

# 2021 Virginia Construction Code

## CHAPTER 4 SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BASED ON USE AND OCCUPANCY

### SECTION 422 AMBULATORY CARE FACILITIES

#### 422.1 General.

Occupancies classified as *ambulatory care facilities* shall comply with the provisions of [Sections 422.1](#) through [422.7](#) and other applicable provisions of this code.

#### 422.2 Separation.

*Ambulatory care facilities* where the potential for four or more care recipients are to be *incapable of self-preservation* at any time shall be separated from adjacent spaces, *corridors* or tenants with a *fire partition* installed in accordance with [Section 708](#).

#### 422.3 Smoke compartments.

Where the aggregate area of one or more *ambulatory care facilities* is greater than 10,000 square feet (929 m<sup>2</sup>) on one story, the story shall be provided with a *smoke barrier* to subdivide the story into not fewer than two *smoke compartments*. The area of any one such *smoke compartment* shall be not greater than 22,500 square feet (2092 m<sup>2</sup>). The distance of travel from any point in a *smoke compartment* to a *smoke barrier* door shall be not greater than 200 feet (60 960 mm). The *smoke barrier* shall be installed in accordance with [Section 709](#) with the exception that *smoke barriers* shall be continuous from outside wall to an outside wall, a floor to a floor, or from a *smoke barrier* to a *smoke barrier* or a combination thereof.

##### 422.3.1 Means of egress.

Where *ambulatory care facilities* require smoke compartmentation in accordance with [Section 422.3](#), the fire safety evacuation plans provided in accordance with [Section 1002.2](#) shall identify the building components necessary to support a *defend-in-place* emergency response in accordance with [Sections 403](#) and [404](#) of the *International Fire Code*.

##### 422.3.2 Refuge area.

Not less than 30 net square feet (2.8 m<sup>2</sup>) for each nonambulatory care recipient shall be provided within the aggregate area of *corridors*, care recipient rooms, treatment rooms, lounge or dining areas and other low-hazard areas within each *smoke compartment*. Each occupant of an *ambulatory care facility* shall be provided with access to a refuge area without passing through or utilizing adjacent tenant spaces.

##### 422.3.3 Independent egress.

A *means of egress* shall be provided from each *smoke compartment* created by *smoke barriers* without having to return through the *smoke compartment* from which *means of egress* originated.

#### [F] 422.4 Automatic sprinkler systems.

*Automatic sprinkler systems* shall be provided for *ambulatory care facilities* in accordance with [Section 903.2.2](#).

#### [F] 422.5 Fire alarm systems.

A *fire alarm* system shall be provided for *ambulatory care facilities* in accordance with [Section 907.2.2](#).

#### [F] 422.6 Electrical systems.

In *ambulatory care facilities*, the essential electrical system for electrical components, equipment and systems shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 27](#) and [NFPA 99](#).

#### 422.7 Domestic cooking.

Installation of cooking appliances used in domestic cooking facilities shall comply with all of the following:

1. The types of cooking appliances permitted are limited to ovens, cooktops, ranges, warmers and microwaves.
2. Domestic cooking hoods installed and constructed in accordance with [Section 505](#) of the *International Mechanical Code* shall be provided over cooktops or ranges.
3. A shutoff for the fuel and electrical supply to the cooking equipment shall be provided in a location to which only staff has access.
4. A timer shall be provided that automatically deactivates the cooking appliances within a period of not more than 120 minutes.
5. A portable fire extinguisher shall be provided. Installation shall be in accordance with [Section 906](#) and the extinguisher shall be located within a 30-foot (9144 mm) distance of travel from each domestic cooking appliance.

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