

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 4 SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BASED ON USE AND OCCUPANCY

SECTION 411 SPECIAL AMUSEMENT AREAS

411.1 General.

Special amusement areas having an *occupant load* of 50 or more shall comply with the requirements for the appropriate Group A occupancy and [Sections 411.1 through 411.7](#). *Special amusement areas* having an *occupant load* of less than 50 shall comply with the requirements for a Group B occupancy and [Sections 411.1 through 411.7](#).

Exception: *Special amusement areas* that are without walls or a roof and constructed to prevent the accumulation of smoke need not comply with this section.

[F] 411.2 Automatic sprinkler system.

Buildings containing *special amusement areas* shall be equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#). Where the *special amusement area* is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an *approved* temporary means.

Exception: *Automatic* sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary *special amusement area* is less than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) and the *exit access* travel distance from any point in the *special amusement area* to an exit is less than 50 feet (15 240 mm).

[F] 411.3 Automatic smoke detection.

Buildings containing *special amusement areas* shall be equipped with an *automatic smoke detection system* in accordance with [Section 907.2.12](#).

[F] 411.4 Emergency voice/alarm communications system.

An *emergency voice/alarm communications system* shall be provided in accordance with [Section 907.2.12](#).

411.5 Puzzle room exiting.

Puzzle room exiting shall comply with one of the following:

1. Exiting in accordance with [Chapter 10](#).
2. An alternative design approved by the building official.
3. Exits shall be open and readily available upon activation by the automatic fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system, and a manual control at a constantly attended location.

411.6 Exit marking.

Exit signs shall be installed at the required *exit* or *exit access doorways* *serving special amusement areas* in accordance with this section and [Section 1013](#). *Approved* directional exit markings shall be provided. Where mirrors, mazes or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel such that they are not apparent, *approved* and *listed* low-level exit signs that comply with [Section 1013.5](#), and directional path markings *listed* in accordance with [UL 1994](#), shall be provided and located not more than 8 inches (203 mm) above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the *automatic smoke* detection system and the *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 907.2.12](#).

411.6.1 Photoluminescent exit signs.

Where *photoluminescent* exit signs are installed, activating light source and viewing distance shall be in accordance with the listing and markings of the signs.

411.7 Interior finish.

The *interior finish* in *special amusement areas* shall be Class A in accordance with [Section 803.1](#).