm) and minimum cross-sectional dimension of 1 inch (25 mm). Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inch (0.25 mm).

**1012.3.2 Type II.** *Handrails* with a perimeter greater than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches (160 mm) shall provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within a distance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19 mm) measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch (8 mm) within  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch (22 mm) below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10 mm) to a level that is not less than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (45 mm) below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the *handrail* above the recess shall be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) to a maximum of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches (70 mm). Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inch (0.25 mm).

**1012.4 Continuity.** *Handrail* gripping surfaces shall be continuous, without interruption by newel posts or other obstructions.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Handrails* within *dwelling units* are permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at a turn or landing.
2. Within a *dwelling unit*, the use of a volute, turnout, starting easing or starting newel is allowed over the lowest tread.
3. Handrail brackets or balusters attached to the bottom surface of the *handrail* that do not project horizontally beyond the sides of the *handrail* within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (38 mm) of the bottom of the *handrail* shall not be considered obstructions. For each  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) of additional *handrail* perimeter dimension above 4 inches (102 mm), the vertical clearance dimension of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (38 mm) shall be permitted to be reduced by  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm).

4. Where *handrails* are provided along walking surfaces with slopes not steeper than 1:20, the bottoms of the handrail gripping surfaces shall be permitted to be obstructed along their entire length where they are integral to crash rails or bumper guards.

**1012.5 Fittings.** *Handrails* shall not rotate within their fittings.

**1012.6 Handrail extensions.** *Handrails* shall return to a wall, *guard* or the walking surface or shall be continuous to the *handrail* of an adjacent *stair flight* or *ramp* run. Where *handrails* are not continuous between *flights*, the *handrails* shall extend horizontally at least 12 inches (305 mm) beyond the top riser and continue to slope for the depth of one tread beyond the bottom riser. At *ramps* where *handrails* are not continuous between runs, the *handrails* shall extend horizontally above the landing 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beyond the top and bottom of *ramp* runs. The extensions of *handrails* shall be in the same direction of the *stair flights* at *stairways* and the *ramp* runs at *ramps*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Handrails* within a *dwelling unit* that is not required to be *accessible* need extend only from the top riser to the bottom riser.
2. *Aisle handrails* in rooms or spaces used for assembly purposes in accordance with Section 1028.13.
3. *Handrails* for *alternating tread devices* and ship ladders are permitted to terminate at a location vertically above the top and bottom risers. *Handrails* for *alternating tread devices* and ship ladders are not required to be continuous between *flights* or to extend beyond the top or bottom risers.

**1012.7 Clearance.** Clear space between a *handrail* and a wall or other surface shall be a minimum of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (38 mm). A *handrail* and a wall or other surface adjacent to the *handrail* shall be free of any sharp or abrasive elements.

**1012.8 Projections.** On *ramps*, the clear width between *handrails* shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum. Projections into the required width of *stairways* and *ramps* at each side shall not exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches (114 mm) at or below the *handrail* height. Projections into the required width shall not be limited above the minimum headroom height required in Section 1009.5. Projections due to intermediate *handrails* shall not constitute a reduction in the egress width.

**1012.9 Intermediate handrails.** *Stairways* shall have intermediate *handrails* located in such a manner that all portions of the *stairway* width required for egress capacity are within 30 inches (762 mm) of a *handrail*. On monumental *stairs*, *handrails* shall be located along the most direct path of egress travel.

## SECTION 1013 GUARDS

**1013.1 General.** *Guards* shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1013.2 through 1013.7. Operable windows with sills located more than 72 inches (1.83 m) above finished grade or other surface below shall comply with Section 1013.8.

**1013.2 Where required.** *Guards* shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including *mezzanines*, *equipment platforms*, *stairs*, *ramps* and landings that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. *Guards* shall be adequate in strength and attachment in accordance with Section 1607.8.

**Exception:** *Guards* are not required for the following locations:

1. On the loading side of loading docks or piers.
2. On the audience side of *stages* and raised *platforms*, including steps leading up to the *stage* and raised *platforms*.
3. On raised *stage* and *platform* floor areas, such as runways, *ramps* and side *stages* used for entertainment or presentations.
4. At vertical openings in the performance area of *stages* and *platforms*.
5. At elevated walking surfaces appurtenant to *stages* and *platforms* for access to and utilization of special lighting or equipment.
6. Along vehicle service pits not accessible to the public.
7. In assembly seating where *guards* in accordance with Section 1028.14 are permitted and provided.

**1013.2.1 Glazing.** Where glass is used to provide a *guard* or as a portion of the *guard* system, the *guard* shall also comply with Section 2407. Where the glazing provided does not meet the strength and attachment requirements of Section 1607.8, complying *guards* shall also be located along glazed sides of open-sided walking surfaces.

**1013.3 Height.** Required *guards* shall not be less than 42 inches (1067 mm) high, measured vertically as follows:

1. From the adjacent walking surfaces;
2. On *stairs*, from the line connecting the leading edges of the tread *nosings*; and
3. On *ramps*, from the *ramp* surface at the *guard*.

**Exceptions:**

1. For occupancies in Group R-3 not more than three stories above grade in height and within individual dwelling units in occupancies in Group R-2 not more than three stories above grade in height with separate *means of egress*, required *guards* shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height measured vertically above the adjacent walking surfaces or adjacent *fixed seating*.
2. For occupancies in Group R-3, and within individual *dwelling units* in occupancies in Group R-2, *guards* on the open sides of *stairs* shall have a height not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
3. For occupancies in Group R-3, and within individual *dwelling units* in occupancies in Group R-2, where

the top of the *guard* also serves as a *handrail* on the open sides of *stairs*, the top of the *guard* shall not be less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.

4. The *guard* height in assembly seating areas shall comply with Section 1028.14.
5. Along *alternating tread devices* and ship ladders, *guards* whose top rail also serves as a *handrail*, shall have height not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 34 inches (864 mm), measured vertically from the leading edge of the device tread *nosings*.

**1013.4 Opening limitations.** Required *guards* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter from the walking surface to the required *guard* height.

**Exceptions:**

1. From a height of 36 inches (914 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm), *guards* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches (111 mm) in diameter.
2. The triangular openings at the open sides of a *stair*, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail shall not allow passage of a sphere 6 inches (152 mm) in diameter.
3. At elevated walking surfaces for access to and use of electrical, mechanical or plumbing systems or equipment, *guards* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.
4. In areas that are not open to the public within occupancies in Group I-3, F, H or S, and for *alternating tread devices* and ship ladders, *guards* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.
5. In assembly seating areas, *guards* at the end of *aisles* where they terminate at a fascia of boxes, balconies and galleries shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4 inches in diameter (102 mm) up to a height of 26 inches (660 mm). From a height of 26 inches (660 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent walking surfaces, *guards* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 8 inches (203 mm) in diameter.
6. Within individual *dwelling units* and *sleeping units* in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, *guards* on the open sides of *stairs* shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere  $4\frac{3}{8}$  (111 mm) inches in diameter.

**1013.5 Screen porches.** Porches and decks which are enclosed with insect screening shall be provided with *guards* where the walking surface is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below.

**1013.6 Mechanical equipment.** *Guards* shall be provided where appliances, equipment, fans, roof hatch openings or other components that require service are located within 10

feet (3048 mm) of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor, roof or grade below. The *guard* shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter. The *guard* shall extend not less than 30 inches (762 mm) beyond each end of such appliance, equipment, fan or component.

**1013.7 Roof access.** *Guards* shall be provided where the roof hatch opening is located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor, roof or grade below. The *guard* shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.

\*\* **1013.8 Window sills.** In Occupancy Groups R-2 and R-3, one- and two-family and multiple-family dwellings, where the opening of the sill portion of an operable window is located more than 72 inches (1829 mm) above the finished grade or other surface below, the lowest part of the clear opening of the window shall be at a height not less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor surface of the room in which the window is located. Operable sections of windows shall not permit openings that allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere where such openings are located within 36 inches (915 mm) of the finished floor.

**Exceptions:**

1. Operable windows where the sill portion of the opening is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the finished grade or other surface below and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.
2. Windows whose openings will not allow a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere to pass through the opening when the window is in its largest opened position.
3. Openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2090.
4. Windows that are provided with window opening control devices that comply with Section 1013.8.1.

**1013.8.1 Window opening control devices.** Window opening control devices shall comply with ASTM F 2090. The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by Section 1029.2.

**SECTION 1014  
EXIT ACCESS**

**1014.1 General.** The *exit access* shall comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 1003 through 1013. *Exit access* arrangement shall comply with Sections 1014 through 1019.

**1014.2 Egress through intervening spaces.** Egress through intervening spaces shall comply with this section.

1. Egress from a room or space shall not pass through adjoining or intervening rooms or areas, except where

such adjoining rooms or areas and the area served are accessory to one or the other, are not a Group H occupancy and provide a discernible path of egress travel to an *exit*.

**Exception:** *Means of egress* are not prohibited through adjoining or intervening rooms or spaces in a Group H, S or F occupancy when the adjoining or intervening rooms or spaces are the same or a lesser hazard occupancy group.

2. An *exit access* shall not pass through a room that can be locked to prevent egress.
3. *Means of egress* from dwelling units or sleeping areas shall not lead through other sleeping areas, toilet rooms or bathrooms.
4. Egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Means of egress* are not prohibited through a kitchen area serving adjoining rooms constituting part of the same *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit*.
2. *Means of egress* are not prohibited through stockrooms in Group M occupancies when all of the following are met:
  - 2.1. The stock is of the same hazard classification as that found in the main retail area;
  - 2.2. Not more than 50 percent of the *exit access* is through the stockroom;
  - 2.3. The stockroom is not subject to locking from the egress side; and
  - 2.4. There is a demarcated, minimum 44-inch-wide (1118 mm) *aisle* defined by full- or partial-height fixed walls or similar construction that will maintain the required width and lead directly from the retail area to the *exit* without obstructions.

**1014.2.1 Multiple tenants.** Where more than one tenant occupies any one floor of a building or structure, each tenant space, dwelling unit and sleeping unit shall be provided with access to the required *exits* without passing through adjacent tenant spaces, *dwelling units* and *sleeping units*.

**Exception:** The *means of egress* from a smaller tenant space shall not be prohibited from passing through a larger adjoining tenant space where such rooms or spaces of the smaller tenant occupy less than 10 percent of the area of the larger tenant space through which they pass; are the same or similar occupancy group; a discernible path of egress travel to an *exit* is provided; and the *means of egress* into the adjoining space is not subject to locking from the egress side. A required *means of egress* serving the larger tenant space shall not pass through the smaller tenant space or spaces. \*

**1014.3 Common path of egress travel.** The *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed the *common path of egress travel* distances in Table 1014.3.

**TABLE 1014.3  
COMMON PATH OF EGRESS TRAVEL**

OCCUPANCY	WITHOUT SPRINKLER SYSTEM (feet)		WITH SPRINKLER SYSTEM (feet)
	Occupant Load		
	≤ 30	> 30	
B, S <sup>d</sup>	100	75	100 <sup>a</sup>
U	100	75	75 <sup>a</sup>
F	75	75	100 <sup>a</sup>
H-1, H-2, H-3	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	25 <sup>a</sup>
R-2	75	75	125 <sup>b</sup>
R-3 <sup>e</sup>	75	75	125 <sup>b</sup>
I-3	100	100	100 <sup>a</sup>
All others <sup>c, f</sup>	75	75	75 <sup>a, b</sup>

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
- b. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2. See Section 903 for occupancies where *automatic sprinkler systems* are permitted in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2.
- c. For a room or space used for assembly purposes having *fixed seating*, see Section 1028.8.
- d. The length of a *common path of egress travel* in a Group S-2 *open parking garage* shall not be more than 100 feet (30 480 mm).
- e. The length of a *common path of egress travel* in a Group R-3 occupancy located in a mixed occupancy building.
- f. For the distance limitations in Group I-2, see Section 407.4.

**SECTION 1015  
EXIT AND EXIT ACCESS DOORWAYS**

**1015.1 Exits or exit access doorways from spaces.** Two *exits* or *exit access doorways* from any space shall be provided where one of the following conditions exists:

- 1. The *occupant load* of the space exceeds one of the values in Table 1015.1.

**Exceptions:**

- 1. In Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, one *means of egress* is permitted within and from individual dwelling units with a maximum *occupant load* of 20 where the dwelling unit is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
- 2. Care suites in Group I-2 occupancies complying with Section 407.4.3.
- 2. The *common path of egress travel* exceeds one of the limitations of Section 1014.3.
- 3. Where required by Section 1015.3, 1015.4, 1015.5, or 1015.6.

Where a building contains mixed occupancies, each individual occupancy shall comply with the applicable requirements for that occupancy. Where applicable, cumulative

*occupant loads* from adjacent occupancies shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of Section 1004.1.

**TABLE 1015.1  
SPACES WITH ONE EXIT OR EXIT ACCESS DOORWAY**

OCCUPANCY	MAXIMUM OCCUPANT LOAD
A, B, E, F, M, U	49
H-1, H-2, H-3	3
H-4, H-5, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, R	10
S	29

**1015.1.1 Three or more exits or exit access doorways.**

Three *exits* or *exit access doorways* shall be provided from any space with an *occupant load* of 501 to 1,000. Four *exits* or *exit access doorways* shall be provided from any space with an *occupant load* greater than 1,000.

**1015.2 Exit or exit access doorway arrangement.** Required *exits* shall be located in a manner that makes their availability obvious. *Exits* shall be unobstructed at all times. *Exit* and *exit access doorways* shall be arranged in accordance with Sections 1015.2.1 and 1015.2.2.

**1015.2.1 Two exits or exit access doorways.**

Where two *exits* or *exit access doorways* are required from any portion of the *exit access*, the *exit doors* or *exit access doorways* shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one-half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the building or area to be served measured in a straight line between *exit doors* or *exit access doorways*. Interlocking or *scissor stairs* shall be counted as one *exit stairway*.

**Exceptions:**

- 1. Where *interior exit stairways* are interconnected by a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated *corridor* conforming to the requirements of Section 1018, the required *exit separation* shall be measured along the shortest direct line of travel within the *corridor*.
- 2. Where a building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the separation distance of the *exit doors* or *exit access doorways* shall not be less than one-third of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the area served.

**1015.2.2 Three or more exits or exit access doorways.**

Where access to three or more *exits* is required, at least two *exit doors* or *exit access doorways* shall be arranged in accordance with the provisions of Section 1015.2.1.

**1015.3 Boiler, incinerator and furnace rooms.**

Two *exit access doorways* are required in boiler, incinerator and furnace rooms where the area is over 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>) and any fuel-fired equipment exceeds 400,000 British thermal units (Btu) (422 000 KJ) input capacity. Where two *exit access doorways* are required, one is permitted to be a fixed ladder or an *alternating tread device*. *Exit access doorways* shall be separated by a horizontal distance equal to one-half the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the room.

**1015.4 Refrigeration machinery rooms.** Machinery rooms larger than 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) shall have not less than two *exits* or *exit access doorways*. Where two *exit access doorways* are required, one such doorway is permitted to be served by a fixed ladder or an *alternating tread device*. *Exit access doorways* shall be separated by a horizontal distance equal to one-half the maximum horizontal dimension of room.

All portions of machinery rooms shall be within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of an *exit* or *exit access doorway*. An increase in travel distance is permitted in accordance with Section 1016.1.

Doors shall swing in the direction of egress travel, regardless of the *occupant load* served. Doors shall be tight fitting and self-closing.

**1015.5 Refrigerated rooms or spaces.** Rooms or spaces having a floor area larger than 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>), containing a refrigerant evaporator and maintained at a temperature below 68°F (20°C), shall have access to not less than two *exits* or *exit access doorways*.

Travel distance shall be determined as specified in Section 1016.1, but all portions of a refrigerated room or space shall be within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of an *exit* or *exit access doorway* where such rooms are not protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler* system. Egress is allowed through adjoining refrigerated rooms or spaces.

**Exception:** Where using refrigerants in quantities limited to the amounts based on the volume set forth in the *Mechanical Code*.

\* **1015.6 Day care means of egress.** Day care facilities, rooms or spaces where care is provided for more than 10 children that are 2½ years of age or less, shall have access to not less than two *exits* or *exit access doorways*.

**SECTION 1016  
EXIT ACCESS TRAVEL DISTANCE**

**1016.1 General.** Travel distance within the *exit access* portion of the *means of egress* system shall be in accordance with this section.

**1016.2 Limitations.** *Exit access* travel distance shall not exceed the values given in Table 1016.2.

**1016.2.1 Exterior egress balcony increase.** *Exit access* travel distances specified in Table 1016.2 shall be increased up to an additional 100 feet (30 480 mm) provided the last portion of the *exit access* leading to the *exit* occurs on an exterior egress balcony constructed in accordance with Section 1019. The length of such balcony shall not be less than the amount of the increase taken.

**1016.3 Measurement.** *Exit access* travel distance shall be measured from the most remote point within a story along the natural and unobstructed path of horizontal and vertical egress travel to the entrance to an *exit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. In *open parking garages*, *exit access* travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of an *exit access stairway* or the closest slope of an *exit access ramp*.

**TABLE 1016.2  
EXIT ACCESS TRAVEL DISTANCE<sup>a</sup>**

OCCUPANCY	WITHOUT SPRINKLER SYSTEM (feet)	WITH SPRINKLER SYSTEM (feet)
A, E, F-1, M, R, S-1	200	250 <sup>b</sup>
I-1	Not Permitted	250 <sup>b</sup>
B	200	300 <sup>c</sup>
F-2, S-2, U	300	400 <sup>c</sup>
H-1	Not Permitted	75 <sup>c</sup>
H-2	Not Permitted	100 <sup>c</sup>
H-3	Not Permitted	150 <sup>c</sup>
H-4	Not Permitted	175 <sup>c</sup>
H-5	Not Permitted	200 <sup>c</sup>
I-2, I-3, I-4	Not Permitted	200 <sup>c</sup>

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. See the following sections for modifications to *exit access* travel distance requirements:

- Section 402.8: For the distance limitation in *malls*.
- Section 404.9: For the distance limitation through an *atrium* space.
- Section 407.4: For the distance limitation in Group I-2.
- Sections 408.6.1 and 408.8.1: For the distance limitations in Group I-3.
- Section 411.4: For the distance limitation in special amusement buildings.
- Section 1015.4: For the distance limitation in refrigeration machinery rooms.
- Section 1015.5: For the distance limitation in refrigerated rooms and spaces.
- Section 1021.2: For buildings with one *exit*.
- Section 1028.7: For increased limitation in assembly seating.
- Section 1028.7: For increased limitation for assembly open-air seating.
- Section 3103.4: For temporary structures.
- Section 3104.9: For pedestrian walkways.

b. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2. See Section 903 for occupancies where *automatic sprinkler systems* are permitted in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2.

c. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

2. In outdoor facilities with open *exit access* components, *exit access* travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of an *exit access stairway* or the closest slope of an *exit access ramp*.

**1016.3.1 Exit access stairways and ramps.** Travel distance on *exit access stairways* or *ramps* shall be included in the *exit access* travel distance measurement. The measurement along *stairways* shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the *stair* tread *nosings* in the center of the *stair* and landings. The measurement along *ramps* shall be made on the walking surface in the center of the *ramp* and landings.

**SECTION 1017  
AISLES**

**1017.1 General.** *Aisles* and *aisle accessways* serving as a portion of the *exit access* in the *means of egress* system shall comply with the requirements of this section. *Aisles* or *aisle accessways* shall be provided from all occupied portions of

the *exit access* which contain seats, tables, furnishings, displays and similar fixtures or equipment. The required width of *aisles* shall be unobstructed.

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7.

**1017.2 Aisles in assembly spaces.** *Aisles and aisle accessways* serving a room or space used for assembly purposes shall comply with Section 1028.

**1017.3 Aisles in Groups B and M.** In Group B and M occupancies, the minimum clear *aisle* width shall be determined by Section 1005.1 for the *occupant load* served, but shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm).

**Exception:** Nonpublic *aisles* serving less than 50 people and not required to be *accessible* by Chapter 11 need not exceed 28 inches (711 mm) in width.

**1017.4 Aisle accessways in Group M.** An *aisle accessway* shall be provided on at least one side of each element within the *merchandise pad*. The minimum clear width for an *aisle accessway* not required to be *accessible* shall be 30 inches (762 mm). The required clear width of the *aisle accessway* shall be measured perpendicular to the elements and merchandise within the *merchandise pad*. The 30-inch (762 mm) minimum clear width shall be maintained to provide a path to an adjacent *aisle* or *aisle accessway*. The *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) from any point in the *merchandise pad*.

**Exception:** For areas serving not more than 50 occupants, the *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed 75 feet (22 860 mm).

\* **1017.5 Aisles in other than assembly spaces and Groups B and M.** In other than rooms or spaces used for assembly purposes and Group B and M occupancies, the minimum clear *aisle* width shall be determined by Section 1005.1 for the *occupant load* served, but shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm).

**SECTION 1018  
CORRIDORS**

**1018.1 Construction.** *Corridors* shall be fire-resistance rated in accordance with Table 1018.1. The *corridor* walls required to be fire-resistance rated shall comply with Section 708 for *fire partitions*.

**Exceptions:**

1. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in an occupancy in Group E where each room that is used for instruction has at least one door opening directly to the exterior and rooms for assembly purposes have at least one-half of the required *means of egress* doors opening directly to the exterior. Exterior doors specified in this exception are required to be at ground level.
2. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* contained within a dwelling or sleeping unit in an occupancy in Group I-1 and Group R.
3. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in *open parking garages*.

4. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in an occupancy in Group B which is a space requiring only a single *means of egress* complying with Section 1015.1.

5. *Corridors* adjacent to the *exterior walls* of buildings shall be permitted to have unprotected openings on unrated *exterior walls* where unrated walls are permitted by Table 602 and unprotected openings are permitted by Table 705.8.

**TABLE 1018.1  
CORRIDOR FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING**

OCCUPANCY	OCCUPANT LOAD SERVED BY CORRIDOR	REQUIRED FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)	
		Without sprinkler system	With sprinkler system <sup>c</sup>
H-1, H-2, H-3	All	Not Permitted	1
H-4, H-5	Greater than 30	Not Permitted	1
A, B, E, F, M, S, U	Greater than 30	1	0
R	Greater than 10	Not Permitted	0.5
I-2 <sup>a</sup> , I-4	All	Not Permitted	0
I-1, I-3	All	Not Permitted	1 <sup>b</sup>

a. For requirements for occupancies in Group I-2, see Sections 407.2 and 407.3.

b. For a reduction in the *fire-resistance rating* for occupancies in Group I-3, see Section 408.8.

c. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 where allowed.

**1018.2 Width.** The minimum width of *corridors* specified in Table 1018.2 shall be as determined in Section 1005.1.

**TABLE 1018.2  
MINIMUM CORRIDOR WIDTH**

OCCUPANCY	WIDTH (minimum)
Any facilities not listed below	44 inches
Access to and utilization of mechanical, plumbing or electrical systems or equipment	24 inches
With a required occupancy capacity less than 50	36 inches
Within a dwelling unit	36 inches
In Group E with a corridor having a required capacity of 100 or more	72 inches
In corridors and areas serving gurney traffic in occupancies where patients receive out-patient medical care, which causes the patient to be incapable of self-preservation	72 inches
Group I-2 in areas where required for bed movement	96 inches

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**1018.3 Obstruction.** The required width of *corridors* shall be unobstructed.

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7.

**1018.4 Dead ends.** Where more than one *exit* or *exit access doorway* is required, the *exit access* shall be arranged such

that there are no dead ends in *corridors* more than 20 feet (6096 mm) in length.

**Exceptions:**

1. In occupancies in Group I-3 of Occupancy Condition 2, 3 or 4 (see Section 308.5), the dead end in a *corridor* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
2. In occupancies in Groups B, E, F, I-1, M, R-1, R-2, R-4, S and U, where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the length of the dead-end *corridors* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
3. A dead-end *corridor* shall not be limited in length where the length of the dead-end *corridor* is less than 2.5 times the least width of the dead-end *corridor*.

**1018.5 Air movement in corridors.** *Corridors* shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

**Exceptions:**

1. Use of a *corridor* as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such *corridors*, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted, provided that each such *corridor* is directly supplied with outdoor air at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the *corridor*.
2. Where located within a dwelling unit, the use of *corridors* for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, utilization of *corridors* for conveying return air is permitted.
4. Incidental air movement from pressurized rooms within health care facilities, provided that the *corridor* is not the primary source of supply or return to the room.

**1018.5.1 Corridor ceiling.** Use of the space between the *corridor* ceiling and the floor or roof structure above as a return air plenum is permitted for one or more of the following conditions:

1. The *corridor* is not required to be of fire-resistance-rated construction;
2. The *corridor* is separated from the plenum by fire-resistance-rated construction;
3. The air-handling system serving the *corridor* is shut down upon activation of the air-handling unit *smoke detectors* required by the *Mechanical Code*;
4. The air-handling system serving the *corridor* is shut down upon detection of sprinkler waterflow where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system*; or
5. The space between the *corridor* ceiling and the floor or roof structure above the *corridor* is used as a

component of an *approved* engineered smoke control system.

**1018.6 Corridor continuity.** Fire-resistance-rated *corridors* shall be continuous from the point of entry to an *exit*, and shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. Where the path of egress travel within a fire-resistance-rated *corridor* to the *exit* includes travel along unenclosed *exit access stairways* or *ramps*, the *fire resistance-rating* shall be continuous for the length of the *stairway* or *ramp* and for the length of the connecting *corridor* on the adjacent floor leading to the *exit*.

**Exception:** Foyers, lobbies or reception rooms constructed as required for *corridors* shall not be construed as intervening rooms.

## SECTION 1019 EGRESS BALCONIES

**1019.1 General.** Balconies used for egress purposes shall conform to the same requirements as *corridors* for width, headroom, dead ends and projections.

**1019.2 Wall separation.** Exterior egress balconies shall be separated from the interior of the building by walls and opening protectives as required for *corridors*.

**Exception:** Separation is not required where the exterior egress balcony is served by at least two *stairs* and a dead-end travel condition does not require travel past an unprotected opening to reach a *stair*.

**1019.3 Openness.** The long side of an egress balcony shall be at least 50 percent open, and the open area above the guards shall be so distributed as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

**1019.4 Location.** Exterior egress balconies shall have a minimum fire separation distance of 10 feet (3048 mm) measured from the exterior edge of the egress balcony to adjacent lot lines and from other buildings on the same lot unless the adjacent building exterior walls and openings are protected in accordance with Section 705 based on fire separation distance.

## SECTION 1020 EXITS

**1020.1 General.** *Exits* shall comply with Sections 1020 through 1026 and the applicable requirements of Sections 1003 through 1013. An *exit* shall not be used for any purpose that interferes with its function as a *means of egress*. Once a given level of exit protection is achieved, such level of protection shall not be reduced until arrival at the *exit discharge*.

**1020.2 Exterior exit doors.** Buildings or structures used for human occupancy shall have at least one exterior door that meets the requirements of Section 1008.1.1.

**1020.2.1 Detailed requirements.** Exterior *exit* doors shall comply with the applicable requirements of Section 1008.1.

**1020.2.2 Arrangement.** Exterior *exit* doors shall lead directly to the *exit discharge* or the *public way*.

## SECTION 1021 NUMBER OF EXITS AND EXIT CONFIGURATION

**1021.1 General.** Each story and occupied roof shall have the minimum number of *exits*, or access to exits, as specified in this section. The required number of *exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to exits, from any story shall be maintained until arrival at grade or a *public way*. *Exits* or access to exits from any story shall be configured in accordance with this section. Each story above the second story of a building shall have a minimum of one interior or exterior *exit stairway*, or interior or exterior *exit ramp*. At each story above the second story that requires a minimum of three or more *exits*, or access to *exits*, a minimum of 50 percent of the required *exits* shall be interior or exterior *exit stairways*, or interior or exterior *exit ramps*.

### Exceptions:

1. *Interior exit stairways* and *interior exit ramps* are not required in *open parking garages* where the *means of egress* serves only the *open parking garage*.
2. *Interior exit stairways* and *interior exit ramps* are not required in outdoor facilities where all portions of the *means of egress* are essentially open to the outside.

**1021.2 Exits from stories.** Two *exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to *exits*, from any story or occupied roof shall be provided where one of the following conditions exists:

1. The *occupant load* or number of *dwelling units* exceeds one of the values in Table 1021.2(1) or 1021.2(2).
2. The *exit access* travel distance exceeds that specified in Table 1021.2(1) or 1021.2(2) as determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 1016.1.
3. *Helistop* landing areas located on buildings or structures shall be provided with two *exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to exits.

### Exceptions:

1. Rooms, areas and spaces complying with Section 1015.1 with *exits* that discharge directly to the exterior at the *level of exit discharge*, are permitted to have one *exit*.
2. Group R-3 occupancy buildings shall be permitted to have one *exit*.
3. Parking garages where vehicles are mechanically parked shall be permitted to have one *exit*.
4. Air traffic control towers shall be provided with the minimum number of *exits* specified in Section 412.3.
5. Individual *dwelling units* in compliance with Section 1021.2.3.
6. Group R-3 and R-4 congregate residences shall be permitted to have one *exit*.
7. *Exits* serving specific spaces or areas need not be accessed by the remainder of the story when all of the following are met:

7.1. The number of *exits* from the entire story complies with Section 1021.2.4;

7.2. The access to *exits* from each individual space in the story complies with Section 1015.1; and

7.3. All spaces within each portion of a story shall have access to the minimum number of *approved* independent *exits* based on the *occupant load* of that portion of the story, but not less than two exits.

8. Occupancies shall be permitted to have a single exit when otherwise required to have more than one exit if the area served by the single exit does not exceed the limitations of Table 1021.2(1) or 1021.2(2).

**1021.2.1 Mixed occupancies.** Where one *exit*, or *exit access stairway* or *ramp* providing access to *exits* at other stories, is permitted to serve individual stories, mixed occupancies shall be permitted to be served by single *exits* provided each individual occupancy complies with the applicable requirements of Table 1021.2(1) or Table 1021.2(2) for that occupancy. Where applicable, cumulative *occupant loads* from adjacent occupancies shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of Section 1004.1.

In each story of a mixed occupancy building, the maximum number of occupants served by a single *exit* shall be such that the sum of the ratios of the calculated number of occupants of the space divided by the allowable number of occupants for each occupancy does not exceed one.

**1021.2.2 Basements.** A basement provided with one *exit* shall not be located more than one story below *grade plane*.

**1021.2.3 Single-story or multiple-story dwelling units.** Individual single-story or multiple-story *dwelling units* shall be permitted to have a single *exit* within and from the *dwelling unit* provided that all of the following criteria are met:

1. The *dwelling unit* complies with Section 1015.1 as a space with one *means of egress* and
2. Either the *exit* from the *dwelling unit* discharges directly to the exterior at the *level of exit discharge*, or the *exit access* outside the *dwelling unit's* entrance door provides access to not less than two *approved* independent *exits*.

**1021.2.4 Three or more exits.** Three *exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to *exits* at other stories, shall be provided from any story or occupied roof with an *occupant load* from 501 to and including 1,000. Four *exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to *exits* at other stories, shall be provided from any story or occupied roof with an *occupant load* greater than 1,000.

**1021.2.5 Additional exits.** In buildings over 420 feet (128 m) in height, additional *exits* shall be provided in accordance with Section 403.5.2.

**1021.3 Exit configuration.** *Exits*, or *exit access stairways* or *ramps* providing access to *exits* at other stories, shall be arranged in accordance with the provisions of Sections

1015.2 through 1015.2.2. Exits shall be continuous from the point of entry into the exit to the exit discharge.

**1021.3.1 Access to exits at adjacent levels.** Access to exits at other levels shall be by stairways or ramps. Where access to exits occurs from adjacent building levels, the horizontal and vertical exit access travel distance to the closest exit shall not exceed that specified in Section 1016.1. Access to exits at other levels shall be from an adjacent story.

**Exception:** Landing platforms or roof areas for heli-stops that are less than 60 feet (18 288 mm) long, or less than 2,000 square feet (186 m<sup>2</sup>) in area, shall be permitted to access the second exit by a fire escape, alternating tread device or ladder leading to the story or level below.

**1021.4 Vehicular ramps.** Vehicular ramps shall not be considered as an exit access ramp unless pedestrian facilities are provided.

exterior of the building or shall be extended to the exterior of the building with an exit passageway conforming to the requirements of Section 1023, except as permitted in Section 1027.1. An interior exit stairway or ramp shall not be used for any purpose other than as a means of egress.

**1022.2 Construction.** Enclosures for interior exit stairways and ramps shall be constructed as fire barriers in accordance with Section 707 or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. Interior exit stairway and ramp enclosures shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours where connecting four stories or more and not less than 1 hour where connecting less than four stories. The number of stories connected by the interior exit stairways or ramps shall include any basements, but not any mezzanines. Interior exit stairways and ramps shall have a fire-resistance rating not less than the floor assembly penetrated, but need not exceed 2 hours.

**Exception:** Interior exit stairways and ramps in Group I-3 occupancies in accordance with the provisions of Section 408.3.8.

**1022.3 Termination.** Interior exit stairways and ramps shall terminate at an exit discharge or a public way.

**Exception:** Interior exit stairways and ramps shall be permitted to terminate at an exit passageway complying with Section 1023, provided the exit passageway terminates at an exit discharge or a public way.

**SECTION 1022  
INTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAYS AND RAMPS**

**1022.1 General.** Interior exit stairways and interior exit ramps serving as an exit component in a means of egress system shall comply with the requirements of this section. Interior exit stairways and ramps shall lead directly to the

**TABLE 1021.2(1)  
STORIES WITH ONE EXIT OR ACCESS TO ONE EXIT FOR R-2 OCCUPANCIES**

STORY	OCCUPANCY	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS	MAXIMUM EXIT ACCESS TRAVEL DISTANCE
Basement, first, second or third story	R-2 <sup>a, b</sup>	4 dwelling units	125 feet
Fourth story and above	NP	NA	NA

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

NP – Not Permitted

NA – Not Applicable

- a. Buildings classified as Group R-2 equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and provided with emergency escape and rescue openings in accordance with Section 1029.
- b. This table is used for R-2 occupancies consisting of dwelling units. For R-2 occupancies consisting of sleeping units, use Table 1021.2(2).

**TABLE 1021.2(2)  
STORIES WITH ONE EXIT OR ACCESS TO ONE EXIT FOR OTHER OCCUPANCIES**

STORY	OCCUPANCY	MAXIMUM OCCUPANTS PER STORY	MAXIMUM EXIT ACCESS TRAVEL DISTANCE
First story or basement	A, B <sup>b</sup> , E, F <sup>b</sup> , M, U, S <sup>b</sup>	49 occupants	75 feet
	H-2, H-3	3 occupants	25 feet
	H-4, H-5, I, R-1, R-2 <sup>a, c</sup> , R-4	10 occupants	75 feet
	S	29 occupants	100 feet
Second story	B, F, M, S	29 occupants	75 feet
Third story and above	NP	NA	NA

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

NP – Not Permitted

NA – Not Applicable

- a. Buildings classified as Group R-2 equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and provided with emergency escape and rescue openings in accordance with Section 1029.
- b. Group B, F and S occupancies in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 shall have a maximum travel distance of 100 feet.
- c. This table is used for R-2 occupancies consisting of sleeping units. For R-2 occupancies consisting of dwelling units, use Table 1021.2(1).

**1022.3.1 Extension.** Where *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* are extended to an *exit discharge* or a *public way* by an *exit passageway*, the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* shall be separated from the *exit passageway* by a *fire barrier* constructed in accordance with Section 707 or a *horizontal assembly* constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. The *fire-resistance rating* shall be at least equal to that required for the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp*. A *fire door* assembly complying with Section 716.5 shall be installed in the *fire barrier* to provide a *means of egress* from the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* to the *exit passageway*. Openings in the *fire barrier* other than the *fire door* assembly are prohibited. Penetrations of the *fire barrier* are prohibited.

**Exception:** Penetrations of the *fire barrier* in accordance with Section 1022.5 shall be permitted.

**1022.4 Openings.** *Interior exit stairway* and *ramp* opening protectives shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 716.

Openings in *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* other than unprotected exterior openings shall be limited to those necessary for *exit access* to the enclosure from normally occupied spaces and for egress from the enclosure.

Elevators shall not open into *interior exit stairways* and *ramps*.

**1022.5 Penetrations.** Penetrations into and openings through *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* are prohibited except for required *exit doors*, equipment and ductwork necessary for independent ventilation or pressurization, sprinkler piping, standpipes, electrical raceway for fire department communication systems and electrical raceway serving the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* and terminating at a steel box not exceeding 16 square inches (0.010 m<sup>2</sup>). Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 714. There shall be no penetrations or communicating openings, whether protected or not, between adjacent *interior exit stairways* and *ramps*.

**Exception:** Membrane penetrations shall be permitted on the outside of the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp*. Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 714.3.2.

**1022.6 Ventilation.** Equipment and ductwork for *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* ventilation as permitted by Section 1022.5 shall comply with one of the following items:

1. Such equipment and ductwork shall be located exterior to the building and shall be directly connected to the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* by ductwork enclosed in construction as required for shafts.
2. Where such equipment and ductwork is located within the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp*, the intake air shall be taken directly from the outdoors and the exhaust air shall be discharged directly to the outdoors, or such air shall be conveyed through ducts enclosed in construction as required for shafts.
3. Where located within the building, such equipment and ductwork shall be separated from the remainder of the building, including other mechanical equipment, with construction as required for shafts.

In each case, openings into the fire-resistance-rated construction shall be limited to those needed for maintenance and operation and shall be protected by opening protectives in accordance with Section 716 for shaft enclosures.

The *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* ventilation systems shall be independent of other building ventilation systems.

**1022.7 Interior exit stairway and ramp exterior walls.** *Exterior walls* of the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* shall comply with the requirements of Section 705 for exterior walls. Where nonrated walls or unprotected openings enclose the exterior of the *stairway* and the walls or openings are exposed by other parts of the building at an angle of less than 180 degrees (3.14 rad), the building *exterior walls* within 10 feet (3048 mm) horizontally of a nonrated wall or unprotected opening shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour. Openings within such *exterior walls* shall be protected by opening protectives having a *fire protection rating* of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour. This construction shall extend vertically from the ground to a point 10 feet (3048 mm) above the topmost landing of the *stairway* or to the roof line, whichever is lower.

**1022.8 Discharge identification.** An *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* shall not continue below its *level of exit discharge* unless an *approved barrier* is provided at the *level of exit discharge* to prevent persons from unintentionally continuing into levels below. Directional exit signs shall be provided as specified in Section 1011.

**1022.9 Stairway identification signs.** A sign shall be provided at each floor landing in an *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* connecting more than three stories designating the floor level, the terminus of the top and bottom of the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* and the identification of the *stair* or *ramp*. The signage shall also state the story of, and the direction to, the *exit discharge* and the availability of roof access from the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* for the fire department. The sign shall be located 5 feet (1524 mm) above the floor landing in a position that is readily visible when the doors are in the open and closed positions. In addition to the *stairway* identification sign, a floor-level sign in raised characters and Braille complying with ICC A117.1 shall be located at each floor-level landing adjacent to the door leading from the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* into the *corridor* to identify the floor level.

**1022.9.1 Signage requirements.** *Stairway* identification signs shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. The signs shall be a minimum size of 18 inches (457 mm) by 12 inches (305 mm).
2. The letters designating the identification of the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* shall be a minimum of 1½ inches (38 mm) in height.
3. The number designating the floor level shall be a minimum of 5 inches (127 mm) in height and located in the center of the sign.
4. All other lettering and numbers shall be a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) in height.
5. Characters and their background shall have a non-glare finish. Characters shall contrast with their back-

ground, with either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background.

- When signs required by Section 1022.9 are installed in the *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* of buildings subject to Section 1024, the signs shall be made of the same materials as required by Section 1024.4.

**1022.10 Smokeproof enclosures and pressurized stairways and ramps.** Where required by Section 403.5.4 or 405.7.2, *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* shall be smokeproof enclosures or pressurized *stairways* or *ramps* in accordance with Section 909.20.

**1022.10.1 Termination and extension.** A *smokeproof enclosure* or pressurized *stairway* shall terminate at an *exit discharge* or a *public way*. The *smokeproof enclosure* or pressurized *stairway* shall be permitted to be extended by an *exit passageway* in accordance with Section 1022.3. The *exit passageway* shall be without openings other than the *fire door* assembly required by Section 1022.3.1 and those necessary for egress from the *exit passageway*. The *exit passageway* shall be separated from the remainder of the building by 2-hour *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with Section 707 or *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both.

**Exceptions:**

- Openings in the *exit passageway* serving a *smokeproof enclosure* are permitted where the *exit passageway* is protected and pressurized in the same manner as the *smokeproof enclosure*, and openings are protected as required for access from other floors.
- Openings in the *exit passageway* serving a pressurized *stairway* are permitted where the *exit passageway* is protected and pressurized in the same manner as the pressurized *stairway*.
- The *fire barrier* separating the smokeproof enclosure or pressurized *stairway* from the *exit passageway* is not required, provided the *exit passageway* is protected and pressurized in the same manner as the *smokeproof enclosure* or pressurized *stairway*.
- A *smokeproof enclosure* or pressurized *stairway* shall be permitted to egress through areas on the *level of exit discharge* or vestibules as permitted by Section 1027.

**1022.10.2 Enclosure access.** Access to the *stairway* within a *smokeproof enclosure* shall be by way of a vestibule or an open exterior balcony.

**Exception:** Access is not required by way of a vestibule or exterior balcony for *stairways* using the pressurization alternative complying with Section 909.20.5.

### SECTION 1023 EXIT PASSAGEWAYS

**1023.1 Exit passageway.** *Exit passageways* serving as an *exit* component in a *means of egress* system shall comply with the

requirements of this section. An *exit passageway* shall not be used for any purpose other than as a *means of egress*.

**1023.2 Width.** The minimum width of *exit passageways* shall be determined as specified in Section 1005.1 but such width shall not be less than 44 inches (1118 mm), except that *exit passageways* serving an *occupant load* of less than 50 shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width. The required width of *exit passageways* shall be unobstructed.

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7.

**1023.3 Construction.** *Exit passageway* enclosures shall have walls, floors and ceilings of not less than a 1-hour *fire-resistance rating*, and not less than that required for any connecting *interior exit stairway* or *ramp*. *Exit passageways* shall be constructed as *fire barriers* in accordance with Section 707 or *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both.

**1023.4 Termination.** *Exit passageways* on the *level of exit discharge* shall terminate at an *exit discharge*. *Exit passageways* on other levels shall terminate at an *exit*.

**1023.5 Openings and penetrations.** *Exit passageway* opening protectives shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 716.

Except as permitted in Section 402.8.7, openings in *exit passageways* other than exterior openings shall be limited to those necessary for exit access to the *exit passageway* from normally occupied spaces and for egress from the *exit passageway*.

Where an *interior exit stairway* or *ramp* is extended to an *exit discharge* or a *public way* by an *exit passageway*, the *exit passageway* shall also comply with Section 1022.3.1.

Elevators shall not open into an *exit passageway*.

**1023.6 Penetrations.** Penetrations into and openings through an *exit passageway* are prohibited except for required *exit* doors, equipment and ductwork necessary for independent pressurization, sprinkler piping, standpipes, electrical raceway for fire department communication and electrical raceway serving the *exit passageway* and terminating at a steel box not exceeding 16 square inches (0.010m<sup>2</sup>). Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 714. There shall be no penetrations or communicating openings, whether protected or not, between adjacent *exit passageways*.

**Exception:** Membrane penetrations shall be permitted on the outside of the *exit passageway*. Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 714.3.2.

### SECTION 1024 LUMINOUS EGRESS PATH MARKINGS

**1024.1 General.** *Approved* luminous egress path markings delineating the exit path shall be provided in high-rise buildings of Group A, B, E, I, M, and R-1 occupancies in accordance with Sections 1024.1 through 1024.5.

**Exception:** Luminous egress path markings shall not be required on the *level of exit discharge* in lobbies that serve as part of the exit path in accordance with Section 1027.1, Exception 1.

**1024.2 Markings within exit components.** Egress path markings shall be provided in *interior exit stairways*, *interior exit ramps* and *exit passageways*, in accordance with Sections 1024.2.1 through 1024.2.6.

**1024.2.1 Steps.** A solid and continuous stripe shall be applied to the horizontal leading edge of each step and shall extend for the full length of the step. Outlining stripes shall have a minimum horizontal width of 1 inch (25 mm) and a maximum width of 2 inches (51 mm). The leading edge of the stripe shall be placed at a maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (13 mm) from the leading edge of the step and the stripe shall not overlap the leading edge of the step by not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (13 mm) down the vertical face of the step.

**Exception:** The minimum width of 1 inch (25 mm) shall not apply to outlining stripes listed in accordance with UL 1994.

**1024.2.2 Landings.** The leading edge of landings shall be marked with a stripe consistent with the dimensional requirements for steps.

**1024.2.3 Handrails.** All *handrails* and handrail extensions shall be marked with a solid and continuous stripe having a minimum width of 1 inch (25 mm). The stripe shall be placed on the top surface of the *handrail* for the entire length of the *handrail*, including extensions and newel post caps. Where *handrails* or handrail extensions bend or turn corners, the stripe shall not have a gap of more than 4 inches (102 mm).

**Exception:** The minimum width of 1 inch (25 mm) shall not apply to outlining stripes listed in accordance with UL 1994.

**1024.2.4 Perimeter demarcation lines.** Stair landings and other floor areas within *interior exit stairways*, *interior exit ramps* and *exit passageways*, with the exception of the sides of steps, shall be provided with solid and continuous demarcation lines on the floor or on the walls or a combination of both. The stripes shall be 1 to 2 inches (25 mm to 51 mm) wide with interruptions not exceeding 4 inches (102 mm).

**Exception:** The minimum width of 1 inch (25 mm) shall not apply to outlining stripes listed in accordance with UL 1994.

**1024.2.4.1 Floor mounted demarcation lines.** Perimeter demarcation lines shall be placed within 4 inches (102 mm) of the wall and shall extend to within 2 inches (51 mm) of the markings on the leading edge of landings. The demarcation lines shall continue across the floor in front of all doors.

**Exception:** Demarcation lines shall not extend in front of *exit discharge* doors that lead out of an *exit* and through which occupants must travel to complete the exit path.

**1024.2.4.2 Wall mounted demarcation lines.** Perimeter demarcation lines shall be placed on the wall with the bottom edge of the stripe no more than 4 inches (102 mm) above the finished floor. At the top or bottom

of the *stairs*, demarcation lines shall drop vertically to the floor within 2 inches (51 mm) of the step or landing edge. Demarcation lines on walls shall transition vertically to the floor and then extend across the floor where a line on the floor is the only practical method of outlining the path. Where the wall line is broken by a door, demarcation lines on walls shall continue across the face of the door or transition to the floor and extend across the floor in front of such door.

**Exception:** Demarcation lines shall not extend in front of *exit discharge* doors that lead out of an *exit* and through which occupants must travel to complete the exit path.

**1024.2.4.3 Transition.** Where a wall mounted demarcation line transitions to a floor mounted demarcation line, or vice-versa, the wall mounted demarcation line shall drop vertically to the floor to meet a complimentary extension of the floor mounted demarcation line, thus forming a continuous marking.

**1024.2.5 Obstacles.** Obstacles at or below 6 feet 6 inches (1981 mm) in height and projecting more than 4 inches (102 mm) into the egress path shall be outlined with markings no less than 1 inch (25 mm) in width comprised of a pattern of alternating equal bands, of luminescent luminous material and black, with the alternating bands no more than 2 inches (51 mm) thick and angled at 45 degrees. Obstacles shall include, but are not limited to, standpipes, hose cabinets, wall projections, and restricted height areas. However, such markings shall not conceal any required information or indicators including but not limited to instructions to occupants for the use of standpipes.

**1024.2.6 Doors within the exit path.** Doors through which occupants must pass in order to complete the exit path shall be provided with markings complying with Sections 1024.2.6.1 through 1024.2.6.3.

**1024.2.6.1 Emergency exit symbol.** The doors shall be identified by a low-location luminous emergency exit symbol complying with NFPA 170. The exit symbol shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) in height and shall be mounted on the door, centered horizontally, with the top of the symbol no higher than 18 inches (457 mm) above the finished floor.

**1024.2.6.2 Door hardware markings.** Door hardware shall be marked with no less than 16 square inches (406 mm<sup>2</sup>) of luminous material. This marking shall be located behind, immediately adjacent to, or on the door handle or escutcheon. Where a panic bar is installed, such material shall be no less than 1 inch (25 mm) wide for the entire length of the actuating bar or touchpad.

**1024.2.6.3 Door frame markings.** The top and sides of the door frame shall be marked with a solid and continuous 1-inch- to 2-inch-wide (25 mm to 51 mm) stripe. Where the door molding does not provide sufficient flat surface on which to locate the stripe, the stripe shall be permitted to be located on the wall surrounding the frame.

**1024.3 Uniformity.** Placement and dimensions of markings shall be consistent and uniform throughout the same enclosure.

**1024.4 Self-luminous and photoluminescent.** Luminous egress path markings shall be permitted to be made of any material, including paint, provided that an electrical charge is not required to maintain the required luminance. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, *self-luminous* materials and *photoluminescent* materials. Materials shall comply with either:

1. UL 1994; or
2. ASTM E 2072, except that the charging source shall be 1 footcandle (11 lux) of fluorescent illumination for 60 minutes, and the minimum luminance shall be 30 milicandelas per square meter at 10 minutes and 5 milicandelas per square meter after 90 minutes.

**1024.5 Illumination.** Where *photoluminescent* exit path markings are installed, they shall be provided with the minimum *means of egress* illumination required by Section 1006 for at least 60 minutes prior to periods when the building is occupied.

## SECTION 1025 HORIZONTAL EXITS

**1025.1 Horizontal exits.** *Horizontal exits* serving as an *exit* in a *means of egress* system shall comply with the requirements of this section. A *horizontal exit* shall not serve as the only *exit* from a portion of a building, and where two or more *exits* are required, not more than one-half of the total number of *exits* or total *exit* width shall be *horizontal exits*.

### Exceptions:

1. *Horizontal exits* are permitted to comprise two-thirds of the required *exits* from any building or floor area for occupancies in Group I-2.
2. *Horizontal exits* are permitted to comprise 100 percent of the *exits* required for occupancies in Group I-3. At least 6 square feet (0.6 m<sup>2</sup>) of accessible space per occupant shall be provided on each side of the *horizontal exit* for the total number of people in adjoining compartments.

**1025.2 Separation.** The separation between buildings or refuge areas connected by a *horizontal exit* shall be provided by a *fire wall* complying with Section 706; or it shall be provided by a *fire barrier* complying with Section 707 or a *horizontal assembly* complying with Section 711, or both. The minimum *fire-resistance rating* of the separation shall be 2 hours. Opening protectives in *horizontal exits* shall also comply with Section 716. Duct and air transfer openings in a *fire wall* or *fire barrier* that serves as a *horizontal exit* shall also comply with Section 717. The *horizontal exit* separation shall extend vertically through all levels of the building unless floor assemblies have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 2 hours with no unprotected openings.

**Exception:** A *fire-resistance rating* is not required at *horizontal exits* between a building area and an above-grade *pedestrian walkway* constructed in accordance with Sec-

tion 3104, provided that the distance between connected buildings is more than 20 feet (6096 mm).

*Horizontal exits* constructed as *fire barriers* shall be continuous from *exterior wall* to *exterior wall* so as to divide completely the floor served by the *horizontal exit*.

**1025.3 Opening protectives.** *Fire doors* in *horizontal exits* shall be self-closing or automatic-closing when activated by a *smoke detector* in accordance with Section 716.5.9.3. Doors, where located in a cross-corridor condition, shall be automatic-closing by activation of a *smoke detector* installed in accordance with Section 716.5.9.3.

**1025.4 Capacity of refuge area.** The refuge area of a *horizontal exit* shall be a space occupied by the same tenant or a public area and each such refuge area shall be adequate to accommodate the original *occupant load* of the refuge area plus the *occupant load* anticipated from the adjoining compartment. The anticipated *occupant load* from the adjoining compartment shall be based on the capacity of the *horizontal exit* doors entering the refuge area. The capacity of the refuge area shall be computed based on a *net floor area* allowance of 3 square feet (0.2787 m<sup>2</sup>) for each occupant to be accommodated therein.

**Exception:** The *net floor area* allowable per occupant shall be as follows for the indicated occupancies:

1. Six square feet (0.6 m<sup>2</sup>) per occupant for occupancies in Group I-3.
2. Fifteen square feet (1.4 m<sup>2</sup>) per occupant for ambulatory occupancies in Group I-2.
3. Thirty square feet (2.8 m<sup>2</sup>) per occupant for nonambulatory occupancies in Group I-2.

The refuge area into which a *horizontal exit* leads shall be provided with *exits* adequate to meet the occupant requirements of this chapter, but not including the added *occupant load* imposed by persons entering it through *horizontal exits* from other areas. At least one refuge area exit shall lead directly to the exterior or to an *interior exit stairway* or *ramp*.

**Exception:** The adjoining compartment shall not be required to have a *stairway* or door leading directly outside, provided the refuge area into which a *horizontal exit* leads has *stairways* or doors leading directly outside and are so arranged that egress shall not require the occupants to return through the compartment from which egress originates.

## SECTION 1026 EXTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAYS AND RAMPS

**1026.1 Exterior exit stairways and ramps.** *Exterior exit stairways* and *ramps* serving as an element of a required *means of egress* shall comply with this section.

**1026.2 Use in a means of egress.** *Exterior exit stairways* shall not be used as an element of a required *means of egress* for Group I-2 occupancies. For occupancies in other than Group I-2, *exterior exit stairways* and *ramps* shall be permitted as an element of a required *means of egress* for buildings not exceeding six stories above *grade plane* or which are not high-rise buildings.

## MEANS OF EGRESS

**1026.3 Open side.** *Exterior exit stairways and ramps* serving as an element of a required *means of egress* shall be open on at least one side. An open side shall have a minimum of 35 square feet (3.3 m<sup>2</sup>) of aggregate open area adjacent to each floor level and the level of each intermediate landing. The required open area shall be located not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent floor or landing level.

**1026.4 Side yards.** The open areas adjoining *exterior exit stairways or ramps* shall be either *yards, courts or public ways*; the remaining sides are permitted to be enclosed by the *exterior walls* of the building.

**1026.5 Location.** *Exterior exit stairways and ramps* shall have a minimum fire separation distance of 10 feet (3048 mm) measured from the exterior edge of the *stairway or ramp*, including landings, to adjacent lot lines and from other buildings on the same lot unless the adjacent building *exterior walls* and openings are protected in accordance with Section 705 based on *fire separation distance*.

**1026.6 Exterior stairway and ramp protection.** *Exterior exit stairways and ramps* shall be separated from the interior of the building as required in Section 1022.2. Openings shall be limited to those necessary for egress from normally occupied spaces.

### Exceptions:

1. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for occupancies, other than those in Group R-1 or R-2, in buildings that are no more than two stories above *grade plane* where a *level of exit discharge* serving such occupancies is the first story above *grade plane*.
2. Separation from the interior of the building is not required where the *exterior stairway or ramp* is served by an exterior *ramp* or balcony that connects two remote *exterior stairways* or other *approved exits* with a perimeter that is not less than 50 percent open. To be considered open, the opening shall be a minimum of 50 percent of the height of the enclosing wall, with the top of the openings no less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the top of the balcony.
3. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for an *exterior stairway or ramp* located in a building or structure that is permitted to have unenclosed *exit access stairways* in accordance with Section 1009.3.
4. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for *exterior stairways or ramps* connected to open-ended *corridors*, provided that Items 4.1 through 4.5 are met:
  - 4.1. The building, including *corridors, stairways or ramps*, shall be equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
  - 4.2. The open-ended *corridors* comply with Section 1018.

4.3. The open-ended *corridors* are connected on each end to an *exterior exit stairway or ramp* complying with Section 1026.

4.4. The *exterior walls* and openings adjacent to the *exterior exit stairway or ramp* comply with Section 1022.7.

4.5. At any location in an open-ended *corridor* where a change of direction exceeding 45 degrees (0.79 rad) occurs, a clear opening of not less than 35 square feet (3.3 m<sup>2</sup>) or an *exterior stairway or ramp* shall be provided. Where clear openings are provided, they shall be located so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

## SECTION 1027 EXIT DISCHARGE

**1027.1 General.** *Exits* shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building. The *exit discharge* shall be at grade or shall provide direct access to grade. The *exit discharge* shall not reenter a building. The combined use of Exceptions 1 and 2 shall not exceed 50 percent of the number and capacity of the required exits.

### Exceptions:

1. A maximum of 50 percent of the number and capacity of *interior exit stairways and ramps* is permitted to egress through areas on the *level of exit discharge* provided all of the following are met:
  - 1.1. Such enclosures egress to a free and unobstructed path of travel to an exterior *exit* door and such *exit* is readily visible and identifiable from the point of termination of the enclosure.
  - 1.2. The entire area of the *level of exit discharge* is separated from areas below by construction conforming to the *fire-resistance rating* for the enclosure.
  - 1.3. The egress path from the *interior exit stairway and ramp* on the *level of exit discharge* is protected throughout by an *approved automatic sprinkler system*. All portions of the *level of exit discharge* with access to the egress path shall either be protected throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, or separated from the egress path in accordance with the requirements for the enclosure of *interior exit stairways or ramps*.
2. A maximum of 50 percent of the number and capacity of the *interior exit stairways and ramps* is permitted to egress through a vestibule provided all of the following are met:
  - 2.1. The entire area of the vestibule is separated from areas below by construction conforming

ing to the *fire-resistance rating* for the enclosure.

- 2.2. The depth from the exterior of the building is not greater than 10 feet (3048 mm) and the length is not greater than 30 feet (9144 mm).
- 2.3. The area is separated from the remainder of the *level of exit discharge* by construction providing protection at least the equivalent of *approved* wired glass in steel frames.
- 2.4. The area is used only for *means of egress* and *exits* directly to the outside.

3. *Horizontal exits* complying with Section 1025 shall not be required to discharge directly to the exterior of the building.

**1027.2 Exit discharge capacity.** The capacity of the *exit discharge* shall be not less than the required discharge capacity of the *exits* being served.

**1027.3 Exit discharge components.** *Exit discharge* components shall be sufficiently open to the exterior so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke and toxic gases.

**1027.4 Egress courts.** *Egress courts* serving as a portion of the *exit discharge* in the *means of egress* system shall comply with the requirements of Section 1027.

**1027.4.1 Width.** The minimum width of *egress courts* shall be determined as specified in Section 1005.1, but such width shall not be less than 44 inches (1118 mm), except as specified herein. *Egress courts* serving Group R-3 and U occupancies shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width. The required width of *egress courts* shall be unobstructed to a height of 7 feet (2134 mm).

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7.

Where an *egress court* exceeds the minimum required width and the width of such *egress court* is then reduced along the path of exit travel, the reduction in width shall be gradual. The transition in width shall be affected by a *guard* not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height and shall not create an angle of more than 30 degrees (0.52 rad) with respect to the axis of the *egress court* along the path of egress travel. In no case shall the width of the *egress court* be less than the required minimum.

**1027.4.2 Construction and openings.** Where an *egress court* serving a building or portion thereof is less than 10 feet (3048 mm) in width, the *egress court* walls shall have not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction for a distance of 10 feet (3048 mm) above the floor of the *court*. Openings within such walls shall be protected by opening protectives having a fire protection rating of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Egress courts* serving an *occupant load* of less than 10.
2. *Egress courts* serving Group R-3.

**1027.5 Access to a public way.** The *exit discharge* shall provide a direct and unobstructed access to a *public way*.

**Exception:** Where access to a *public way* cannot be provided, a safe dispersal area shall be provided where all of the following are met:

1. The area shall be of a size to accommodate at least 5 square feet (0.46 m<sup>2</sup>) for each person.
2. The area shall be located on the same lot at least 50 feet (15 240 mm) away from the building requiring egress.
3. The area shall be permanently maintained and identified as a safe dispersal area.
4. The area shall be provided with a safe and unobstructed path of travel from the building.

## SECTION 1028 ASSEMBLY

**1028.1 General.** A room or space used for assembly purposes which contains seats, tables, displays, equipment or other material shall comply with this section.

**1028.1.1 Bleachers.** *Bleachers*, *grandstands* and *folding and telescopic seating*, that are not building elements, shall comply with ICC 300.

**1028.1.1.1 Spaces under grandstands and bleachers.**

When spaces under *grandstands* or *bleachers* are used for purposes other than ticket booths less than 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) and toilet rooms, such spaces shall be separated by *fire barriers* complying with Section 707 and *horizontal assemblies* complying with Section 711 with not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

**1028.2 Assembly main exit.** In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes that has an *occupant load* of greater than 300 and is provided with a main *exit*, the main *exit* shall be of sufficient width to accommodate not less than one-half of the *occupant load*, but such width shall not be less than the total required width of all *means of egress* leading to the *exit*. Where the building is classified as a Group A occupancy, the main *exit* shall front on at least one street or an unoccupied space of not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) in width that adjoins a street or *public way*. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes where there is no well-defined main *exit* or where multiple main *exits* are provided, *exits* shall be permitted to be distributed around the perimeter of the building provided that the total width of egress is not less than 100 percent of the required width.

**1028.3 Assembly other exits.** In addition to having access to a main *exit*, each level in a building used for assembly purposes having an *occupant load* greater than 300 and provided with a main *exit*, shall be provided with additional *means of egress* that shall provide an egress capacity for at least one-half of the total *occupant load* served by that level and shall comply with Section 1015.2. In a building used for assembly purposes where there is no well-defined main *exit* or where multiple main *exits* are provided, *exits* for each level shall be permitted to be distributed around the perimeter of the build-

ing, provided that the total width of egress is not less than 100 percent of the required width.

**1028.4 Foyers and lobbies.** In Group A-1 occupancies, where persons are admitted to the building at times when seats are not available, such persons shall be allowed to wait in a lobby or similar space, provided such lobby or similar space shall not encroach upon the required clear width of the *means of egress*. Such foyer, if not directly connected to a public street by all the main entrances or *exits*, shall have a straight and unobstructed *corridor* or path of travel to every such main entrance or *exit*.

**1028.5 Interior balcony and gallery means of egress.** For balconies, galleries or press boxes having a seating capacity of 50 or more located in a building, room or space used for assembly purposes, at least two *means of egress* shall be provided, with one from each side of every balcony, gallery or press box and at least one leading directly to an *exit*.

**1028.6 Width of means of egress for assembly.** The clear width of *aisles* and other *means of egress* shall comply with Section 1028.6.1 where smoke-protected seating is not provided and with Section 1028.6.2 or 1028.6.3 where smoke-protected seating is provided. The clear width shall be measured to walls, edges of seating and tread edges except for permitted projections.

**1028.6.1 Without smoke protection.** The clear width of the *means of egress* shall provide sufficient capacity in accordance with all of the following, as applicable:

1. At least 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) of width for each occupant served shall be provided on *stairs* having riser heights 7 inches (178 mm) or less and tread depths 11 inches (279 mm) or greater, measured horizontally between tread *nosings*.
2. At least 0.005 inch (0.127 mm) of additional *stair* width for each occupant shall be provided for each 0.10 inch (2.5 mm) of riser height above 7 inches (178 mm).
3. Where egress requires *stair* descent, at least 0.075 inch (1.9 mm) of additional width for each occupant shall be provided on those portions of *stair* width having no *handrail* within a horizontal distance of 30 inches (762 mm).
4. Ramped *means of egress*, where slopes are steeper than one unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (8-percent slope), shall have at least 0.22 inch (5.6 mm) of

clear width for each occupant served. Level or ramped *means of egress*, where slopes are not steeper than one unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (8-percent slope), shall have at least 0.20 inch (5.1 mm) of clear width for each occupant served.

**1028.6.2 Smoke-protected seating.** The clear width of the *means of egress* for *smoke-protected assembly seating* shall not be less than the *occupant load* served by the egress element multiplied by the appropriate factor in Table 1028.6.2. The total number of seats specified shall be those within the space exposed to the same smoke-protected environment. Interpolation is permitted between the specific values shown. A life safety evaluation, complying with NFPA 101, shall be done for a facility utilizing the reduced width requirements of Table 1028.6.2 for *smoke-protected assembly seating*.

**Exception:** For an outdoor *smoke-protected assembly seating* with an *occupant load* not greater than 18,000, the clear width shall be determined using the factors in Section 1028.6.3.

**1028.6.2.1 Smoke control.** *Means of egress* serving a *smoke-protected assembly seating* area shall be provided with a smoke control system complying with Section 909 or natural ventilation designed to maintain the smoke level at least 6 feet (1829 mm) above the floor of the *means of egress*.

**1028.6.2.2 Roof height.** A *smoke-protected assembly seating area* with a roof shall have the lowest portion of the roof deck not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) above the highest *aisle* or *aisle accessway*.

**Exception:** A roof canopy in an outdoor stadium shall be permitted to be less than 15 feet (4572 mm) above the highest *aisle* or *aisle accessway* provided that there are no objects less than 80 inches (2032 mm) above the highest *aisle* or *aisle accessway*.

**1028.6.2.3 Automatic sprinklers.** Enclosed areas with walls and ceilings in buildings or structures containing *smoke-protected assembly seating* shall be protected with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

**Exceptions:**

1. The floor area used for contests, performances or entertainment provided the roof construction is more than 50 feet (15 240 mm) above

**TABLE 1028.6.2  
WIDTH OF AISLES FOR SMOKE-PROTECTED ASSEMBLY**

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE SMOKEPROTECTED ASSEMBLY SEATING	INCHES OF CLEAR WIDTH PER SEAT SERVED			
	Stairs and aisle steps with handrails within 30 inches	Stairs and aisle steps without handrails within 30 inches	Passageways, doorways and ramps not steeper than 1 in 10 in slope	Ramps steeper than 1 in 10 in slope
Equal to or less than 5,000	0.200	0.250	0.150	0.165
10,000	0.130	0.163	0.100	0.110
15,000	0.096	0.120	0.070	0.077
20,000	0.076	0.095	0.056	0.062
Equal to or greater than 25,000	0.060	0.075	0.044	0.048

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

the floor level and the use is restricted to low fire hazard uses.

2. Press boxes and storage facilities less than 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) in area.
3. Outdoor seating facilities where seating and the *means of egress* in the seating area are essentially open to the outside.

**1028.6.3 Width of means of egress for outdoor smoke-protected assembly seating.** The clear width in inches (mm) of *aisles* and other *means of egress* shall be not less than the total *occupant load* served by the egress element multiplied by 0.08 (2.0 mm) where egress is by *aisles* and *stairs* and multiplied by 0.06 (1.52 mm) where egress is by *ramps*, *corridors*, tunnels or vomitories.

**Exception:** The clear width in inches (mm) of *aisles* and other *means of egress* shall be permitted to comply with Section 1028.6.2 for the number of seats in the outdoor *smoke-protected assembly seating* where Section 1028.6.2 permits less width.

**1028.7 Travel distance.** *Exits* and *aisles* shall be so located that the travel distance to an *exit* door shall not be greater than 200 feet (60 960 mm) measured along the line of travel in nonsprinklered buildings. Travel distance shall not be more than 250 feet (76 200 mm) in sprinklered buildings. Where *aisles* are provided for seating, the distance shall be measured along the *aisles* and *aisle accessway* without travel over or on the seats.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Smoke-protected assembly seating:* The travel distance from each seat to the nearest entrance to a vomitory or concourse shall not exceed 200 feet (60 960 mm). The travel distance from the entrance to the vomitory or concourse to a *stair*, *ramp* or walk on the exterior of the building shall not exceed 200 feet (60 960 mm).
2. Open-air seating: The travel distance from each seat to the building exterior shall not exceed 400 feet (122 m). The travel distance shall not be limited in facilities of Type I or II construction.

**1028.8 Common path of egress travel.** The *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) from any seat to a point where an occupant has a choice of two paths of egress travel to two *exits*.

**Exceptions:**

1. For areas serving less than 50 occupants, the *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed 75 feet (22 860 mm).
2. For *smoke-protected assembly seating*, the *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).

**1028.8.1 Path through adjacent row.** Where one of the two paths of travel is across the *aisle* through a row of seats to another *aisle*, there shall be not more than 24 seats between the two *aisles*, and the minimum clear width between rows for the row between the two *aisles* shall be

12 inches (305 mm) plus 0.6 inch (15.2 mm) for each additional seat above seven in the row between *aisles*.

**Exception:** For *smoke-protected assembly seating* there shall not be more than 40 seats between the two *aisles* and the minimum clear width shall be 12 inches (305 mm) plus 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) for each additional seat.

**1028.9 Assembly aisles are required.** Every occupied portion of any building, room or space used for assembly purposes that contains seats, tables, displays, similar fixtures or equipment shall be provided with *aisles* leading to *exits* or *exit access doorways* in accordance with this section. *Aisle accessways* for tables and seating shall comply with Section 1028.10.1.

**1028.9.1 Minimum aisle width.** The minimum clear width for *aisles* shall be as shown:

1. Forty-eight inches (1219 mm) for *aisle stairs* having seating on each side.

**Exception:** Thirty-six inches (914 mm) where the *aisle* serves less than 50 seats.

2. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) for *aisle stairs* having seating on only one side.

**Exception:** Twenty-three inches (584 mm) between an *aisle stair handrail* and seating where an *aisle* does not serve more than five rows on one side.

3. Twenty-three inches (584 mm) between an *aisle stair handrail* or *guard* and seating where the aisle is subdivided by a *handrail*.
4. Forty-two inches (1067 mm) for level or ramped *aisles* having seating on both sides.

**Exceptions:**

1. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) where the *aisle* serves less than 50 seats.
2. Thirty inches (762 mm) where the *aisle* does not serve more than 14 seats.
5. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) for level or ramped *aisles* having seating on only one side.

**Exception:** Thirty inches (762 mm) where the *aisle* does not serve more than 14 seats.

**1028.9.2 Aisle width.** The *aisle* width shall provide sufficient egress capacity for the number of persons accommodated by the catchment area served by the *aisle*. The catchment area served by an *aisle* is that portion of the total space that is served by that section of the *aisle*. In establishing catchment areas, the assumption shall be made that there is a balanced use of all *means of egress*, with the number of persons in proportion to egress capacity.

**1028.9.3 Converging aisles.** Where *aisles* converge to form a single path of egress travel, the required egress capacity of that path shall not be less than the combined required capacity of the converging *aisles*.

**1028.9.4 Uniform width.** Those portions of *aisles*, where egress is possible in either of two directions, shall be uniform in required width.

**1028.9.5 Assembly aisle termination.** Each end of an *aisle* shall terminate at cross *aisle*, foyer, doorway, vomitory or concourse having access to an *exit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Dead-end *aisles* shall not be greater than 20 feet (6096 mm) in length.
2. Dead-end *aisles* longer than 20 feet (6096 mm) are permitted where seats beyond the 20-foot (6096 mm) dead-end *aisle* are no more than 24 seats from another *aisle*, measured along a row of seats having a minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) plus 0.6 inch (15.2 mm) for each additional seat above seven in the row.
3. For *smoke-protected assembly seating*, the dead-end *aisle* length of vertical *aisles* shall not exceed a distance of 21 rows.
4. For *smoke-protected assembly seating*, a longer dead-end *aisle* is permitted where seats beyond the 21-row dead-end *aisle* are not more than 40 seats from another *aisle*, measured along a row of seats having an *aisle* accessway with a minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) plus 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) for each additional seat above seven in the row.

**1028.9.6 Assembly aisle obstructions.** There shall be no obstructions in the required width of *aisles* except for *handrails* as provided in Section 1028.13.

**1028.10 Aisle accessways.** *Aisle accessways* for seating at tables shall comply with Section 1028.10.1. *Aisle accessways* for seating in rows shall comply with Section 1028.10.2.

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**1028.10.1 Seating at tables.** Where seating is located at a table or counter and is adjacent to an *aisle* or *aisle accessway*, the measurement of required clear width of the *aisle* or *aisle accessway* shall be made to a line 19 inches (483 mm) away from and parallel to the edge of the table or counter. The 19-inch (483 mm) distance shall be measured perpendicular to the side of the table or counter. In the case of other side boundaries for *aisle* or *aisle accessways*, the clear width shall be measured to walls, edges of seating and tread edges, except that handrail projections are permitted.

**Exception:** Where tables or counters are served by *fixed seats*, the width of the *aisle accessway* shall be measured from the back of the seat.

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**1028.10.1.1 Aisle accessway width for seating at tables.** *Aisle accessways* serving arrangements of seating at tables or counters shall have sufficient clear width to conform to the capacity requirements of Section 1005.1 but shall not have less than a minimum of 12 inches (305 mm) of width plus 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of width for each additional 1 foot (305 mm), or fraction thereof, beyond 12 feet (3658 mm) of *aisle accessway*

length measured from the center of the seat farthest from an *aisle*.

**Exception:** Portions of an *aisle accessway* having a length not exceeding 6 feet (1829 mm) and used by a total of not more than four persons.

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**1028.10.1.2 Seating at table aisle accessway length.** The length of travel along the *aisle accessway* shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) from any seat to the point where a person has a choice of two or more paths of egress travel to separate *exits*.

**1028.10.2 Clear width of aisle accessways serving seating in rows.** Where seating rows have 14 or fewer seats, the minimum clear *aisle accessway* width shall not be less than 12 inches (305 mm) measured as the clear horizontal distance from the back of the row ahead and the nearest projection of the row behind. Where chairs have automatic or self-rising seats, the measurement shall be made with seats in the raised position. Where any chair in the row does not have an automatic or self-rising seat, the measurements shall be made with the seat in the down position. For seats with folding tablet arms, row spacing shall be determined with the tablet arm in the used position.

**Exception:** For seats with folding tablet arms, row spacing is permitted to be determined with the tablet arm in the stored position where the tablet arm when raised manually to vertical position in one motion automatically returns to the stored position by force of gravity.

**1028.10.2.1 Dual access.** For rows of seating served by *aisles* or doorways at both ends, there shall not be more than 100 seats per row. The minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) between rows shall be increased by 0.3 inch (7.6 mm) for every additional seat beyond 14 seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches (559 mm).

**Exception:** For *smoke-protected assembly seating*, the row length limits for a 12-inch-wide (305 mm) *aisle accessway*, beyond which the *aisle accessway* minimum clear width shall be increased, are in Table 1028.10.2.1.

**TABLE 1028.10.2.1  
SMOKE-PROTECTED ASSEMBLY AISLE ACCESSWAYS**

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE SMOKEPROTECTED ASSEMBLY SEATING	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEATS PER ROW PERMITTED TO HAVE A MINIMUM 12-INCH CLEAR WIDTH AISLE ACCESSWAY	
	Aisle or doorway at both ends of row	Aisle or doorway at one end of row only
Less than 4,000	14	7
4,000	15	7
7,000	16	8
10,000	17	8
13,000	18	9
16,000	19	9
19,000	20	10
22,000 and greater	21	11

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**1028.10.2.2 Single access.** For rows of seating served by an *aisle* or doorway at only one end of the row, the minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) between rows shall be increased by 0.6 inch (15.2 mm) for every additional seat beyond seven seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches (559 mm).

**Exception:** For *smoke-protected assembly seating*, the row length limits for a 12-inch-wide (305 mm) *aisle accessway*, beyond which the *aisle accessway* minimum clear width shall be increased, are in Table 1028.10.2.1.

**1028.11 Assembly aisle walking surfaces.** *Aisles* with a slope not exceeding one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope) shall consist of a *ramp* having a slip-resistant walking surface. *Aisles* with a slope exceeding one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope) shall consist of a series of risers and treads that extends across the full width of *aisles* and complies with Sections 1028.11.1 through 1028.11.3.

**1028.11.1 Treads.** Tread depths shall be a minimum of 11 inches (279 mm) and shall have dimensional uniformity.

**Exception:** The tolerance between adjacent treads shall not exceed  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (4.8 mm).

**1028.11.2 Risers.** Where the gradient of *aisle stairs* is to be the same as the gradient of adjoining seating areas, the riser height shall not be less than 4 inches (102 mm) nor more than 8 inches (203 mm) and shall be uniform within each *flight*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Riser height nonuniformity shall be limited to the extent necessitated by changes in the gradient of the adjoining seating area to maintain adequate sightlines. Where nonuniformities exceed  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (4.8 mm) between adjacent risers, the exact location of such nonuniformities shall be indicated with a distinctive marking stripe on each tread at the  *nosing* or leading edge adjacent to the nonuniform risers. Such stripe shall be a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm), and a maximum of 2 inches (51 mm), wide. The edge marking stripe shall be distinctively different from the contrasting marking stripe.
2. Riser heights not exceeding 9 inches (229 mm) shall be permitted where they are necessitated by the slope of the adjacent seating areas to maintain sightlines.

**1028.11.3 Tread contrasting marking stripe.** A contrasting marking stripe shall be provided on each tread at the  *nosing* or leading edge such that the location of each tread is readily apparent when viewed in descent. Such stripe shall be a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm), and a maximum of 2 inches (51 mm), wide.

**Exception:** The contrasting marking stripe is permitted to be omitted where tread surfaces are such that the location of each tread is readily apparent when viewed in descent.

**1028.12 Seat stability.** In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes, the seats shall be securely fastened to the floor.

**Exceptions:**

1. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes or portions thereof without ramped or tiered floors for seating and with 200 or fewer seats, the seats shall not be required to be fastened to the floor.
2. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes or portions thereof with seating at tables and without ramped or tiered floors for seating, the seats shall not be required to be fastened to the floor.
3. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes or portions thereof without ramped or tiered floors for seating and with greater than 200 seats, the seats shall be fastened together in groups of not less than three or the seats shall be securely fastened to the floor.
4. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes where flexibility of the seating arrangement is an integral part of the design and function of the space and seating is on tiered levels, a maximum of 200 seats shall not be required to be fastened to the floor. Plans showing seating, tiers and *aisles* shall be submitted for approval.
5. Groups of seats within a building, room or space used for assembly purposes separated from other seating by railings, *guards*, partial height walls or similar barriers with level floors and having no more than 14 seats per group shall not be required to be fastened to the floor.
6. Seats intended for musicians or other performers and separated by railings, *guards*, partial height walls or similar barriers shall not be required to be fastened to the floor.

**1028.13 Handrails.** Ramped *aisles* having a slope exceeding one unit vertical in 15 units horizontal (6.7-percent slope) and *aisle stairs* shall be provided with *handrails* in compliance with Section 1012 located either at one or both sides of the *aisle* or within the *aisle* width.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Handrails* are not required for ramped *aisles* having a gradient no greater than one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope) and seating on both sides.
2. *Handrails* are not required if, at the side of the *aisle*, there is a *guard* that complies with the graspability requirements of *handrails*.
3. Handrail extensions are not required at the top and bottom of *aisle stair* and *aisle ramp* runs to permit crossovers within the *aisles*.

**1028.13.1 Discontinuous handrails.** Where there is seating on both sides of the *aisle*, the *handrails* shall be discontinuous with gaps or breaks at intervals not exceeding five rows to facilitate access to seating and to permit crossing from one side of the *aisle* to the other. These gaps

or breaks shall have a clear width of at least 22 inches (559 mm) and not greater than 36 inches (914 mm), measured horizontally, and the *handrail* shall have rounded terminations or bends.

**1028.13.2 Intermediate handrails.** Where *handrails* are provided in the middle of *aisle stairs*, there shall be an additional intermediate *handrail* located approximately 12 inches (305 mm) below the main *handrail*.

**1028.14 Assembly guards.** *Guards* adjacent to seating in a building, room or space used for assembly purposes shall comply with Sections 1028.14.1 through 1028.14.3.

**1028.14.1 Cross aisles.** Cross *aisles* located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have *guards* in accordance with Section 1013.

Where an elevation change of 30 inches (762 mm) or less occurs between a cross *aisle* and the adjacent floor or grade below, *guards* not less than 26 inches (660 mm) above the *aisle* floor shall be provided.

**Exception:** Where the backs of seats on the front of the cross *aisle* project 24 inches (610 mm) or more above the adjacent floor of the *aisle*, a *guard* need not be provided.

**1028.14.2 Sightline-constrained guard heights.** Unless subject to the requirements of Section 1028.14.3, a fascia or railing system in accordance with the *guard* requirements of Section 1013 and having a minimum height of 26 inches (660 mm) shall be provided where the floor or foot-board elevation is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below and the fascia or railing would otherwise interfere with the sightlines of immediately adjacent seating. At *bleachers*, a *guard* must be provided where required by ICC 300.

**Exception:** The height of the *guard* in front of seating shall be measured from the adjacent walking surface.

**1028.14.3 Guards at the end of aisles.** A fascia or railing system complying with the *guard* requirements of Section 1013 shall be provided for the full width of the *aisle* where the foot of the *aisle* is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below. The fascia or railing shall be a minimum of 36 inches (914 mm) high and shall provide a minimum 42 inches (1067 mm) measured diagonally between the top of the rail and the *nosings* of the nearest tread.

## SECTION 1029 EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE

**1029.1 General.** In addition to the *means of egress* required by this chapter, provisions shall be made for *emergency escape and rescue openings* in Group R-2 occupancies in accordance with Tables 1021.2(1) and 1021.2(2) and Group R-3 occupancies. Basements and sleeping rooms below the fourth story above *grade plane* shall have at least one exterior *emergency escape and rescue opening* in accordance with this section. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in

adjoining areas of the basement. Such openings shall open directly into a *public way* or to a *yard or court* that opens to a *public way*.

### Exceptions:

1. Basements with a ceiling height of less than 80 inches (2032 mm) shall not be required to have *emergency escape and rescue openings*.
2. *Emergency escape and rescue openings* are not required from basements or sleeping rooms that have an *exit door* or *exit access door* that opens directly into a *public way* or to a *yard, court* or exterior exit balcony that opens to a *public way*.
3. Basements without *habitable spaces* and having no more than 200 square feet (18.6 m<sup>2</sup>) in floor area shall not be required to have *emergency escape and rescue openings*.

**1029.2 Minimum size.** *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet (0.53 m<sup>2</sup>).

**Exception:** The minimum net clear opening for grade-floor *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be 5 square feet (0.46 m<sup>2</sup>).

**1029.2.1 Minimum dimensions.** The minimum net clear opening height dimension shall be 24 inches (610 mm). The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20 inches (508 mm). The net clear opening dimensions shall be the result of normal operation of the opening.

**1029.3 Maximum height from floor.** *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall have the bottom of the clear opening not greater than 44 inches (1118 mm) measured from the floor.

**1029.4 Operational constraints.** *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are permitted to be placed over *emergency escape and rescue openings* provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with Section 1029.2 and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening. Where such bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are installed in existing buildings, *smoke alarms* shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.11 regardless of the valuation of the *alteration*.

**1029.5 Window wells.** An *emergency escape and rescue opening* with a finished sill height below the adjacent ground level shall be provided with a window well in accordance with Sections 1029.5.1 and 1029.5.2.

**1029.5.1 Minimum size.** The minimum horizontal area of the window well shall be 9 square feet (0.84 m<sup>2</sup>), with a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm). The area of the window well shall allow the *emergency escape and rescue opening* to be fully opened.

**1029.5.2 Ladders or steps.** Window wells with a vertical depth of more than 44 inches (1118 mm) shall be equipped with an *approved* permanently affixed ladder or steps. Ladders or rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12

inches (305 mm), shall project at least 3 inches (76 mm) from the wall and shall be spaced not more than 18 inches (457 mm) on center (o.c.) vertically for the full height of the window well. The ladder or steps shall not encroach into the required dimensions of the window well by more than 6 inches (152 mm). The ladder or steps shall not be obstructed by the *emergency escape and rescue opening*. Ladders or steps required by this section are exempt from the *stairway* requirements of Section 1009.

