**Chapter 15 Existing Educational Occupancies**

15.1 General Requirements

15.1.1 Application

15.1.1.1

The requirements of this chapter shall apply to existing buildings or portions thereof currently occupied as educational occupancies.

15.1.1.2 Administration

The provisions of Chapter 1, Administration, shall apply.

15.1.1.3 General

The provisions of Chapter 4, General, shall apply.

15.1.1.4

Educational facilities that do not meet the definition of an educational occupancy shall not be required to comply with this chapter but shall comply with the following requirements:

Instructional building — business occupancy

Classrooms under 50 persons — business occupancy

Classrooms, 50 persons and over — assembly occupancy

Laboratories, instructional — business occupancy

Laboratories, noninstructional — industrial occupancy

Upcodes Diagrams

15.1.1.5

Where construction, alteration, or demolition operations are conducted, the provisions of 4.6.10.2 shall apply.

15.1.2 Classification of Occupancy

See 6.1.3.

15.1.2.1

Educational occupancies shall include all buildings used for educational purposes through the twelfth grade by six or more persons for 4 or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week.

15.1.2.2

Educational occupancies shall include preschools, kindergartens, and other schools meeting both of the following criteria:

The purpose is primarily educational, even though the children who attend such schools are of preschool age.

The children are all 30 months of age or older.

15.1.2.3

In cases where instruction is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of this Code governing such other occupancy shall apply.

15.1.2.4

Other occupancies associated with educational institutions shall be in accordance with the appropriate parts of this Code. (See Chapters 19, 21, 26, 29, 31, 40, and 42 and 6.1.14.)

15.1.3 Multiple Occupancies

15.1.3.1 General

Multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with 6.1.14.

15.1.3.2 Atrium Walls Used in an Occupancy Separation

Atrium walls in accordance with 6.1.14.4.6 shall be permitted to serve as part of the separation required by 6.1.14.4.1 for creating separated occupancies on a story-by-story basis.

15.1.3.3 Assembly and Educational

15.1.3.3.1

Spaces subject to assembly occupancy shall comply with Chapter 13, including 13.1.3.2, which provides that, where auditorium and gymnasium egress lead through corridors or stairways also serving as egress for other parts of the building, the egress capacity shall be sufficient to allow simultaneous egress from auditorium and classroom sections.

15.1.3.3.2

In the case of an assembly occupancy of a type suitable for use only by the school occupant load, and therefore not subject to simultaneous occupancy, the same egress capacity shall be permitted to serve both sections.

15.1.3.4 Dormitory and Classrooms

15.1.3.4.1

Any building used for both classroom and dormitory purposes shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 29 in addition to complying with Chapter 15.

15.1.3.4.2

Where classroom and dormitory sections are not subject to simultaneous occupancy, the same egress capacity shall be permitted to serve both sections.

15.1.4 Definitions

15.1.4.1 General

For definitions, see Chapter 3, Definitions.

15.1.4.2 Special Definitions

A list of special terms used in this chapter follows:

Common Atmosphere. See 3.3.27.1.

Flexible Plan and Open Plan Educational or Day-Care Building. See 3.3.37.6.

Separate Atmosphere. See 3.3.27.2.

15.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents

The contents of educational occupancies shall be classified in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.2.

15.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements

(Reserved.)

15.1.7 Occupant Load

15.1.7.1

The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of Table 7.3.1.2 that are characteristic of the use of the space or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

15.1.7.2

The occupant load of an educational occupancy, or a portion thereof, shall be permitted to be modified from that specified in 15.1.7.1 if the necessary aisles and exits are provided.

15.1.7.3

An approved aisle or seating diagram shall be required by the authority having jurisdiction to substantiate the modification permitted in 15.1.7.2.

15.2 Means of Egress Requirements

15.2.1 General

15.2.1.1

Means of egress shall be in accordance with Chapter 7 and Section 15.2.

15.2.1.2

Rooms normally occupied by preschool, kindergarten, or first-grade students shall be located on a level of exit discharge, unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.1.4.

15.2.1.3

Rooms normally occupied by second-grade students shall not be located more than one story above a level of exit discharge, unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.1.4.

15.2.1.4

Rooms or areas located on floor levels other than as specified in 15.2.1.2 and 15.2.1.3 shall be permitted to be used where provided with independent means of egress dedicated for use by the preschool, kindergarten, first-grade, or second-grade students.

15.2.2 Means of Egress Components

15.2.2.1 Components Permitted

Components of means of egress shall be limited to the types described in 15.2.2.2 through 15.2.2.10.

15.2.2.2 Doors

15.2.2.2.1

Doors complying with 7.2.1 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.2.2

Any required exit door subject to use by 100 or more persons shall be permitted to be provided with a latch or lock only if the latch or lock is panic hardware or fire exit hardware complying with 7.2.1.7.

15.2.2.2.3 Special Locking

15.2.2.2.3.1

Delayed-egress electrical locking system complying with 7.2.1.6.1 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.2.3.2

Sensor-release of electrical locking systems complying with 7.2.1.6.2 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.2.3.3

Elevator lobby exit access door assemblies locking in accordance with 7.2.1.6.4 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.2.4\* Locking of Classroom Doors and Other Instructional Spaces

15.2.2.2.4.1

Classroom doors and doors to other instructional spaces shall be permitted to be locked provided that the locking means is approved and all of the following conditions are met:

The locking means shall be capable of being engaged from the egress side of the door without opening the door.

The unlocking and unlatching from the egress side of the door shall be accomplished without the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or effort.

\*Two nonsimultaneous releasing motions shall be permitted where approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

The releasing mechanism for unlocking and unlatching shall be located at a height not less than 34 in. (865 mm) and not exceeding 48 in. (1220 mm) above the finished floor.

Locks, if remotely engaged, shall be unlockable from the egress side of the door without the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or effort.

The door shall be capable of being unlocked and opened from outside the room with the necessary key or other credential.

The locking means shall not modify the door closer, panic hardware, or fire exit hardware or impair their operation.

Modifications to fire door assemblies, including door hardware, shall be in accordance with NFPA 80.

The emergency action plan, required by 15.7.1, shall address the use of the locking and unlocking means from both sides of the door.

Staff shall be drilled in the engagement and release of the locking means, from both sides of the door, as part of the emergency egress drills required by 15.7.2.

15.2.2.2.4.2

Where existing classroom doors and doors to instructional spaces are replaced, they shall comply with the provisions of 14.2.2.2.4.

15.2.2.3\* Stairs

Stairs complying with 7.2.2 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.4 Smokeproof Enclosures

Smokeproof enclosures complying with 7.2.3 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.5 Horizontal Exits

Horizontal exits complying with 7.2.4 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.6 Ramps

Ramps complying with 7.2.5 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.7 Exit Passageways

Exit passageways complying with 7.2.6 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.8 Fire Escape Ladders

Fire escape ladders complying with 7.2.9 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.9 Alternating Tread Devices

Alternating tread devices complying with 7.2.11 shall be permitted.

15.2.2.10 Areas of Refuge

Areas of refuge complying with 7.2.12 shall be permitted.

15.2.3 Capacity of Means of Egress

15.2.3.1 General

Capacity of means of egress shall be in accordance with Section 7.3.

15.2.3.2 Minimum Corridor Width

15.2.3.2.1

Exit access corridors shall have not less than 6 ft (1830 mm) of clear width except as otherwise permitted in 15.2.3.2.2.

15.2.3.2.2

Exit access corridors with a required capacity of less than 100 persons shall have not less than 44 in. (1120 mm) of clear width.

15.2.4 Number of Means of Egress

15.2.4.1

The number of means of egress shall be in accordance with 7.4.1.1 and 7.4.1.3. through 7.4.1.6.

15.2.4.2

Not less than two separate exits shall be in accordance with the following criteria:

They shall be provided on every story unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.4.2(3).

They shall be accessible from every part of every story and mezzanine; however, exit access travel shall be permitted to be common for the distance permitted as common path of travel by 15.2.5.2.

Unenclosed stairs shall be permitted in accordance with 15.3.1.3.

15.2.5 Arrangement of Means of Egress

15.2.5.1

Means of egress shall be arranged in accordance with Section 7.5.

15.2.5.2

Limitations on common path of travel shall be in accordance with 15.2.5.2.1 and 15.2.5.2.2.

15.2.5.2.1

Common path of travel shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m) in a building protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.2.5.2.2

Common path of travel shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m) in a building not protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.2.5.3

No dead-end corridor shall exceed 20 ft (6100 mm), other than in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, in which case dead-end corridors shall not exceed 50 ft (15 m).

15.2.5.4

Every room or space larger than 1000 ft2 (93 m2) or with an occupant load of more than 50 persons shall comply with the following:

The room or space shall have a minimum of two exit access doors.

The doors required by 15.2.5.4(1) shall provide access to separate exits.

The doors required by 15.2.5.4(1) shall be permitted to open onto a common corridor, provided that such corridor leads to separate exits located in opposite directions.

15.2.5.5

Every room that is normally subject to student occupancy shall have an exit access door leading directly to an exit access corridor or exit, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

This requirement shall not apply where an exit door opens directly to the outside or to an exterior balcony or corridor as described in 15.2.5.9.

One room shall be permitted to intervene between a normally occupied student room and an exit access corridor, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

The travel from a room served by an intervening room to the corridor door or exit shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m).

Clothing, personal effects, or other materials deemed hazardous by the authority having jurisdiction shall be stored in metal lockers, provided that they do not obstruct the exit access, or the intervening room shall be sprinklered in accordance with Section 9.7.

One of the following means of protection shall be provided:

The intervening room shall have approved fire detection that activates the building alarm.

The building shall be protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

Approved existing arrangements shall be permitted to continue in use.

15.2.5.6

Doors that swing into an exit access corridor shall be arranged to prevent interference with corridor travel. (See also 7.2.1.4.3.)

15.2.5.7

Aisles shall be not less than 30 in. (760 mm) wide.

15.2.5.8

The space between parallel rows of seats shall not be subject to the minimum aisle width, provided that the number of seats that intervenes between any seat and an aisle does not exceed six.

15.2.5.9\*

Exterior exit access shall comply with 7.5.3.

15.2.6 Travel Distance to Exits

Travel distance shall comply with 15.2.6.1 through 15.2.6.4.

15.2.6.1

Diagram

Travel distance shall be measured in accordance with Section 7.6.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Measurement of Travel Distance (NFPA 101)

15.2.6.2

Travel distance to an exit shall not exceed 150 ft (46 m) from any point in a building, unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.6.3 or 15.2.6.4. (See also Section 7.6.)

15.2.6.3

Travel distance shall not exceed 200 ft (61 m) in educational occupancies protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.2.6.4

Approved existing travel distances shall be permitted to continue in use.

15.2.7 Discharge From Exits

Discharge from exits shall be arranged in accordance with Section 7.7.

15.2.8 Illumination of Means of Egress

Means of egress shall be illuminated in accordance with Section 7.8.

15.2.9 Emergency Lighting

15.2.9.1

Emergency lighting shall be provided in accordance with Section 7.9, unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.9.2.

15.2.9.2

Approved existing emergency lighting installations shall be permitted to be continued in use.

15.2.10 Marking of Means of Egress

Means of egress shall have signs in accordance with Section 7.10.

15.2.11 Special Means of Egress Features

15.2.11.1\* Windows for Rescue

15.2.11.1.1

Every room or space greater than 250 ft2 (23.2 m2) and used for classroom or other educational purposes or normally subject to student occupancy shall have not less than one outside window for emergency rescue that complies with all of the following, unless otherwise permitted by 15.2.11.1.2:

Such windows shall be openable from the inside without the use of tools and shall provide a clear opening of not less than 20 in. (510 mm) in width, 24 in. (610 mm) in height, and 5.7 ft2 (0.5 m2) in area.

The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 in. (1120 mm) above the floor, and any latching device shall be capable of being operated from not more than 54 in. (1370 mm) above the finished floor.

The clear opening shall allow a rectangular solid, with a width and height that provides not less than the required 5.7 ft2 (0.5 m2) opening and a depth of not less than 20 in. (510 mm), to pass fully through the opening.

15.2.11.1.2

The requirements of 15.2.11.1.1 shall not apply to any of the following:

Buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7

Where the room or space has a door leading directly to an exit or directly to the outside of the building

Where the room has a door, in addition to the door that leads to the exit access corridor as required by 15.2.5.5, and such door leads directly to another corridor located in a compartment separated from the compartment housing the corridor addressed in 15.2.5.5 by smoke partitions in accordance with Section 8.4

Rooms located four or more stories above the finished ground level

Where awning-type or hopper-type windows that are hinged or subdivided to provide a clear opening of not less than 4 ft2 (0.38 m2) or any dimension of not less than 22 in. (560 mm) meet the following criteria:

Such windows shall be permitted to continue in use.

Screen walls or devices located in front of required windows shall not interfere with rescue requirements.

Where the room or space complies with all of the following:

One door providing direct access to an adjacent classroom and a second door providing direct access to another adjacent classroom shall be provided.

The two classrooms to which exit access travel is made in accordance with 15.2.11.1.2(6)(a) shall each provide exit access in accordance with 15.2.11.1.2(2) or 15.2.11.1.2(3).

The corridor required by 15.2.5.5, and the corridor addressed by 15.2.11.1.2(3), if provided, shall be separated from the classrooms by a wall that resists the passage of smoke, and all doors between the classrooms and the corridor shall be self-closing or automatic-closing in accordance with 7.2.1.8.

The length of travel to exits along such paths shall not exceed 150 ft (46 m).

Each communicating door shall be marked in accordance with Section 7.10.

No locking device shall be permitted on the communicating doors.

15.2.11.2 Lockups

Lockups in educational occupancies, other than approved existing lockups, shall comply with the requirements of 23.4.6.

15.2.11.3 Hazardous Materials

Where hazardous materials are present, the provisions of 7.12.2 shall apply.

15.3 Protection

15.3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings

15.3.1.1

Any vertical opening, other than unprotected vertical openings in accordance with 8.6.9.1 or 8.6.9.2, shall be enclosed or protected in accordance with Section 8.6.

15.3.1.2

Where the provisions of 8.6.6 are used, the requirements of 15.3.5.4 shall be met.

15.3.1.3

Stairway enclosures shall not be required where all of the following conditions are met:

The stairway serves only one adjacent floor, other than a basement.

The stairway is not connected with stairways serving other floors.

The stairway is not connected with corridors serving other than the two floors involved.

15.3.2 Protection From Hazards

15.3.2.1

Rooms or spaces for the storage, processing, or use of materials shall be protected in accordance with the following:

Such rooms or spaces shall be separated from the remainder of the building by fire barriers having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating or protected by automatic extinguishing systems as specified in Section 8.7 in the following areas:

Boiler and furnace rooms, unless such rooms enclose only air-handling equipment

Rooms or spaces used for the storage of combustible supplies in quantities deemed hazardous by the authority having jurisdiction

Rooms or spaces used for the storage of hazardous materials or flammable or combustible liquids in quantities deemed hazardous by recognized standards

Janitor closets [see also 15.3.2.1(4)]

Such rooms or spaces shall be separated from the remainder of the building by fire barriers having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating and protected by automatic extinguishing systems as specified in Section 8.7 in the following areas:

\*Laundries

Maintenance shops, including woodworking and painting areas

Rooms or spaces used for processing or use of combustible supplies deemed hazardous by the authority having jurisdiction

Rooms or spaces used for processing or use of hazardous materials or flammable or combustible liquids in quantities deemed hazardous by recognized standards

Where automatic extinguishing is used to meet the requirements of 15.3.2.1(1) or (2), the protection shall be permitted in accordance with 9.7.1.2.

Where janitor closets addressed in 15.3.2.1(1)(d) are protected in accordance with the sprinkler option of 15.3.2.1(1), the janitor closet doors shall be permitted to have ventilating louvers.

15.3.2.2

Cooking facilities shall be protected in accordance with 9.2.3. Openings shall not be required to be protected between food preparation areas and dining areas.

15.3.2.3

Stages and platforms shall be protected in accordance with Chapter 13.

15.3.2.4

Educational occupancy laboratories using chemicals shall be in accordance with 8.7.4.

15.3.2.5 Hazardous Materials

Where hazardous materials are stored or handled, the provisions of 8.7.3.1 shall apply.

15.3.3 Interior Finish

15.3.3.1 General

Interior finish shall be in accordance with Section 10.2.

15.3.3.2 Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 10.2 shall be permitted as follows:

Exits — Class A

Corridors and lobbies — Class A or Class B

Low-height partitions not exceeding 60 in. (1525 mm) and used in locations other than exits — Class A, Class B, or Class C

15.3.3.3 Interior Floor Finish

(Reserved)

15.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems

15.3.4.1 General

15.3.4.1.1

Educational occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6.

15.3.4.1.2

The requirement of 15.3.4.1.1 shall not apply to buildings meeting all of the following criteria:

Buildings having an area not exceeding 1000 ft2 (93 m2)

Buildings containing a single classroom

Buildings located not less than 30 ft (9.1 m) from another building

15.3.4.2 Initiation

15.3.4.2.1 General

Initiation of the required fire alarm system shall be by manual means in accordance with 9.6.2.1(1), unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required where permitted by 15.3.4.2.3.

In buildings where all normally occupied spaces are provided with a two-way communication system between such spaces and a constantly attended receiving station from where a general evacuation alarm can be sounded, the manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required, except in locations specifically designated by the authority having jurisdiction.

15.3.4.2.2 Automatic Initiation

In buildings provided with automatic sprinkler protection, the operation of the sprinkler system shall automatically activate the fire alarm system in addition to the initiation means required in 15.3.4.2.1.

15.3.4.2.3 Alternative Protection System

Manual fire alarm boxes shall be permitted to be eliminated in accordance with 15.3.4.2.3.1 or 15.3.4.2.3.2.

15.3.4.2.3.1\*

Manual fire alarm boxes shall be permitted to be eliminated where all of the following conditions apply:

Interior corridors are protected by smoke detectors using an alarm verification system as described in NFPA 72.

Auditoriums, cafeterias, and gymnasiums are protected by heat-detection devices or other approved detection devices.

Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by heat-detection devices or other approved detection devices.

Provision is made at a central point to manually activate the evacuation signal or to evacuate only affected areas.

15.3.4.2.3.2\*

Manual fire alarm boxes shall be permitted to be eliminated where both of the following conditions apply:

The building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

Provision is made at a central point to manually activate the evacuation signal or to evacuate only affected areas.

15.3.4.3 Notification

15.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification

15.3.4.3.1.1\*

Occupant notification shall be accomplished automatically in accordance with 9.6.3.

15.3.4.3.1.2 Reserved

15.3.4.3.1.3

Positive alarm sequence shall be permitted in accordance with 9.6.3.5.

15.3.4.3.1.4

Where acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction, the fire alarm system shall be permitted to be used for other emergency signaling or for class changes, provided that the fire alarm is distinctive in signal and overrides all other use.

15.3.4.3.1.5

To prevent students from being returned to a building that is burning, the recall signal shall be separate and distinct from any other signals, and such signal shall be permitted to be given by use of distinctively colored flags or banners.

15.3.4.3.1.6

If the recall signal required by 15.3.4.3.1.5 is electric, the push buttons or other controls shall be kept under lock, the key for which shall be in the possession of the principal or another designated person in order to prevent a recall at a time when there is an actual fire.

15.3.4.3.1.7

Regardless of the method of recall signal, the means of giving the recall signal shall be kept under lock.

15.3.4.3.2 Emergency Forces Notification

15.3.4.3.2.1

Wherever any of the school authorities determine that an actual fire exists, they shall immediately call the local fire department using the public fire alarm system or other available facilities.

15.3.4.3.2.2

Emergency forces notification shall be accomplished in accordance with 9.6.4 where the existing fire alarm system is replaced.

15.3.4.4 Reserved

15.3.4.5 Risk Analysis for Mass Notification Systems

A risk analysis in accordance with Section 9.14 shall be performed to determine if a mass notification system is required upon replacement of the building fire alarm system.

15.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements

15.3.5.1

Where student occupancy exists below the level of exit discharge, every portion of such floor shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.3.5.2

Where student occupancy does not exist on floors below the level of exit discharge, such floors shall be separated from the rest of the building by 1-hour fire resistance-rated construction or shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.3.5.3

Automatic sprinkler protection shall not be required where student occupancy exists below the level of exit discharge, provided that both of the following criteria are met:

The approval of the authority having jurisdiction shall be required.

Windows for rescue and ventilation shall be provided in accordance with 15.2.11.1.

15.3.5.4

Buildings with unprotected openings in accordance with 8.6.6 shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.3.5.5

Where another provision of this chapter requires an automatic sprinkler system, the sprinkler system shall be installed in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

15.3.6 Corridors

Corridors shall be separated from other parts of the story by walls having a minimum 1/2-hour fire resistance rating in accordance with Section 8.3, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

Corridor protection shall not be required where all spaces normally subject to student occupancy have not less than one door opening directly to the outside or to an exterior exit access balcony or corridor in accordance with 7.5.3.

\*The following shall apply to buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system with valve supervision in accordance with Section 9.7:

Corridor walls shall not be required to be rated, provided that such walls form smoke partitions in accordance with Section 8.4.

The provisions of 8.4.3.5 shall not apply to normally occupied classrooms.

Where the corridor ceiling is an assembly having a minimum 1/2-hour fire resistance rating where tested as a wall, the corridor wall shall be permitted to terminate at the corridor ceiling.

Lavatories shall not be required to be separated from corridors, provided that they are separated from all other spaces by walls having a minimum 1/2-hour fire resistance rating in accordance with Section 8.3.

Lavatories shall not be required to be separated from corridors, provided that both of the following criteria are met:

The building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

The walls separating the lavatory from other rooms form smoke partitions in accordance with Section 8.4.

15.3.7 Subdivision of Building Spaces

15.3.7.1

Educational occupancies shall be subdivided into compartments by smoke partitions having not less than a 1-hour fire resistance rating and complying with Section 8.4 where one or both of the following conditions exist:

The maximum area of a compartment, including the aggregate area of all floors having a common atmosphere, exceeds 30,000 ft2 (2800 m2).

The length or width of the building exceeds 300 ft (91 m).

15.3.7.2

The requirement of 15.3.7.1 shall not apply to either of the following:

Where all classrooms have exterior exit access in accordance with 7.5.3

Buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7

15.3.7.3

The area of any smoke compartment required by 15.3.7.1 shall not exceed 30,000 ft2 (2800 m2), with no dimension exceeding 300 ft (91 m).

15.4 Special Provisions

15.4.1

Educational occupancies shall comply with Chapter 11 where located in a special structure.

15.4.2 Limited Access Buildings and Underground Buildings

Limited access buildings and underground buildings shall comply with Section 11.7.

15.4.3 High-Rise Buildings

High-rise buildings shall comply with 11.8.3.1.

15.4.4 Flexible Plan and Open Plan Buildings

15.4.4.1

Flexible plan and open plan buildings shall comply with the requirements of this chapter as modified by 15.4.4.2 through 15.4.4.5.

15.4.4.2

Each room occupied by more than 300 persons shall have two or more means of egress entering into separate atmospheres.

15.4.4.3

Where three or more means of egress are required, the number of means of egress permitted to enter into the same atmosphere shall not exceed two.

15.4.4.4

Flexible plan buildings shall be permitted to have walls and partitions rearranged periodically only if revised plans or diagrams have been approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

15.4.4.5

Flexible plan buildings shall be evaluated while all folding walls are extended and in use as well as when they are in the retracted position.

15.4.5 Alcohol-Based Hand-Rub Dispensers

Alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers shall be protected in accordance with 8.7.3.1, unless all of the following requirements are met:

Dispensers shall be installed in rooms or spaces separated from corridors and exits.

The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be as follows:

0.32 gal (1.2 L) for dispensers in rooms

0.53 gal (2.0 L) for dispensers in suites of rooms

The dispensers shall be separated from each other by horizontal spacing of not less than 48 in. (1220 mm).

Storage of quantities greater than 5 gal (18.9 L) in a single fire compartment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 30.

The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an ignition source.

Dispensers installed directly over carpeted floors shall be permitted only in sprinklered rooms or spaces.

15.5 Building Services

15.5.1 Utilities

Utilities shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.1.

15.5.2 Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning Equipment

15.5.2.1

Heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning equipment shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.2.

15.5.2.2

Unvented fuel-fired heating equipment, other than gas space heaters in compliance with NFPA 54 shall be prohibited.

15.5.3 Elevators, Escalators, and Conveyors

Elevators, escalators, and conveyors shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.4.

15.5.4 Waste Chutes, Incinerators, and Laundry Chutes

Waste chutes, incinerators, and laundry chutes shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.5.

15.6 Reserved

15.7 Operating Features

15.7.1 Emergency Action Plans

Emergency action plans shall be provided in accordance with Section 4.8.

15.7.2 Emergency Egress Drills

15.7.2.1\*

Emergency egress drills shall be conducted in accordance with Section 4.7 and the applicable provisions of 15.7.2.3 as otherwise provided by 15.7.2.2.

15.7.2.2

Approved training programs designed for education and training and for the practice of emergency egress to familiarize occupants with the drill procedure, and to establish conduct of the emergency egress as a matter of routine, shall be permitted to receive credit on a one-for-one basis for not more than four of the emergency egress drills required by 15.7.2.3, provided that a minimum of four emergency egress drills are completed prior to the conduct of the first such training and practice program.

15.7.2.3

Emergency egress drills shall be conducted as follows:

Not less than one emergency egress drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session, unless both of the following criteria are met:

In climates where the weather is severe, the monthly emergency egress drills shall be permitted to be deferred.

The required number of emergency egress drills shall be conducted, and not less than four shall be conducted before the drills are deferred.

All occupants of the building shall participate in the drill.

One additional emergency egress drill, other than for educational occupancies that are open on a year-round basis, shall be required within the first 30 days of operation.

15.7.2.4\*

Where permitted by the authority having jurisdiction, up to two of the emergency egress drills required by 15.7.2.3 shall be permitted to consist of alternative emergency drills for one or both of the following:

Targeted violence events

Natural hazard events

15.7.2.5

All emergency drill alarms shall be sounded on the fire alarm system.

15.7.3 Inspection

15.7.3.1\*

It shall be the duty of principals, teachers, or staff to inspect all exit facilities daily to ensure that all stairways, doors, and other exits are in proper condition.

15.7.3.2

Open plan buildings shall require extra surveillance to ensure that exit paths are maintained clear of obstruction and are obvious.

15.7.3.3 Inspection of Door Openings

Door openings shall be inspected in accordance with 7.2.1.14.

15.7.4 Furnishings and Decorations

15.7.4.1

Draperies, curtains, and other similar furnishings and decorations in educational occupancies shall be in accordance with the provisions of 10.3.1.

15.7.4.2

Clothing and personal effects shall not be stored in corridors, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

This requirement shall not apply to corridors protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

This requirement shall not apply to corridor areas protected by a smoke detection system in accordance with Section 9.6.

This requirement shall not apply to storage in metal lockers, provided that the required egress width is maintained.

15.7.4.3

Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted to be attached directly to the walls in accordance with the following:

The artwork and teaching materials shall not exceed 20 percent of the wall area in a building that is not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

The artwork and teaching materials shall not exceed 50 percent of the area in a building that is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

15.7.5 Open Flames

Approved open flames shall be permitted in laboratories and vocational/technical areas.

15.7.6 Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

15.7.6.1

Integrated fire protection and life safety systems shall be tested in accordance with 9.11.4.1.

15.7.6.2

Integrated fire protection and life safety systems in high-rise buildings shall be tested in accordance with 9.11.4.2.

