

CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

**SECTION 1009
ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS**

1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.

Accessible means of egress shall comply with this section. *Accessible* spaces shall be provided with not less than one accessible means of egress. Where more than one *means of egress* is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from any accessible space, each *accessible* portion of the space shall be served by not less than two accessible means of egress.

Exceptions:

1. One *accessible means of egress* is required from an *accessible mezzanine* level in accordance with [Section 1009.3](#), [1009.4](#) or [1009.5](#).
2. In assembly areas with ramped *aisles* or stepped *aisles*, one *accessible means of egress* is permitted where the *common path of egress travel* is *accessible* and meets the requirements in Section 1030.8.

1009.2 Continuity and components.

Each required *accessible means of egress* shall be continuous to a *public way* and shall consist of one or more of the following components:

1. *Accessible routes* complying with [Section 1104](#).
2. *Interior exit stairways* complying with [Sections 1009.3](#) and 1023.
3. *Exit access stairways* complying with [Sections 1009.3](#) and 1019.3 or 1019.4.
4. *Exterior exit stairways* complying with [Sections 1009.3](#) and 1027 and serving levels other than the *level of exit discharge*.
5. Elevators complying with [Section 1009.4](#).
6. Platform lifts complying with [Section 1009.5](#).
7. *Horizontal exits* complying with Section 1026.
8. *Ramps* complying with Section 1012.
9. *Areas of refuge* complying with [Section 1009.6](#).
10. Exterior areas for assisted rescue complying with [Section 1009.7](#) serving exits at the *level of exit discharge*.

1009.2.1 Elevators required.

In buildings where a required accessible floor or occupied roof is four or more stories above or below *level of exit discharge*, not less than one required *accessible means of egress* shall be an elevator complying with [Section 1009.4](#).

Exceptions:

1. In buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a *horizontal exit* and located at or above the *levels of exit discharge*.
2. In buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a *ramp* conforming to the provisions of Section 1012.

1009.3 Stairways.

In order to be considered part of an *accessible means of egress*, a *stairway* between *stories* shall comply with [Sections 1009.3.1](#) through [1009.3.3](#).

1009.3.1 Exit access stairways.

Exit access stairways that connect levels in the same *story* are not permitted as part of an *accessible means of egress*.

Exception: *Exit access stairways* providing *means of egress* from *mezzanines* are permitted as part of an *accessible means of egress*.

1009.3.2 Stairway width.

Stairways shall have a clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum between *handrails*.

Exceptions:

1. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required for *stairways* accessed from a refuge area in conjunction with a *horizontal exit*.

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1009.3.3 Area of refuge.

Stairways shall either incorporate an *area of refuge* within an enlarged floor-level landing or shall be accessed from an *area of refuge* complying with [Section 1009.6](#).

Exceptions:

1. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *exit access stairways* where two-way communication is provided at the elevator landing in accordance with [Section 1009.8](#).
2. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *stairways* in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#).
3. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *stairways* serving *open parking garages*.
4. *Areas of refuge* are not required for *smoke-protected or open-air assembly seating areas* complying with [Sections 1030.6.2](#) and [1030.6.3](#).
5. *Areas of refuge* are not required at *stairways* in Group R-2 occupancies.
6. *Areas of refuge* are not required for *stairways* accessed from a refuge area in conjunction with a *horizontal exit*.

1009.4 Elevators.

In order to be considered part of an *accessible means of egress*, an elevator shall comply with [Sections 1009.4.1](#) and [1009.4.2](#).

1009.4.1 Standby power.

The elevator shall meet the emergency operation and signaling device requirements of [Section 2.27](#) of ASME A17.1/CSA B44. Standby power shall be provided in accordance with [Chapter 27](#) and [Section 3003](#).

1009.4.2 Area of refuge.

The elevator shall be accessed from an *area of refuge* complying with [Section 1009.6](#).

Exceptions:

1. *Areas of refuge* are not required at the elevator in *open parking garages*.
2. *Areas of refuge* are not required in buildings and facilities equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#).
3. *Areas of refuge* are not required at elevators not required to be located in a *shaft* in accordance with [Section 712](#).
4. *Areas of refuge* are not required at elevators serving *smoke-protected or open-air assembly seating areas* complying with [Sections 1030.6.2](#) and [1030.6.3](#).
5. *Areas of refuge* are not required for elevators accessed from a refuge area in conjunction with a *horizontal exit*.

1009.5 Platform lifts.

Platform lifts shall be permitted to serve as part of an *accessible means of egress* where allowed as part of a required *accessible route* in [Section 1110.9](#) except for Item 10. Standby power for the platform lift shall be provided in accordance with [Chapter 27](#).

1009.6 Areas of refuge.

Every required *area of refuge* shall be accessible from the space it serves by an *accessible means of egress*.

1009.6.1 Travel distance.

The maximum travel distance from any accessible space to an *area of refuge* shall not exceed the *exit access* travel distance permitted for the occupancy in accordance with [Section 1017.1](#).

1009.6.2 Stairway or elevator access.

Every required *area of refuge* shall have *direct access* to a *stairway* complying with [Sections 1009.3](#) and [1023](#) or an elevator complying with [Section 1009.4](#).

Exception: An interior *area of refuge* at the level of *exit discharge* that provides *direct access* to an exterior *exit door*.

1009.6.3 Size.

Each *area of refuge* shall be sized to accommodate one *wheelchair space* of 30 inches by 52 inches (762 mm by 1320 mm) for each 200 occupants or portion thereof, based on the *occupant load* of the *area of refuge* and areas served by the *area of refuge*. Such *wheelchair spaces* shall not reduce the *means of egress* minimum width or required capacity. Access to any of the required *wheelchair spaces* in an *area of refuge* shall not be obstructed by more than one adjoining *wheelchair space*.

1009.6.4 Separation.

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Each *area of refuge* shall be separated from the remainder of the story by a *smoke barrier* complying with Section 709 or a *horizontal exit* complying with Section 1026. Each *area of refuge* shall be designed to minimize the intrusion of smoke.

Exceptions:

1. *Areas of refuge* located within an enclosure for *interior exit stairways* complying with Section 1023.
2. *Areas of refuge* in outdoor facilities where *exit access* is essentially open to the outside.

1009.6.5 Two-way communication.

Areas of refuge shall be provided with a two-way communication system complying with [Sections 1009.8.1](#) and [1009.8.2](#).

1009.7 Exterior areas for assisted rescue.

Exterior areas for assisted rescue shall be accessed by an *accessible route* from the area served.

Where the *exit discharge* does not include an *accessible route* from an exit located on the *level of exit discharge* to a *public way*, an exterior area of assisted rescue shall be provided on the exterior landing in accordance with [Sections 1009.7.1](#) through [1009.7.4](#).

1009.7.1 Size.

Each exterior area for assisted rescue shall be sized to accommodate *wheelchair spaces* in accordance with [Section 1009.6.3](#).

1009.7.2 Separation.

Exterior walls separating the exterior area of assisted rescue from the interior of the building shall have a minimum *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour, rated for exposure to fire from the inside. The *fire-resistance-rated exterior wall* construction shall extend horizontally not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) beyond the landing on either side of the landing or equivalent *fire-resistance-rated* construction is permitted to extend out perpendicular to the *exterior wall* not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) on the side of the landing. The *fire-resistance-rated* construction shall extend vertically from the ground to a point not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) above the floor level of the area for assisted rescue or to the roof line, whichever is lower. Openings within such *fire-resistance-rated exterior walls* shall be protected in accordance with Section 716.

Exception: The *fire-resistance rating* and opening protectives are not required in the *exterior wall* 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.

1009.7.3 Openness.

The exterior area for assisted rescue shall be open to the outside air. The sides other than the separation walls shall be not less than 50 percent open, and the open area shall be distributed so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

1009.7.4 Stairways.

Stairways that are part of the *means of egress* for the exterior area for assisted rescue shall provide a minimum clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails*.

Exception: The minimum clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between *handrails* is not required at *stairways* serving buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

1009.8 Two-way communication.

A two-way communication system complying with [Sections 1009.8.1](#) and [1009.8.2](#) shall be provided at the landing serving each elevator or bank of elevators on each accessible floor that is one or more stories above or below the *level of exit discharge*.

Exceptions:

1. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landing serving each elevator or bank of elevators where the two-way communication system is provided within *areas of refuge* in accordance with [Section 1009.6.5](#).
2. Two-way communication systems are not required on floors provided with *ramps* conforming to the provisions of Section 1012.
3. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landings serving only service elevators that are not designated as part of the *accessible means of egress* or serve as part of the required *accessible route* into a facility.
4. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landings serving only freight elevators.
5. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landing serving a private residence elevator.
6. Two-way communication systems are not required in Group I-2 or I-3 facilities.

1009.8.1 System requirements.

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Two-way communication systems shall provide communication between each required location and the *fire command center* or a central control point location *approved* by the fire department. Where the central control point is not a *constantly attended location*, the two-way communication system shall have timed, automatic telephone dial-out capability that provides two-way communication with an approved supervising station or 9-1-1. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

1009.8.2 Directions.

Directions for the use of the two-way communication system, instructions for summoning assistance via the two-way communication system and written identification of the location shall be posted adjacent to the two-way communication system. Signage shall comply with the [ICC A117.1](#) requirements for visual characters.

1009.9 Signage.

Signage indicating special accessibility provisions shall be provided as shown:

1. Each door providing access to an *area of refuge* from an adjacent floor area shall be identified by a sign stating, "AREA OF REFUGE."
2. Each door providing access to an exterior area for assisted rescue shall be identified by a sign stating, "EXTERIOR AREA FOR ASSISTED RESCUE."

Signage shall comply with the [ICC A117.1](#) requirements for visual characters and include the International Symbol of Accessibility. Where exit sign illumination is required by Section 1013.3, the signs shall be illuminated. Additionally, visual characters, raised character and braille signage complying with [ICC A117.1](#) shall be located at each door to an *area of refuge* and exterior area for assisted rescue in accordance with [Section 1013.4](#).

1009.10 Directional signage.

Directional signage indicating the location of all other *means of egress* and which of those are *accessible* means of egress shall be provided at the following:

1. At *exits* serving a required accessible space but not providing an *approved accessible means of egress*.
2. At elevator landings.
3. Within *areas of refuge*.

1009.11 Instructions.

In *areas of refuge* and exterior areas for assisted rescue, instructions on the use of the area under emergency conditions shall be posted. Signage shall comply with the [ICC A117.1](#) requirements for visual characters. The instructions shall include all of the following:

1. Persons able to use the *exit stairway* do so as soon as possible, unless they are assisting others.
2. Information on planned availability of assistance in the use of *stairs* or supervised operation of elevators and how to summon such assistance.
3. Directions for use of the two-way communication system where provided.