

area of the *mezzanine* shall be included in determining the *fire area* defined in Section 902. The clear height above and below the *mezzanine* floor construction shall not be less than 7 feet (2134 mm).

**505.2 Area limitation.** The aggregate area of a *mezzanine* or *mezzanines* within a room shall not exceed one-third of the floor area of that room or space in which they are located. The enclosed portion of a room shall not be included in a determination of the floor area of the room in which the *mezzanine* is located. In determining the allowable *mezzanine* area, the area of the *mezzanine* shall not be included in the floor area of the room.

**Exceptions:**

1. The aggregate area of *mezzanines* in buildings and structures of Type I or II construction for special industrial occupancies in accordance with Section 503.1.1 shall not exceed two-thirds of the floor area of the room.
2. The aggregate area of *mezzanines* in buildings and structures of Type I or II construction shall not exceed one-half of the floor area of the room in buildings and structures equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and an *approved* emergency voice/alarm communication system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

**505.3 Egress.** Each occupant of a *mezzanine* shall have access to at least two independent *means of egress* where the *common path of egress travel* exceeds the limitations of Section 1014.3. Where a *stairway* provides a means of *exit access* from a *mezzanine*, the maximum travel distance includes the distance traveled on the *stairway* measured in the plane of the tread nosing. *Accessible means of egress* shall be provided in accordance with Section 1007.

**Exception:** A single *means of egress* shall be permitted in accordance with Section 1015.1.

**505.4 Openness.** A *mezzanine* shall be open and unobstructed to the room in which such *mezzanine* is located except for walls not more than 42 inches (1067 mm) high, columns and posts.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Mezzanines* or portions thereof are not required to be open to the room in which the *mezzanines* are located, provided that the *occupant load* of the aggregate area of the enclosed space does not exceed 10.
2. A *mezzanine* having two or more *means of egress* is not required to be open to the room in which the *mezzanine* is located if at least one of the *means of egress* provides direct access to an *exit* from the *mezzanine* level.
3. *Mezzanines* or portions thereof are not required to be open to the room in which the *mezzanines* are located, provided that the aggregate floor area of the enclosed space does not exceed 10 percent of the *mezzanine* area.
4. In industrial facilities, *mezzanines* used for control equipment are permitted to be glazed on all sides.
5. In occupancies other than Groups H and I, that are no more than two *stories* above *grade plane* and equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, a *mezzanine* having two or more *means of egress* shall not be required to be open to the room in which the *mezzanine* is located.