

7.9 EXIT REQUIREMENT

As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.

7.9.1 Type of Exits: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.1

7.9.2 Number of Size of Exits: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.2

7.9.3 Arrangements of Exits: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.3

7.9.4 Occupant Load: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.1

7.9.5 Capacity of Exit: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.4

7.9.6 Staircase Requirements: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.5

7.9.7 Minimum Width Provision for Stairways: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.6

7.9.8 Minimum Width Provision for Passageway/Corridors: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.7

7.9.9 Doorways: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.8

7.9.10 Stairways: As provided in Building Bye-Laws 4.8.9

7.9.11 Fire Escapes or External Stairs:

- a) Fire escape shall not be taken into account while calculating the number of staircases for a building.
- b) All fire escapes shall be directly connected to the ground.
- c) Entrance to the fire escape shall be separate and remote from internal staircase.
- d) The route to fire escape shall be free of obstructions at all times except the doorway leading to the fire escape which shall have the required fire resistance.
- e) Fire escape shall be constructed of non-combustible materials.
- f) Fire escape stairs shall have straight flight not less than 125 cm wide with 25 cm treads and risers not more than 19 cm.
- g) Handrails shall be at a height not less than 100 cm.
- h) Fire escape staircase in the mercantile, business, assembly, hotel buildings above 24 m. height shall be a fire tower and in such a case width of the same shall not be less than the width of the main staircase. No combustible material shall be allowed in the fire tower.

7.9.12 Spiral Stairs

- a) The use of spiral staircase shall be limited to low occupant load and to a building height 9 m.
- b) A spiral stair shall not be less than 150 cm in diameter and shall be designed to give the adequate headroom.

7.9.13 Staircase Enclosures

- a) The external enclosing walls of the staircase shall be of the brick or the R.C.C. construction having fire resistance of not less than two hours. All enclosed staircases shall have access through self-closing door of one-hour fire resistance. These shall be single swing doors opening in the direction of the escape. The door shall be fitted with the check action door closers.
- b) The staircase enclosures on the external wall of the building shall be ventilated to the atmosphere at each landing.
- c) Permanent vent at the top equal to the 5% of the cross sectional area of the enclosure and openable sashes at each floor level with area equal to 1 to 15% of the cross sectional area of the enclosure on external shall be provided. The roof of the shaft shall be at least 1 m. above the surrounding roof. There shall be no glazing or the glass bricks in any internal closing wall of staircase. If the staircase is in the core of the building and cannot be ventilated at each landing, a positive of 5-mm. w.g. by an electrically operated blower/blowers shall be maintained.
- d) The mechanism for pressurizing the staircase shaft shall be so installed that the same shall operate automatically on fire alarm system/sprinkler system and be provided with manual operation facilities.

7.9.14 Ramps

- a) Ramps of slope of not more than 1 in 10 may be substituted for and shall comply with all the applicable requirements of all required stairways as to enclosure capacity and limiting dimensions. Larger slopes shall be provided for special uses but in no case greater than 1 in 8. For all slopes exceeding 1 in 10 and where the use is such as to involve danger of slipping, the ramp shall be surfaced with approved non-slipping material.

- b) The minimum width of the ramps in the Hospitals shall be 2.4 m. and in the basement using car parking shall be 6.0 m.
- c) Handrails shall be provided on both sides of the ramp.
- d) Ramp shall lead directly to outside open space at ground level or courtyards of safe place.
- e) For building above 24.0 m. in height, access to ramps from any floor of the building shall be through smoke fire check door.
- f) In case of nursing homes, hospitals etc. area exceeding 300 sq m. at each floor one of the exit facility shall be a ramp of not less than 2.4 m. in width.

7.10 PROVISION OF LIFTS

- a) Provision of the lifts shall be made for all multi-storeyed building having a height of 15.0 m. and above.
- b) All the floors shall be accessible for 24 hrs. by the lift. The lift provided in the buildings shall not be considered as a means of escape in case of emergency.
- c) Grounding switch at ground floor level to enable the fire service to ground the lift car in case of emergency shall also be provided.
- d) The lift machine room shall be separate and no other machinery be installed in it.

7.10.1 Lift Enclosure/lift

General requirements shall be as follows

- a) Walls of lift enclosures shall have a fire rating of two hours. Lift shafts shall have a vent at the top of area not less than 0.2 sq m.
- b) Lift motor room shall be located preferably on top of the shaft and separated from the shaft by the floor of the room.
- c) Landing door in lift enclosures shall have a fire resistance of not less than one hour.
- d) The number of lifts in one lift bank shall not exceed four. A wall of two hours fire rating shall separate individual shafts in a bank.
- e) Lift car door shall have a fire resistance rating of 1 hour.

7.12 PROVISION OF HELIPAD

All high-rise buildings 50 m. and above shall have provision for a Helipad on the terrace. The same shall be approved by the Authority.

7.13 SERVICE DUCTS/REFUGE CHUTE

- a) Service duct shall be enclosed by walls and door, if any, of 2 hours fire rating. If ducts are larger than 10 sq m. the floor should seal them, but provide suitable opening for the pipes to pass through, with the gaps sealed.
- b) A vent opening at the top of the service shaft shall be provided between one-fourth and one-half of the area of the shaft. Refuge chutes shall have an outlet at least of wall of non-combustible material with fire resistance of not less than two hours. They shall not be located within the staircase enclosure or service shafts or air-conditioning shafts. Inspection panel and door shall be tight fitting with 1 hour fire resistance; the chutes should be as far away as possible from exits.
- c) Refuge chutes shall not be provided in staircase walls and A/C shafts etc.

7.14 ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Electrical Services shall conform to the following:

- a) The electric distribution cables/wiring shall be laid in a separate duct shall be sealed at every floor with non-combustible material having the same fire resistance as that of the duct. Low and medium voltage wiring running in shaft and in false ceiling shall run in separate conduits.
- b) Water mains, telephone wires, inter-com lines, gas pipes or any other service lines shall not be laid in ducts for electric cables.
- c) Separate conduits for water pumps, lifts, staircases and corridor lighting and blowers for pressuring system shall be directly from the main switch panel and these circuits shall be laid in separate conduit pipes, so that fire in one

circuit will not affect the others. Master switches controlling essential service circuits shall be clearly labeled.

- d) The inspection panel doors and any other opening in the shaft shall be provided with airtight fire doors having fire resistance of not less than 1 hour.
- e) Medium and low voltage wiring running in shafts, and within false ceiling shall run in metal conduits. Any 230 voltage wiring for lighting or other services, above false ceiling should have 660V grade insulation. The false ceiling including all fixtures used for its suspension shall be of non-combustible material.
- f) An independent and well-ventilated service room shall be provided on the ground floor with direct access from outside or from the corridor for the purpose of termination of electrical supply from the licenses service and alternative supply cables. The doors provided for the service room shall have fire resistance of not less than 1 hour
- g) MCB and ELCB shall be provided for electrical circuit.

7.15 STAIRCASE AND CORRIDOR LIGHTS

The staircase and corridor lighting shall be on separate circuits and shall be independently connected so that it could be operated by one switch installation on the ground floor easily accessible to fire fighting staff at any time irrespective of the position of the individual control of the light points, if any. It should be of miniature circuit breaker type of switch so as to avoid replacement of fuse in case of crisis.

- a) Staircase and corridor lighting shall also be connected to alternate source of power supply.
- b) Suitable arrangement shall be made by installing double throw switches to ensure that the lighting installed in the staircase and the corridor does not get connected to two sources of supply simultaneously. Double throw switch shall be installed in the service room for terminating the stand by supply.
- c) Emergency lights shall be provided in the staircase and corridor.