

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 30 ELEVATORS AND CONVEYING SYSTEMS

SECTION 3006 ELEVATOR LOBBIES AND HOISTWAY OPENING PROTECTION

3006.1 General.

Where provided to comply with applicable requirements set forth elsewhere in this code, elevator hoistway openings and enclosed elevator lobbies shall be provided in accordance with the following:

1. Where hoistway opening protection is required by [Section 3006.2](#), such protection shall be in accordance with [Section 3006.3](#).
2. Where enclosed elevator lobbies are required for underground buildings, such lobbies shall comply with [Section 405.4.3](#).
3. Where an *area of refuge* is required and an enclosed elevator lobby is provided to serve as an *area of refuge*, the enclosed elevator lobby shall comply with [Section 1009.6](#).
4. Where fire service access elevators are provided, enclosed elevator lobbies shall comply with [Section 3007.6](#).
5. Where occupant evacuation elevators are provided, enclosed elevator lobbies shall comply with [Section 3008.6](#).

3006.2 Hoistway opening protection required.

Elevator hoistway door openings shall be protected in accordance with [Section 3006.3](#) where an elevator hoistway connects more than three *stories*, is required to be enclosed within a *shaft enclosure* in accordance with [Section 712.1.1](#) and any of the following conditions apply:

1. The building is not protected throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#).
2. The building contains a Group I-1, Condition 2 occupancy.
3. The building contains a Group I-2 occupancy.
4. The building contains a Group I-3 occupancy.
5. The building is a high rise and the elevator hoistway is more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) in height. The height of the hoistway shall be measured from the *lowest floor* to the highest floor of the floors served by the hoistway.

Exceptions:

1. Protection of elevator hoistway door openings is not required where the elevator serves only *open parking garages* in accordance with [Section 406.5](#).
2. Protection of elevator hoistway door openings is not required at the level(s) of exit discharge, provided that the level(s) of exit discharge is equipped with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).
3. Enclosed elevator lobbies and protection of elevator hoistway door openings are not required on levels where the elevator hoistway opens to the exterior.

3006.2.1 Rated corridors.

Where *corridors* are required to be fire-resistance rated in accordance with [Section 1020.2](#), elevator hoistway openings shall be protected in accordance with [Section 3006.3](#).

3006.3 Hoistway opening protection.

Where [Section 3006.2](#) requires protection of the elevator hoistway door opening, the protection shall be provided by one of the following:

1. An enclosed elevator lobby shall be provided at each floor to separate the elevator hoistway *shaft enclosure* doors from each floor by *fire partitions* in accordance with [Section 708](#). In addition, doors protecting openings in the elevator lobby enclosure walls shall comply with [Section 716.2.2.1](#) as required for *corridor* walls. Penetrations of the enclosed elevator lobby by ducts and air transfer openings shall be protected as required for *corridors* in accordance with [Section 717.5.4.1](#).
2. An enclosed elevator lobby shall be provided at each floor to separate the elevator hoistway *shaft enclosure* doors from each floor by *smoke partitions* in accordance with [Section 710](#) where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#). In addition, doors protecting openings in the *smoke partitions* shall comply with [Sections 710.5.2.2](#), [710.5.2.3](#) and [716.2.6.1](#). Penetrations of the enclosed elevator lobby by ducts and air transfer openings shall be protected as required for *corridors* in accordance with [Section 717.5.4.1](#).
3. Additional doors shall be provided at each elevator hoistway door opening in accordance with [Section 3002.6](#).

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Such door shall comply with the smoke and draft control door assembly requirements in [Section 716.2.2.1.1](#) when tested in accordance with [UL 1784](#) without an artificial bottom seal.

4. The elevator hoistway shall be pressurized in accordance with [Section 909.21](#).

3006.4 Means of egress.

Elevator lobbies shall be provided with not less than one *means of egress* complying with [Chapter 10](#) and other provisions in this code. Egress through an enclosed elevator lobby shall be permitted in accordance with Item 1 of [Section 1016.2](#).