

## CHAPTER 11

# ((CONSTRUCTION)) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

### SECTION 1101 GENERAL

**1101.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter ((shall)) apply to existing buildings constructed prior to the adoption of this code.

**1101.2 Intent.** The intent of this chapter is to provide a minimum degree of fire and life safety to persons occupying existing buildings by providing minimum ((construction)) requirements where such existing buildings do not comply with the minimum requirements of the *International Building Code*.

**1101.3 Permits.** Permits ((shall be)) are required as set forth in Sections 105.6 and 105.7 and the *International Building Code*.

**1101.4 Owner notification.** When a building is found to be in noncompliance with this chapter, the *fire code official* shall duly notify the *owner* of the building. Upon receipt of such notice, the *owner* shall, subject to the following time limits, take necessary actions to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

**1101.4.1 Construction documents.** *Construction documents* necessary to comply with this chapter shall be completed and submitted within a time schedule *approved* by the *fire code official*.

**1101.4.2 Completion of work.** Work necessary to comply with this chapter shall be completed within a time schedule *approved* by the *fire code official*.

**1101.4.3 Extension of time.** The *fire code official* is authorized to grant necessary extensions of time when it can be shown that the specified time periods are not physically practical or pose an undue hardship. The granting of an extension of time for compliance shall be based on the showing of good cause and subject to the filing of an acceptable systematic plan of correction with the *fire code official*.

### SECTION 1102 DEFINITION

**1102.1 Definition.** The following term is defined in Chapter 2: **EXISTING.**

### SECTION 1103 FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

**1103.1 Required construction.** Existing buildings shall comply with not less than the minimum provisions specified in Table 1103.1 and as further enumerated in Sections 1103.2 through 1103.9.

The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to allow the elimination of *fire protection systems* or a reduction in the level of fire safety provided in buildings constructed in accordance with previously adopted codes.

**Exception:** Group U occupancies.

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**TABLE 1103.1  
OCCUPANCY AND USE REQUIREMENTS<sup>a</sup>**

SECTION	USE			OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION																			
	High rise	Atrium or covered mall	Under-ground building	A	B	E	F	H-1	H-2	H-3	H-4	H-5	I-1	I-2	I-3	I-4	M	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	S	
1103.2	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
1103.3	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
1103.4.1	R	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	R	R	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.4.2	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	—	—	—	R	R	R	—	R	R	R
1103.4.3	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	—	—	—	R	R	R	—	R	R	R
1103.4.4	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.4.5	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.4.6	—	—	—	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R
1103.4.7	—	—	—	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R

(continued)

**((CONSTRUCTION)) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS**

**TABLE 1103.1  
OCCUPANCY AND USE REQUIREMENTS<sup>a</sup>—continued**

SECTION	USE			OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION																			
	High rise	Atrium or covered mall	Under-ground building	A	B	E	F	H-1	H-2	H-3	H-4	H-5	I-1	I-2	I-3	I-4	M	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	S	
1103.5.1	—	—	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
1103.5.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.6.1	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	R	R	R
1103.6.2	R	—	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	—	R	R	R
1103.7.1	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.7.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.7.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103.7.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—
1103.7.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—
1103.7.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	—	—
1103.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	R	R	R	—	—
1103.9	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	R	R	R	—	R	R	R	R	—	—
1104	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

a. Existing buildings shall comply with the sections identified as “Required” (R) based on occupancy classification or use, or both, whichever is applicable.  
R = The building is required to comply.

**1103.2 Emergency responder radio coverage in existing high-rise buildings.** Existing high-rise buildings that do not have a wired communication system or approved radio coverage for emergency responders within the building (~~(based upon the existing coverage levels of the public safety communication systems of the jurisdiction at the exterior of the building,))~~) shall be equipped with such system or coverage (~~((according to one of the following))~~) within two years from the effective date of the adoption of this code:

**Exception:**

- ~~1. (Whenever an existing wired communication system cannot be repaired or is being replaced, or where not approved in accordance with Section 510.1, Exception 1-)) A wired communication system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.2 may be provided in lieu of an approved radio coverage system.~~

~~((2. Within a time frame established by the adopting authority.~~

~~**Exception:** Where it is determined by the fire code official that the radio coverage system is not needed.)~~

**1103.3 Elevator operation.** Existing elevators with a travel distance of 25 feet (7620 mm) or more above or below the main floor or other level of a building and intended to serve the needs of emergency personnel for fire-fighting or rescue purposes shall be provided with emergency operation in accordance with ASME A17.3.

**1103.4 Vertical openings.** Interior vertical shafts, including but not limited to *stairways*, elevator hoistways, service and

utility shafts, that connect two or more stories of a building, shall be enclosed or protected as specified in Sections 1103.4.1 through 1103.4.7.

**1103.4.1 Group I occupancies.** In Group I occupancies, interior vertical openings connecting two or more stories shall be protected with 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

**1103.4.2 Three to five stories.** In other than Group I occupancies, interior vertical openings connecting three to five stories shall be protected by either 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or an *automatic sprinkler system* shall be installed throughout the building in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

**Exceptions:**

- Vertical opening protection is not required for Group R-3 occupancies.
- Vertical opening protection is not required for open parking garages and ramps.
- Vertical opening protection for escalators shall be in accordance with Section 1103.4.5, 1103.4.6 or 1103.4.7.
- Vertical opening protection is not required for *stairways* that are not a portion of the required means of egress constructed in accordance with the *Seattle Building Code* in effect at the time of construction.

**1103.4.3 More than five stories.** In other than Group I occupancies, interior vertical openings connecting more than five stories shall be protected by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

**Exceptions:**

1. Vertical opening protection is not required for Group R-3 occupancies.
2. Vertical opening protection is not required for open parking garages and ramps.
3. Vertical opening protection for escalators shall be in accordance with Section 1103.4.5, 1103.4.6 or 1103.4.7.

**1103.4.4 Atriums and covered malls.** In other than Group I occupancies, interior vertical openings in a covered mall building or a building with an atrium shall be protected by either 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or an *automatic sprinkler system* shall be installed throughout the building in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

**Exceptions:**

1. Vertical opening protection is not required for Group R-3 occupancies.
2. Vertical opening protection is not required for open parking garages and ramps.

**1103.4.5 Escalators in Group B and M occupancies.** Escalators creating vertical openings connecting any number of stories shall be protected by either 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 installed throughout the building, with a draft curtain and closely spaced sprinklers around the escalator opening.

**1103.4.6 Escalators connecting four or fewer stories.** In other than Group B and M occupancies, escalators creating vertical openings connecting four or fewer stories shall be protected by either 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 shall be installed throughout the building, and a draft curtain with closely spaced sprinklers shall be installed around the escalator opening.

**1103.4.7 Escalators connecting more than four stories.** In other than Group B and M occupancies, escalators creating vertical openings connecting five or more stories shall be protected by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

**1103.5 Sprinkler systems.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided in existing buildings in accordance with Sections 1103.5.1 and 1103.5.((2))3.

**1103.5.1 Pyroxylin plastics.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout existing buildings where cellulose nitrate film or pyroxylin plastics are manufactured, stored or handled in quantities exceeding 100 pounds (45 kg). Vaults located within buildings for the storage of raw pyroxylin shall be protected with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* capable of discharg-

ing 1.66 gallons per minute per square foot (68 L/min/m<sup>2</sup>) over the area of the vault.

**1103.5.2 Group I-2.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout existing Group I-2 *fire areas*. The sprinkler system shall be provided throughout the floor where the Group I-2 occupancy is located, and in all floors between the Group I-2 occupancy and the *level of exit discharge*.

**[W] 1103.5.3 Nightclub.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout A-2 *nightclubs* as defined in this code. No building shall be constructed for, used for, or converted to occupancy as a *nightclub* except in accordance with this section.

**1103.6 Standpipes.** Existing structures shall be equipped with standpipes installed in accordance with Section 905 where required in Sections 1103.6.1 and 1103.6.2. The *fire code official* is authorized to approve the installation of manual standpipe systems to achieve compliance with this section where the responding fire department is capable of providing the required hose flow at the highest standpipe outlet.

**1103.6.1 Existing multiple-story buildings.** Existing buildings with occupied floors located more than 50 feet (15 240 mm) above the lowest level of fire department access or more than 50 feet (15 240 mm) below the highest level of fire department access shall be equipped with standpipes.

**1103.6.2 Existing helistops and heliports.** Existing buildings with a rooftop helistop or heliport located more than 30 feet (9144 mm) above the lowest level of fire department access to the roof level on which the helistop or heliport is located shall be equipped with standpipes in accordance with Section 2007.5.

**1103.7 Fire alarm systems.** An *approved* fire alarm system shall be installed in existing buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 1103.7.1 through 1103.7.((7))6 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5 unless other requirements are provided by other sections of this code.

**Exception:** Nonresidential ((Θ)) occupancies with an existing, previously *approved* fire alarm system, and residential occupancies with a fire alarm system capable of achieving a minimum sound level in the sleeping rooms of 60 dBa or 15 dBa above ambient noise level, whichever is higher.

**1103.7.1 Group E.** A fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group E occupancies in accordance with Section 907.2.3.

**Exceptions:**

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in a building with a maximum area of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) that contains a single classroom and is located no closer than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from another building.
2. A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* less than 50.

**1103.7.2 Group I-1.** An automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group I-1 residential care/assisted living facilities in accordance with Section 907.2.6.1.

**Exceptions:**

1. Manual fire alarm boxes in resident or patient sleeping areas shall not be required at *exits* if located at all nurses' control stations or other constantly attended staff locations, provided such stations are visible and continuously accessible and that travel distances required in Section 907.5.2 are not exceeded.
2. Where each sleeping room has a *means of egress* door opening directly to an exterior egress balcony that leads directly to the *exits* in accordance with Section 1019, and the building is not more than three stories in height.

**1103.7.3 Group I-2.** An automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group I-2 occupancies in accordance with Section 907.2.6.2.

**Exception:** Manual fire alarm boxes in resident or patient sleeping areas shall not be required at *exits* if located at all nurses' control stations or other constantly attended staff locations, provided such stations are visible and continuously accessible and that travel distances required in Section 907.4.2.1 are not exceeded.

**1103.7.4 Group I-3.** An automatic and manual fire alarm system shall be installed in existing Group I-3 occupancies in accordance with Section 907.2.6.3.

**1103.7.5 Group R-1.** A fire alarm system and smoke alarms shall be installed in existing Group R-1 occupancies in accordance with Sections 1103.7.5.1 through 1103.7.5.2.1.

**1103.7.5.1 Group R-1 hotel and motel manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-1 hotels and motels more than three stories or with more than 20 *sleeping units*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Buildings less than two stories in height where all *sleeping units*, attics and crawl spaces are separated by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction and each *sleeping unit* has direct access to a *public way*, *egress court* or yard.
2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required throughout the building when the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2;
  - 2.2. The notification appliances will activate upon sprinkler water flow; and
  - 2.3. At least one manual fire alarm box is installed at an *approved* location.

**1103.7.5.1.1 Group R-1 hotel and motel automatic smoke detection system.** An automatic smoke detection system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-1 hotels and motels throughout all interior *corridors* serving sleeping rooms not equipped with an *approved*, supervised sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.

**Exception:** An automatic smoke detection system is not required in buildings that do not have interior *corridors* serving *sleeping units* and where each sleeping unit has a *means of egress* door opening directly to an *exit* or to an exterior *exit access* that leads directly to an *exit*.

**1103.7.5.2 Group R-1 boarding and rooming houses manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-1 boarding and rooming houses.

**Exception:** Buildings less than two stories in height where all *sleeping units*, attics and crawl spaces are separated by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction and each *sleeping unit* has direct access to a *public way*, *egress court* or yard.

**1103.7.5.2.1 Group R-1 boarding and rooming houses automatic smoke detection system.** An automatic smoke detection system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-1 boarding and rooming houses throughout all interior *corridors* serving *sleeping units* not equipped with an *approved*, supervised sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.

**Exception:** Buildings equipped with single-station smoke alarms meeting or exceeding the requirements of Section 907.2.11.1 and where the fire alarm system includes at least one manual fire alarm box per floor arranged to initiate the alarm.

**1103.7.6 Group R-2.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-2 occupancies more than three stories in height or with more than 16 *dwelling* or *sleeping units*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where each living unit is separated from other contiguous living units by *fire barriers* having a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 0.75 hour, and where each living unit has either its own independent *exit* or its own independent stairway or ramp discharging at grade.
2. A separate fire alarm system is not required in buildings that are equipped throughout with an *approved supervised automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and having a local alarm to notify all occupants.

3. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings that do not have interior *corridors* serving *dwelling units* and are protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, provided that *dwelling units* either have a *means of egress* door opening directly to an exterior *exit access* that leads directly to the *exits* or are served by open-ended *corridors* designed in accordance with Section 1026.6, Exception 4.

~~[W] ((1103.7.7 Group R-4. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in existing Group R-4 residential care/assisted living facilities in accordance with Section 907.2.10.1.~~

**Exceptions:**

- ~~1. Where there are interconnected smoke alarms meeting the requirements of Section 907.2.11 and there is at least one manual fire alarm box per floor arranged to continuously sound the smoke alarms.~~
- ~~2. Other manually activated, continuously sounding alarms approved by the fire code official.)~~

**1103.8 Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms.** Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in existing Group I-1 and R occupancies in accordance with Sections 1103.8.1 through 1103.8.3.

**1103.8.1 Where required.** Existing Group I-1 and R occupancies shall be provided with single-station smoke alarms in accordance with Section 907.2.11, except as provided in Sections 1103.8.2 and 1103.8.3.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where the code that was in effect at the time of construction required smoke alarms and smoke alarms complying with those requirements are already provided.
2. Where smoke alarms have been installed in occupancies and dwellings that were not required to have them at the time of construction, additional smoke alarms shall not be required provided that the existing smoke alarms comply with requirements that were in effect at the time of installation.
3. Where smoke detectors connected to a fire alarm system have been installed as a substitute for smoke alarms.

**1103.8.2 Interconnection.** Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual *dwelling* or *sleeping unit*, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

**Exceptions:**

1. Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing *alterations*, repairs or construction of any kind.
2. Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where *alterations* or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or *basement* available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

**1103.8.3 Power source.** Single-station smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms with integral strobes that are not equipped with battery backup shall be connected to an emergency electrical system. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

**Exceptions:**

1. Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing buildings where no construction is taking place.
2. Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in buildings that are not served from a commercial power source.
3. Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings undergoing *alterations* or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or *basement* available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.

~~[W] 1103.9 Carbon monoxide alarms. Existing Group I or R occupancies ((located in a building containing a fuel-burning appliance or a building which has an attached garage)) shall be equipped with single-station carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Section 908.7. The carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034, and be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 720 and the manufacturer's instructions. ((An open parking garage, as defined in the *International Building Code*, or an enclosed parking garage ventilated in accordance with Section 404 of the *International Mechanical Code* shall not be deemed to be an attached garage.))~~

**Exceptions:**

1. For other than Group R-2 occupancies, if the building does not contain a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage.
2. *Sleeping units or dwelling units* in Groups I and R-1 occupancies and R-2 college dormitories, hotel, and DSHS licensed boarding home and residential treatment facility occupancies which do not contain a

## ((CONSTRUCTION)) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or have an attached garage, provided that:

- a) The sleeping units or dwelling unit is not adjacent to any room which contains a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage; and
- b) The sleeping units or dwelling unit is not connected by duct work or ventilation shafts with a supply or return register in the same room to any room containing a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or to an attached garage; and
- c) The building is provided with a common area carbon monoxide detection system.

3. An open parking garage, as defined in the International Building Code, or enclosed parking garage ventilated in accordance with Section 404 of the International Mechanical Code is not considered an attached garage.

~~((Exception: Sleeping units or dwelling units which do not themselves contain a fuel burning appliance or have an attached garage, but which are located in a building with a fuel burning appliance or an attached garage, need not be equipped with single station carbon monoxide alarms provided that:~~

- ~~1. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is located more than one story above or below any story that contains a fuel burning appliance or an attached garage;~~
- ~~2. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not connected by duct work or ventilation shafts to any room containing a fuel burning appliance or to an attached garage; and~~
- ~~3. The building is provided with a common area carbon monoxide alarm system.))~~

### SECTION 1104 MEANS OF EGRESS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

**1104.1 General.** *Means of egress* in existing buildings shall comply with Section 1030 and Sections 1104.2 through 1104.24. ~~((the minimum egress requirements when specified in Table 1103.1 as further enumerated in Sections 1104.2 through 1104.24, and the building code that applied at the time of construction. Where the provisions of this chapter conflict with the building code that applied at the time of construction, the most restrictive provision shall apply. Existing buildings that were not required to comply with a building code at the time of construction shall comply with the minimum egress requirements when specified in Table 1103.1 as further enumerated in Sections 1104.2 through 1104.24.))~~

**Exception:** Means of egress conforming to the requirements of the building code under which they were constructed are not required to comply with Section 1104.2 through 1104.22 and 1104.24.

**1104.2 Elevators, escalators and moving walks.** Elevators, escalators and moving walks shall not be used as a component of a required *means of egress*.

#### Exceptions:

1. Elevators used as an *accessible means of egress* where allowed by Section 1007.4.
2. Previously *approved* escalators and moving walks in existing buildings.

**1104.3 Exit sign illumination.** *Exit* signs shall be internally or externally illuminated. The face of an *exit* sign illuminated from an external source shall have an intensity of not less than 5 footcandles (54 lux). Internally illuminated signs shall provide equivalent luminance and be *listed* for the purpose.

**Exception:** *Approved* self-luminous signs that provide evenly illuminated letters shall have a minimum luminance of 0.06 foot-lamberts (0.21 cd/m<sup>2</sup>).

**1104.4 Power source.** Where emergency illumination is required in Section 1104.5, *exit* signs shall be visible under emergency illumination conditions.

**Exception:** *Approved* signs that provide continuous illumination independent of external power sources are not required to be connected to an emergency electrical system.

**1104.5 Illumination emergency power.** The power supply for *means of egress* illumination shall normally be provided by the premises' electrical supply. In the event of power supply failure, illumination shall be automatically provided from an emergency system for the following occupancies where such occupancies require two or more *means of egress*:

1. Group A having 50 or more occupants.  
**Exception:** Assembly occupancies used exclusively as a place of worship and having an *occupant load* of less than 300.
2. Group B buildings three or more stories in height, buildings with 100 or more occupants above or below a *level of exit discharge* serving the occupants or buildings with 1,000 or more total occupants.
3. Group E in interior stairs, *corridors*, windowless areas with student occupancy, shops and laboratories.
4. Group F having more than 100 occupants.

**Exception:** Buildings used only during daylight hours which are provided with windows for natural light in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

5. Group I.
6. Group M.  
**Exception:** Buildings less than 3,000 square feet (279 m<sup>2</sup>) in gross sales area on one story only, excluding mezzanines.
7. Group R-1.

**Exception:** Where each *sleeping unit* has direct access to the outside of the building at grade.

8. Group R-2.

**Exception:** Where each *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* has direct access to the outside of the building at grade.

~~[W](9. Group R-4.~~

~~**Exception:** Where each *sleeping unit* has direct access to the outside of the building at ground level.)~~

**1104.5.1 Emergency power duration and installation.**

In other than Group I-2, the emergency power system shall provide power for not less than 60 minutes and consist of storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator. In Group I-2, the emergency power system shall provide power for not less than 90 minutes and consist of storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator. The installation of the emergency power system shall be in accordance with Section 604.

**1104.6 Guards.** Guards complying with this section shall be provided at the open sides of *means of egress* that are more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below.

**1104.6.1 Height of guards.** Guards shall form a protective barrier not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) high.

**Exceptions:**

- 1. Existing guards on the open side of *stairs* shall be not less than 30 inches (760 mm) high.
- 2. Existing guards within *dwelling units* shall be not less than 36 inches (910 mm) high.
- 3. Existing guards in assembly seating areas.

**1104.6.2 Opening limitations.** Open guards shall have balusters or ornamental patterns such that a 6-inch-diameter (152 mm) sphere cannot pass through any opening up to a height of 34 inches (864 mm).

**Exceptions:**

- 1. At elevated walking surfaces for access to, and use of, electrical, mechanical or plumbing systems or equipment, guards shall have balusters or be of solid materials such that a sphere with a diameter of 21 inches (533 mm) cannot pass through any opening.
- 2. In occupancies in Group I-3, F, H or S, the clear distance between intermediate rails measured at right angles to the rails shall not exceed 21 inches (533 mm).
- 3. *Approved* existing open guards.

➔ **1104.7 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 not less than 28 inches (711 mm). Where this section requires a minimum clear width of 28 inches (711 mm) and a door opening includes two door leaves without a mullion, one leaf shall provide a clear opening width of 28 inches (711 mm). The maximum width of a swinging door leaf shall be 48 inches (1219 mm) nominal. *Means of egress* doors in an occupancy in Group I-2 used for the movement of beds shall provide a clear width not less than 41.5 inches (1054 mm). The height of doors 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 occupancies in Groups R-2 and R-3.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Width of door leafs in revolving doors that comply with Section 1008.1.4.1 shall not be limited.
- 4. Door openings within a *dwelling unit* shall not be less than 78 inches (1981 mm) in height.
- 5. Exterior door openings in *dwelling units*, other than the required *exit* door, shall not be less than 76 inches (1930 mm) in height.
- 6. *Exit access* doors serving a room not larger than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be not less than 24 inches (610 mm) in door width.

**1104.8 Opening force for doors.** The opening force for interior side-swinging doors without closers shall not exceed a 5-pound (22 N) force. For other side-swinging, sliding and folding doors, the door latch shall release when subjected to a force of not more than 15 pounds (66 N). The door shall be set in motion when subjected to a force not exceeding 30 pounds (133 N). The door shall swing to a full-open position when subjected to a force of not more than 50 pounds (222 N). Forces shall be applied to the latch side.

**1104.9 Revolving doors.** Revolving doors shall comply with the following:

- 1. A revolving door shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the foot or top of stairs or escalators. A dispersal area shall be provided between the stairs or escalators and the revolving doors.
- 2. The revolutions per minute for a revolving door shall not exceed those shown in Table 1104.9.
- 3. Each revolving door shall have a conforming side-hinged swinging door in the same wall as the revolving door and within 10 feet (3048 mm).

**Exceptions:**

- 1. A revolving door is permitted to be used without an adjacent swinging door for street-floor elevator lobbies provided a stairway, escalator or door from other parts of the building does not discharge through the lobby and the lobby does not have any occupancy or use other than as a means of travel between elevators and a street.
- 2. Existing revolving doors where the number of revolving doors does not exceed the number of swinging doors within 20 feet (6096 mm).

**1104.9.1 Egress component.** A revolving door used as a component of a *means of egress* shall comply with Section 1104.9 and all of the following conditions:

- 1. Revolving doors shall not be given credit for more than 50 percent of the required egress capacity.

**((CONSTRUCTION)) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS**

2. Each revolving door shall be credited with not more than a 50-person capacity.
3. Revolving doors 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.

**TABLE 1104.9  
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.

**1104.10 Stair dimensions for existing stairs.** Existing stairs in buildings shall be permitted to remain if the rise does not exceed  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches (210 mm) and the run is not less than 9 inches (229 mm). Existing stairs can be rebuilt.

**Exception:** Other stairs approved by the fire code official.

**1104.10.1 Dimensions for replacement stairs.** The replacement of an existing stairway in a structure shall not be required to comply with the new stairway requirements of Section 1009 where the existing space and construction will not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.

**1104.11 Winders.** Existing winders shall be allowed to remain in use if they have a minimum tread depth of 6 inches (152 mm) and a minimum tread depth of 9 inches (229 mm) at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the narrowest edge.

**1104.12 Circular stairways.** Existing circular stairs shall be allowed to continue in use provided the minimum depth of tread is 10 inches (254 mm) and the smallest radius shall not be less than twice the width of the stairway.

**1104.13 Stairway handrails.** Stairways shall have handrails on at least one side. Handrails shall be located so that all portions of the stairway width required for egress capacity are within 44 inches (1118 mm) of a handrail.

**Exception:** Aisle stairs provided with a center handrail are not required to have additional handrails.

**1104.13.1 Height.** Handrail height, measured above stair tread nosings, shall be uniform, not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 42 inches (1067 mm).

**1104.14 Slope of ramps.** Ramp runs utilized as part of a means of egress shall have a running slope not steeper than one unit vertical in 10 units horizontal (10-percent slope). The slope of other ramps shall not be steeper than one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope).

**1104.15 Width of ramps.** Existing ramps are permitted to have a minimum width of 30 inches (762 mm) but not less than the width required for the number of occupants served as determined by Section 1005.1.

**1104.16 Fire escape stairs.** Fire escape stairs shall comply with Sections 1104.16.1 through 1104.16.7.

**1104.16.1 Existing means of egress.** Fire escape stairs shall be permitted in existing buildings but shall not constitute more than 50 percent of the required exit capacity.

**1104.16.2 Protection of openings.** Openings within 10 feet (3048 mm) of fire escape stairs shall be protected by opening protectives having a minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour fire protection rating.

**Exception:** In buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system, opening protection is not required.

**1104.16.3 Dimensions.** Fire escape stairs shall meet the minimum width, capacity, riser height and tread depth as specified in Section 1104.10.

**1104.16.4 Access.** Access to a fire escape stair from a corridor shall not be through an intervening room. Access to a fire escape stair shall be from a door or window meeting the criteria of Section 1005.1. Access to a fire escape stair shall be directly to a balcony, landing or platform. These shall be no higher than the floor or window sill level and no lower than 8 inches (203 mm) below the floor level or 18 inches (457 mm) below the window sill.

**1104.16.5 Materials and strength.** Components of fire escape stairs shall be constructed of noncombustible materials. Fire escape stairs and balconies shall support the dead load plus a live load of not less than 100 pounds per square foot (4.78 kN/m<sup>2</sup>). Fire escape stairs and balconies shall be provided with a top and intermediate handrail on each side.

**1104.16.5.1 Examination.** Fire escape stairs and balconies shall be examined for structural adequacy and safety in accordance with Section 1104.16.5 by a registered design professional or others acceptable to the fire code official every five years, or as required by the fire code official. An inspection report shall be submitted to the fire code official after such examination.

**1104.16.6 Termination.** The lowest balcony shall not be more than 18 feet (5486 mm) from the ground. Fire escape stairs shall extend to the ground or be provided with counterbalanced stairs reaching the ground.

**Exception:** For fire escape stairs serving 10 or fewer occupants, an approved fire escape ladder is allowed to serve as the termination.

**1104.16.7 Maintenance.** Fire escapes shall be kept clear and unobstructed at all times and shall be maintained in good working order.

**1104.17 Corridors.** Corridors serving an occupant load greater than 30 and the openings therein shall provide an effective barrier to resist the movement of smoke. Transoms, louvers, doors and other openings shall be kept closed or self-closing.

**Exceptions:**

1. Corridors in occupancies other than in Group H, which are equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.



2. Patient room doors in *corridors* in occupancies in Group I-2 where *smoke barriers* are provided in accordance with the *International Building Code*.
3. *Corridors* in occupancies in Group E where each room utilized for instruction or assembly has at least one-half of the required *means of egress* doors opening directly to the exterior of the building at ground level.
4. *Corridors* that are in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

**1104.17.1 Corridor openings.** Openings in *corridor* walls shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where 20-minute fire door assemblies are required, solid wood doors at least 1.75 inches (44 mm) thick or insulated steel doors are allowed.

2. Openings protected with fixed wire glass set in steel frames.
3. Openings covered with 0.5-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard or 0.75-inch (19.1 mm) plywood on the room side.
4. Opening protection is not required when the building is equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system*.

**1104.17.2 Dead ends.** Where more than one *exit* or *exit access* doorway is required, the *exit access* shall be arranged such that dead ends do not exceed the limits specified in Table 1104.17.2.

**Exception:** A dead-end passageway or *corridor* shall not be limited in length where the length of the dead-end passageway or *corridor* is less than 2.5 times the least width of the dead-end passageway or *corridor*.

**1104.18 Exit access travel distance.** *Exits* shall be located so that the maximum length of *exit access* travel, measured from

**TABLE 1104.17.2  
COMMON PATH, DEAD-END AND TRAVEL DISTANCE LIMITS (by occupancy)**

OCCUPANCY	COMMON PATH LIMIT		DEAD-END LIMIT		TRAVEL DISTANCE LIMIT	
	Unsprinklered (feet)	Sprinklered (feet)	Unsprinklered (feet)	Sprinklered (feet)	Unsprinklered (feet)	Sprinklered (feet)
Group A	20/75 <sup>a</sup>	20/75 <sup>a</sup>	20 <sup>b</sup>	20 <sup>b</sup>	200	250
Group B <sup>f</sup>	75	100	50	50	200	300
Group E	75	75	20	50	200	250
Group F-1, S-1 <sup>d, f</sup>	75	100	50	50	200	250
Group F-2, S-2 <sup>d, f</sup>	75	100	50	50	300	400
Group H-1	25	25	0	0	75	75
Group H-2	50	100	0	0	75	100
Group H-3	50	100	20	20	100	150
Group H-4	75	75	20	20	150	175
Group H-5	75	75	20	50	150	200
Group I-1	75	75	20	50	200	250
Group I-2 (Health care)	NR <sup>e</sup>	NR <sup>e</sup>	NR	NR	150	200 <sup>c</sup>
Group I-3 (Detention and correctional—Use Conditions II, III, IV, V)	100	100	NR	NR	150 <sup>e</sup>	200 <sup>c</sup>
Group I-4 (Day care centers)	NR	NR	20	20	200	250
Group M (Covered or open mall)	75	100	50	50	200	400
Group M (Mercantile)	75	100	50	50	200	250
Group R-1 (Hotels)	75	75	50	50	200	250
Group R-2 (Apartments)	75	125	50	50	200	250
Group R-3 (One- and two-family)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Group R-4 (Residential care/assisted living)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Group U <sup>f</sup>	75	100	20	50	300	400

NR = No requirements.

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. 20 feet for common path serving 50 or more persons; 75 feet for common path serving less than 50 persons.
- b. See Section 1028.9.5 for dead-end aisles in Group A occupancies.
- c. This dimension is for the total travel distance, assuming incremental portions have fully utilized their allowable maximums. For travel distance within the room, and from the room exit access door to the exit, see the appropriate occupancy chapter.
- d. See the *International Building Code* for special requirements on spacing of doors in aircraft hangars.
- e. Any patient sleeping room, or any suite that includes patient sleeping rooms, of more than 1,000 square feet shall have at least two exit access doors placed a distance apart equal to not less than one-third of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the patient sleeping room or suite to be served, measured in a straight line between exit access doors.
- f. Where a tenant space in Group B, S and U occupancies has an occupant load of not more than 30, the length of a common path of egress travel shall not be more than 100 feet.

## ((CONSTRUCTION)) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

the most remote point to an *approved exit* along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel, does not exceed the distances given in Table 1104.17.2.

**1104.19 Common path of egress travel.** The *common path of egress travel* shall not exceed the distances given in Table 1104.17.2.

**1104.20 Stairway discharge identification.** An interior *exit stairway* or *ramp* which continues below its *level of exit discharge* shall be arranged and marked to make the direction of egress to a *public way* readily identifiable.

**Exception:** Stairs that continue one-half story beyond their *levels of exit discharge* need not be provided with barriers where the *exit discharge* is obvious.

**1104.21 Exterior stairway protection.** Exterior *exit stairs* shall be separated from the interior of the building as required in Section 1026.6. 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 buildings that are two stories or less above grade where the *level of exit discharge* serving such occupancies is the first story above grade.
2. Separation from the interior of the building is not required where the exterior *stairway* is served by an exterior 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 opening not 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* located in a building or structure that is permitted to have unenclosed interior *stairways* in accordance with Section 1022.
4. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for exterior *stairways* connected to open-ended *corridors*, provided that:
  - 4.1. The building, including *corridors* and stairs, is 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* complying with Section 1026.
  - 4.4. 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 m<sup>2</sup>) or an exterior *stairway* shall be provided. Where

clear openings are provided, they shall be located so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

**1104.22 Minimum aisle width.** The minimum clear width of *aisles* shall be:

1. Forty-two inches (1067 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 stepped *aisles* having seating on only one side.

**Exception:** Thirty inches (760 mm) for catchment areas serving not more than 60 seats.
3. Twenty inches (508 mm) between a stepped *aisle* handrail or guard and seating when the *aisle* is subdivided by the *handrail*.
4. Forty-two inches (1067 mm) for level or ramped *aisles* having seating on both sides.

**Exception:** Thirty-six inches (914 mm) where the *aisle* serves less than 50 seats.
5. Thirty-six inches (914 mm) for level or ramped *aisles* having seating on only one side.

**Exception:** Thirty inches (760 mm) for catchment areas serving not more than 60 seats.
6. Twenty-three inches (584 mm) between a stepped *stair handrail* and seating where an *aisle* does not serve more than five rows on one side.

**1104.23 Stairway floor number signs.** Existing *stairs* shall be marked in accordance with Section 1022.9.

**1104.24 Egress path markings.** Existing high-rise buildings of Group A, B, E, I, M and R-1 occupancies shall be provided with luminous *egress* path markings in accordance with Section 1024.

**Exception:** Open, unenclosed stairwells in historic buildings designated as historic under a state or local historic preservation program.

## SECTION 1105 REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR OPERATIONS

**1105.1 Tire storage yards.** Existing tire storage yards shall be provided with fire apparatus access roads in accordance with Sections 1105.1.1 and 1105.1.2.

**1105.1.1 Access to piles.** Access roadways shall be within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of any point in the storage yard where storage piles are located, at least 20 feet (6096 mm) from any storage pile.

**1105.1.2 Location within piles.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be located within all pile clearances identified in Section 3405.4 and within all fire breaks required in Section 3405.5.