**Chapter 21 Existing Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies**

21.1 General Requirements

21.1.1 Application

21.1.1.1 General

21.1.1.1.1

The requirements of this chapter shall apply to existing buildings or portions thereof currently occupied as an ambulatory health care occupancy.

21.1.1.1.2 Administration

The provisions of Chapter 1, Administration, shall apply.

21.1.1.1.3 General

The provisions of Chapter 4, General, shall apply.

21.1.1.1.4

Buildings, or sections of buildings, that primarily house patients who, in the opinion of the governing body of the facility and the governmental agency having jurisdiction, are capable of exercising judgment and appropriate physical action for self-preservation under emergency conditions shall be permitted to comply with chapters of this Code other than Chapter 21.

21.1.1.1.5

It shall be recognized that, in buildings providing treatment for certain types of patients or having detention rooms or a security section, it might be necessary to lock doors and bar windows to confine and protect building inhabitants. In such instances, the authority having jurisdiction shall make appropriate modifications to those sections of this Code that would otherwise require means of egress to be kept unlocked.

21.1.1.1.6\*

The requirements of this chapter shall apply based on the assumption that staff is available in all patient-occupied areas to perform certain emergency control functions as required in other paragraphs of this chapter.

21.1.1.2\* Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of Sections 4.1 and 4.2 shall be met with due consideration for functional requirements, which are accomplished by limiting the development and spread of a fire emergency to the room of fire origin and reducing the need for occupant evacuation, except from the room of fire origin.

21.1.1.3 Total Concept

21.1.1.3.1

All ambulatory health care facilities shall be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to minimize the possibility of a fire emergency requiring the evacuation of occupants.

21.1.1.3.2

Because the safety of ambulatory health care occupants cannot be ensured adequately by dependence on evacuation of the building, their protection from fire shall be provided by appropriate arrangement of facilities; adequate, trained staff; and development of operating and maintenance procedures composed of the following:

Design, construction, and compartmentation

Provision for detection, alarm, and extinguishment

Fire prevention and planning, training, and drilling programs for the isolation of fire, transfer of occupants to areas of refuge, or evacuation of the building

21.1.1.4 Additions, Conversions, Modernization, Renovation, and Construction Operations

21.1.1.4.1 Additions

21.1.1.4.1.1

Additions shall be separated from any existing structure not conforming to the provisions within Chapter 21 by a fire barrier having not less than a 2-hour fire resistance rating and constructed of materials as required for the addition. (See 4.6.5 and 4.6.7.)

21.1.1.4.1.2

Doors in barriers required by 21.1.1.4.1.1 shall normally be kept closed, unless otherwise permitted by 21.1.1.4.1.3.

21.1.1.4.1.3

Doors shall be permitted to be held open if they meet the requirements of 21.2.2.2.2.

21.1.1.4.2 Renovations, Alterations, and Modernizations

See 4.6.7.

21.1.1.4.3 Construction, Repair, and Improvement Operations

21.1.1.4.3.1

Construction, repair, and improvement operations shall comply with 4.6.10.

21.1.1.4.3.2

For rehabilitation activities or preparation for rehabilitation activities of a duration not greater than 30 days that do not cause the classification of the construction area as a hazardous area as identified in 21.3.2, flame-resistant plastic in accordance with NFPA 701 or equivalent shall be permitted to be used to separate the construction area from the other spaces.

21.1.2 Classification of Occupancy

See 6.1.6 and 21.1.4.2.

21.1.3 Multiple Occupancies

21.1.3.1

Multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with 6.1.14.

21.1.3.2

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, provided both of the following are met:

The provision is not used for occupancy separations involving industrial and storage occupancies.

Smoke partitions serving as atrium walls are not permitted to serve as enclosures for hazardous areas.

21.1.3.3\*

Sections of ambulatory health care facilities shall be permitted to be classified as other occupancies, provided that they meet both of the following conditions:

They are not intended to serve ambulatory health care occupants for purposes of treatment or customary access by patients incapable of self-preservation.

They are separated from areas of ambulatory health care occupancies by construction having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating.

21.1.3.4

All means of egress from ambulatory health care occupancies that traverse nonambulatory health care spaces shall conform to the requirements of this Code for ambulatory health care occupancies, unless otherwise permitted by 21.1.3.5.

21.1.3.5

Exit through a horizontal exit into other contiguous occupancies that do not conform with ambulatory health care egress provisions but that do comply with requirements set forth in the appropriate occupancy chapter of this Code shall be permitted, provided that the occupancy does not contain high-hazard contents.

21.1.3.6

Egress provisions for areas of ambulatory health care facilities that correspond to other occupancies shall meet the corresponding requirements of this Code for such occupancies, and, where the clinical needs of the occupant necessitate the locking of means of egress, staff shall be present for the supervised release of occupants during all times of use.

21.1.3.7

Any area with a hazard of contents classified higher than that of the ambulatory health care occupancy and located in the same building shall be protected as required in 21.3.3.

21.1.3.8

Non-health-care-related occupancies classified as containing high-hazard contents shall not be permitted in buildings housing ambulatory health care occupancies.

21.1.4 Definitions

21.1.4.1 General

For definitions, see Chapter 3, Definitions.

21.1.4.2 Special Definitions

The following is a list of special definitions used in this chapter:

Ambulatory Health Care Occupancy. See 3.3.198.1.

Gross Floor Area (Health Care and Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies). See 3.3.22.2.3.

Self-Preservation Capability (Health Care and Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies). See 3.3.253.

21.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents

The classification of hazard of contents shall be as defined in Section 6.2.

21.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements

21.1.6.1

Ambulatory health care occupancies shall be limited to the building construction types specified in Table 21.1.6.1, unless otherwise permitted by 21.1.6.6. (See 8.2.1.)

Table 21.1.6.1 Construction Type Limitations

Construction Type Sprinklered\* Stories in Height†

1 ≥2

I (442) Yes X X

No X X

I (332) Yes X X

No X X

II (222) Yes X X

No X X

II (111) Yes X X

No X X

II (000) Yes X X

No X NP

III (211) Yes X X

No X X

III (200) Yes X X

No X NP

IV (2HH) Yes X X

No X X

V (111) Yes X X

No X X

V (000) Yes X X

No X NP

X: Permitted. NP: Not permitted.

\*Sprinklered throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7. (See 21.3.5.)

†See 4.6.3.

21.1.6.2

Any level below the level of exit discharge shall be separated from the level of exit discharge by not less than Type II(111), Type III(211), or Type V(111) construction (see 8.2.1), unless both of the following criteria are met:

Such levels are under the control of the ambulatory health care facility.

Any hazardous spaces are protected in accordance with Section 8.7.

21.1.6.3

Interior nonbearing walls in buildings of Type I or Type II construction shall be constructed of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials, unless otherwise permitted by 21.1.6.4.

21.1.6.4

Interior nonbearing walls required to have a fire resistance rating of 2 hours or less shall be permitted to be fire-retardant-treated wood enclosed within noncombustible or limited-combustible materials, provided that such walls are not used as shaft enclosures.

21.1.6.5

All buildings with more than one level below the level of exit discharge shall have all such lower levels separated from the level of exit discharge by not less than Type II(111) construction.

21.1.6.6

In existing buildings, the authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to accept construction systems of lesser fire resistance than those required by 21.1.6.1 through 21.1.6.5, provided that it can be demonstrated to the authority's satisfaction that prompt evacuation of the facility can be achieved in case of fire or that the exposing occupancies and materials of construction present no threat of fire penetration from such occupancy to the ambulatory health care facility or to the collapse of the structure.

21.1.7 Occupant Load

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.

21.2 Means of Egress Requirements

21.2.1 General

Every aisle, passageway, corridor, exit discharge, exit location, and access shall be in accordance with Chapter 7, unless otherwise modified by 21.2.2 through 21.2.11.

21.2.2 Means of Egress Components

21.2.2.1 Components Permitted

Means of egress components shall be limited to the types described in 21.2.2.2 through 21.2.2.12.

21.2.2.2 Doors

21.2.2.2.1

Doors complying with 7.2.1 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.2.2

Any door required to be self-closing shall be permitted to be held open only by an automatic release device that complies with 7.2.1.8.2. The required manual fire alarm system and the systems required by 7.2.1.8.2 shall be arranged to initiate the closing action of all such doors throughout the smoke compartment or throughout the entire facility.

21.2.2.2.3

Where doors in a stair enclosure are held open by an automatic release device as permitted in 21.2.2.2.2, initiation of a door-closing action on any level shall cause all doors at all levels in the stair enclosure to close.

21.2.2.2.4\*

Locks complying with 7.2.1.5.6 shall be permitted only on principal entrance/exit doors.

21.2.2.2.5

The re-entry provisions of 7.2.1.5.7 shall not apply to any of the following:

Existing ambulatory health care occupancies that are not in high-rise buildings

Existing high-rise buildings that are protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1)

Existing high-rise buildings having approved existing means for providing stair re-entry

21.2.2.2.6

Door-locking arrangements shall be permitted where patient special needs require specialized protective measures for their safety, provided that all of the following are met:

Staff can readily unlock doors at all times in accordance with 21.2.2.2.7.

A total (complete) smoke detection system is provided throughout the locked space in accordance with 9.6.2.9, or locked doors can be remotely unlocked at an approved, constantly attended location within the locked space.

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

The locks are electrical locks that fail safely so as to release upon loss of power to the device.

The locks release by independent activation of each of the following:

Activation of the smoke detection system required by 21.2.2.2.6(2)

Waterflow in the automatic sprinkler system required by 21.2.2.2.6(3)

21.2.2.2.7

Doors that are located in the means of egress and are permitted to be locked in accordance with 21.2.2.2.6 shall comply with all of the following:

Provisions shall be made for the rapid removal of occupants by means of one of the following:

Remote control of locks

Keying of all locks to keys carried by staff at all times

Other such reliable means available to the staff at all times

Only one locking device shall be permitted on each door.

More than one lock shall be permitted on each door, subject to approval of the authority having jurisdiction.

21.2.2.2.8

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

21.2.2.2.9

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

21.2.2.2.10

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

21.2.2.2.11

Horizontal or vertical security grilles or doors complying with 7.2.1.4.1(3) shall be permitted to be used as part of the required means of egress from a tenant space.

21.2.2.2.12

Approved existing horizontal-sliding or vertical-rolling fire doors shall be permitted in the means of egress where they comply with all of the following conditions:

They are held open by fusible links.

The fusible links are rated at not less than 165°F (74°C).

The fusible links are located not more than 10 ft (3050 mm) above the floor.

The fusible links are in immediate proximity to the door opening.

The fusible links are not located above a ceiling.

The door is not credited with providing any protection under this Code.

21.2.2.2.13

Revolving doors complying with 7.2.1.10 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.2.14\*

A door in a horizontal exit shall not be required to swing in the direction of egress travel as specified in 7.2.4.3.8.1.

21.2.2.3 Stairs

21.2.2.3.1

Stairs complying with 7.2.2 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.3.2

Spiral stairs complying with 7.2.2.2.3 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.3.3

Winders complying with 7.2.2.2.4 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.4 Smokeproof Enclosures

Smokeproof enclosures complying with 7.2.3 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.5 Horizontal Exits

Horizontal exits complying with 7.2.4 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.6 Ramps

Ramps complying with 7.2.5 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.7 Exit Passageways

Exit passageways complying with 7.2.6 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.8 Escalators and Moving Walks

Escalators and moving walks complying with 7.2.7 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.9 Fire Escape Stairs. (Reserved)

21.2.2.10 Fire Escape Ladders

Fire escape ladders complying with 7.2.9 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.11 Alternating Tread Devices

Alternating tread devices complying with 7.2.11 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.12 Areas of Refuge

21.2.2.12.1

Areas of refuge complying with 7.2.12 shall be permitted.

21.2.2.12.2

In buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), two rooms or spaces separated from each other by smoke-resistant partitions in accordance with the definition of area of refuge in 3.3.23 shall not be required.

21.2.3 Capacity of Means of Egress

21.2.3.1

The capacity of any required means of egress shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.3.

21.2.3.2

The clear width of any corridor or ramp required for exit access shall be not less than 44 in. (1120 mm).

21.2.3.3\*

Where minimum corridor width is 6 ft (1830 mm), projections not more than 6 in. (150 mm) from the corridor wall, above the handrail height, shall be permitted for the installation of hand-rub dispensing units in accordance with 21.4.4.

21.2.3.4

Doors in the means of egress from diagnostic or treatment areas, such as x-ray, surgical, or physical therapy, shall provide a clear width of not less than 32 in. (810 mm), unless such doors are existing 34 in. (865 mm) doors.

21.2.4 Number of Means of Egress

21.2.4.1

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.

21.2.4.2

Not less than two exits shall be provided on every story.

21.2.4.3

Not less than two separate exits shall be accessible from every part of every story.

21.2.4.4

Not less than two exits of the types described in 21.2.2 shall be accessible from each smoke compartment.

21.2.4.5

Egress from smoke compartments addressed in 21.2.4.4 shall be permitted through adjacent compartments provided that the two required egress paths are arranged so that both do not pass through the same adjacent smoke compartment.

21.2.5 Arrangement of Means of Egress

21.2.5.1

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

21.2.5.2

Limitations on common path of travel shall be in accordance with 21.2.5.2.1, 21.2.5.2.2, and 21.2.5.2.3.

21.2.5.2.1

Common path of travel shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m) on a story protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

21.2.5.2.2

Common path of travel shall not be limited in a single-tenant space with an occupant load not exceeding 25 people.

21.2.5.2.3

In buildings other than those complying with 21.2.5.2.1 or 21.2.5.2.2, common path of travel shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m).

21.2.5.3

Dead-end corridors shall not exceed 50 ft (15 m).

21.2.6 Travel Distance to Exits

21.2.6.1

Diagram

Travel distance shall be measured in accordance with Section 7.6.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Measurement of Travel Distance (NFPA 101)

21.2.6.2

Travel distance shall comply with 21.2.6.2.1 and 21.2.6.2.2.

21.2.6.2.1

The travel distance between any point in a room and an exit shall not exceed 150 ft (46 m).

21.2.6.2.2

The maximum travel distance in 21.2.6.2.1 shall be permitted to be increased by 50 ft (15 m) in buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

21.2.7 Discharge From Exits

Exit discharge shall comply with Section 7.7.

21.2.8 Illumination of Means of Egress

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

21.2.9 Emergency Lighting and Essential Electrical Systems

21.2.9.1

Emergency lighting shall be provided in accordance with Section 7.9.

21.2.9.2

Where general anesthesia or life-support equipment is used, each ambulatory health care facility shall be provided with an essential electrical system in accordance with NFPA 99 unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

Where battery-operated equipment is provided and acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction

Where a facility uses life-support equipment for emergency purposes only

21.2.10 Marking of Means of Egress

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

21.2.11 Special Means of Egress Features

21.2.11.1 Reserved

21.2.11.2 Lockups

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

21.3 Protection

21.3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings

21.3.1.1

Vertical openings shall be enclosed or protected in accordance with Section 8.6, unless otherwise permitted by any of the following:

Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.6.9.1 shall be permitted.

Unprotected vertical openings shall be permitted in buildings complying with all of the following:

Where protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1)

Where no unprotected vertical opening serves as any part of any required means of egress

Where required exits consist of exit doors that discharge directly to the finished ground level in accordance with 7.2.1, outside stairs in accordance with 7.2.2, smokeproof enclosures in accordance with 7.2.3, or horizontal exits in accordance with 7.2.4

21.3.1.2

Floors that are below the street floor and are used for storage or other than an ambulatory health care occupancy shall have no unprotected openings to ambulatory health care occupancy floors.

21.3.2 Protection From Hazards

21.3.2.1\* General

Hazardous areas including, but not limited to, areas used for general storage, boiler or furnace rooms, and maintenance shops that include woodworking and painting areas shall be protected in accordance with Section 8.7.

21.3.2.2 Doors

Doors to hazardous areas shall be self-closing or automatic-closing in accordance with 21.2.2.2.2.

21.3.2.3\* High-Hazard Contents Areas

High-hazard contents areas, as classified in Section 6.2, shall meet all of the following criteria:

The area shall be separated from other parts of the building by fire barriers having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating, with all openings therein protected by self-closing fire door assemblies having a minimum 3/4-hour fire protection rating.

The area shall be protected by an automatic extinguishing system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) or 9.7.1.2.

21.3.2.4 Medical Gas

Medical gas storage shall be in accordance with Section 8.7 and the provisions of NFPA 99 applicable to operation, maintenance, and testing.

21.3.2.5 Laboratories

21.3.2.5.1

Laboratories in which chemicals are handled or stored shall comply with the operational requirements of NFPA 45.

21.3.2.5.2

Laboratories employing quantities of flammable, combustible, or hazardous materials that are considered as a severe hazard shall be protected in accordance with 8.7.1.1.

21.3.2.6 Cooking Facilities

Cooking facilities shall be protected in accordance with 9.2.3, unless otherwise permitted by 21.3.2.7.

21.3.2.7 Domestic Cooking Equipment

Where domestic cooking equipment is used for food warming or limited cooking, protection or separation of food preparation facilities shall not be required.

21.3.2.8 Hazardous Materials

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

21.3.3 Interior Finish

21.3.3.1 General

Interior finish shall be in accordance with Section 10.2.

21.3.3.2 Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish

21.3.3.2.1

Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 10.2 shall be Class A or Class B in exits and in exit access corridors.

21.3.3.2.2

Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be Class A, Class B, or Class C in areas other than those specified in 21.3.3.2.1.

21.3.3.3 Interior Floor Finish

(Reserved)

21.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems

21.3.4.1 General

Ambulatory health care facilities shall be provided with fire alarm systems in accordance with Section 9.6, except as modified by 21.3.4.2 through 21.3.4.4.

21.3.4.2 Initiation

Initiation of the required fire alarm systems shall be by manual means in accordance with 9.6.2 and by means of any detection devices or detection systems required.

21.3.4.3 Notification

Positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.5 shall be permitted.

21.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification

21.3.4.3.1.1

Occupant notification shall be accomplished automatically, without delay, in accordance with 9.6.3 upon operation of any fire alarm activating device.

21.3.4.3.1.2\*

Where the private operating mode in accordance with NFPA 72 is used, alarm notification appliances shall not be required in patient care spaces where alarm notification adversely affects patient care.

21.3.4.3.2 Emergency Forces Notification

21.3.4.3.2.1

Emergency forces notification shall be accomplished in accordance with 9.6.4.

21.3.4.3.2.2

Smoke detection devices or smoke detection systems equipped with reconfirmation features shall not be required to automatically notify the fire department, unless the alarm condition is reconfirmed after a period not exceeding 120 seconds.

21.3.4.4 Emergency Control Functions

Operation of any activating device in the required fire alarm system shall be arranged to accomplish automatically, without delay, any control functions required to be performed by that device. (See 9.6.6.)

21.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements

21.3.5.1

Isolated hazardous areas shall be permitted to be protected in accordance with 9.7.1.2.

21.3.5.2

For new installations in existing ambulatory health care facilities, where more than two sprinklers are installed in a single area for protection in accordance with 9.7.1.2, waterflow detection shall be provided to sound the building fire alarm or to notify, by a signal, any constantly attended location, such as PBX, security, or emergency room, at which the necessary corrective action shall be taken.

21.3.5.3

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in ambulatory health care facilities in accordance with Section 9.9.

21.3.6 Corridors

(Reserved)

21.3.7\* Subdivision of Building Space

21.3.7.1

Ambulatory health care occupancies shall be separated from other tenants and occupancies and shall meet all of the following requirements:

Walls shall have not less than a 1-hour fire resistance rating and shall extend from the floor slab below to the floor or roof slab above.

Doors shall be constructed of not less than 13/4 in. (44 mm) thick, solid-bonded wood core or the equivalent and shall be equipped with positive latches.

Doors shall be self-closing and shall be kept in the closed position, except when in use.

Any windows in the barriers shall be of fixed fire window assemblies in accordance with Section 8.3.

21.3.7.2

Every story of an ambulatory health care occupancy shall be divided into not less than two smoke compartments, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

This requirement shall not apply where the area of the ambulatory health care occupancy is less than 5000 ft2 (465 m2) gross per story and that area is protected by an approved automatic smoke detection system.

This requirement shall not apply where the area of the ambulatory health care occupancy is less than 10,000 ft2 (929 m2) gross per story and the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 9.7.

An area in an adjoining occupancy shall be permitted to serve as a smoke compartment for an ambulatory health care occupancy if all of the following criteria are met:

The separating wall and both compartments meet the requirements of 21.3.7.

The ambulatory health care occupancy does not exceed one of the following:

22,500 ft2 (2100 m2) of gross floor area

40,000 ft2 (3720 m2) of gross floor area in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7

Access from the ambulatory health care occupancy to the other occupancy is unrestricted.

21.3.7.3 Reserved

21.3.7.4 Reserved

21.3.7.5

Required smoke barriers shall be constructed in accordance with Section 8.5 and shall have a minimum 1/2-hour fire resistance rating, unless otherwise permitted by 21.3.7.7.

21.3.7.6

Smoke barriers shall be permitted to terminate at the required occupancy separation where the ambulatory health care occupancy is constructed as a separated multiple occupancy in accordance with 6.1.14.4.

21.3.7.7

Smoke dampers shall not be required in duct penetrations of smoke barriers in fully ducted heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems where adjacent smoke compartments are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

21.3.7.8

Windows in the smoke barrier shall be of fixed fire window assemblies in accordance with Section 8.3.

21.3.7.9 Reserved

21.3.7.10\*

Doors in smoke barriers shall be not less than 13/4 in. (44 mm) thick, solid-bonded wood core or the equivalent and shall be self-closing or automatic-closing in accordance with 21.2.2.2.2.

21.3.7.11

Latching hardware shall not be required on smoke barrier cross-corridor doors, and doors shall not be required to swing in the direction of egress travel.

21.4 Special Provisions

21.4.1 Special Structures

Ambulatory health care occupancies shall comply with Chapter 11 where located in special structures.

21.4.2 Underground Structures and Limited Access Structures

Underground structures and limited access structures shall comply with Section 11.7.

21.4.3 High-Rise Buildings

21.4.3.1

High-rise buildings shall be protected throughout by a complete, approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

21.4.3.1.1

All high-rise occupancy buildings shall comply with 21.4.3.1 within 12 years of the adoption of this Code.

21.4.3.1.2

The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to require compliance with 21.4.3.1 in less than 12 years.

21.4.3.2\*

A limited, but reasonable, time shall be permitted for compliance with any part of 21.4.3.1, commensurate with the magnitude of expenditure and the disruption of services.

21.4.3.3

In addition to the requirements of 21.4.3.1 and 21.4.3.2, all buildings, regardless of height, shall comply with all other applicable provisions of this chapter.

21.4.4\* 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 conditions are met:

Where dispensers are installed in a corridor, the corridor shall have a minimum width of 6 ft (1830 mm).

The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be as follows:

0.32 gal (1.2 L) for dispensers in rooms, corridors, and areas open to corridors

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

Where aerosol containers are used, the maximum capacity of the aerosol dispenser shall be 18 oz (0.51 kg) and shall be limited to Level 1 aerosols as defined in NFPA 30B.

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

Not more than an aggregate 10 gal (37.8 L) of alcohol-based hand-rub solution or 1135 oz (32.2 kg) of Level 1 aerosols, or a combination of liquids and Level 1 aerosols not to exceed, in total, the equivalent of 10 gal (37.8 L) or 1135 oz (32.2 kg), shall be in use outside of a storage cabinet in a single smoke compartment, except as otherwise provided in 21.4.4(6).

One dispenser per room complying with 21.4.4(2) or 21.4.4(3), and located in the room, shall not be required to be included in the aggregated quantity specified in 21.4.4(5).

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

Dispensers shall not be installed in the following locations:

Above an ignition source within a 1 in. (25 mm) horizontal distance from each side of the ignition source

To the side of an ignition source within a 1 in. (25 mm) horizontal distance from the ignition source

Beneath an ignition source within a 1 in. (25 mm) vertical distance from the ignition source

Dispensers installed directly over carpeted floors shall be permitted only in sprinklered smoke compartments.

The alcohol-based hand-rub solution shall not exceed 95 percent alcohol content by volume.

Operation of the dispenser shall comply with the following criteria:

The dispenser shall not release its contents except when the dispenser is activated, either manually or automatically by touch-free activation.

Any activation of the dispenser shall occur only when an object is placed within 4 in. (100 mm) of the sensing device.

An object placed within the activation zone and left in place shall not cause more than one activation.

The dispenser shall not dispense more solution than the amount required for hand hygiene consistent with label instructions.

The dispenser shall be designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that ensures that accidental or malicious activation of the dispensing device is minimized.

The dispenser shall be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's care and use instructions each time a new refill is installed.

21.5 Building Services

21.5.1 Utilities

21.5.1.1

Utilities shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.1.

21.5.1.2

Existing installations shall be permitted to be continued in service, provided that the systems do not present a serious hazard to life.

21.5.2 Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning

21.5.2.1

Heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.2 and shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, unless otherwise modified by 21.5.2.2.

21.5.2.2

If fuel-fired, heating devices shall comply with all of the following:

They shall be chimney connected or vent connected.

They shall take air for combustion directly from the outside.

They shall be designed and installed to provide for complete separation of the combustion system from the atmosphere of the occupied area.

21.5.2.2.1

Any heating device shall have safety features to immediately stop the flow of fuel and shut down the equipment in case of either excessive temperature or ignition failure.

21.5.2.2.2

Approved, suspended unit heaters shall be permitted in locations other than means of egress and patient treatment areas, provided that both of the following criteria are met:

Such heaters are located high enough to be out of the reach of persons using the area.

Such heaters are equipped with the safety features required by 21.5.2.2.1.

21.5.3 Elevators, Escalators, and Conveyors

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

21.5.4 Waste Chutes, Incinerators, and Laundry Chutes

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

21.6 Reserved

21.7\* Operating Features

21.7.1 Evacuation and Relocation Plan and Fire Drills

21.7.1.1

The administration of every ambulatory health care facility shall have, in effect and available to all supervisory personnel, written copies of a plan for the protection of all persons in the event of fire, for their evacuation to areas of refuge, and for their evacuation from the building when necessary.

21.7.1.2

All employees shall be periodically instructed and kept informed with respect to their duties under the plan required by 21.7.1.1.

21.7.1.3

A copy of the plan required by 21.7.1.1 shall be readily available at all times when the facility is open.

21.7.1.4\*

Fire drills in ambulatory health care facilities shall include simulation of emergency fire conditions.

21.7.1.5

Patients shall not be required to be moved during drills to safe areas or to the exterior of the building.

21.7.1.6

Drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift to familiarize facility personnel (including but not limited to nurses, interns, maintenance engineers, and administrative staff) with the emergency action required under varied conditions.

21.7.1.7

Employees of ambulatory health care facilities shall be instructed in life safety procedures and devices.

21.7.2 Procedure in Case of Fire

21.7.2.1\* Protection of Patients

21.7.2.1.1

For ambulatory health care facilities, the proper protection of patients shall require the prompt and effective response of ambulatory health care personnel.

21.7.2.1.2

The basic response required of staff shall include the following:

Removal of all occupants directly involved with the fire emergency

Transmission of an appropriate fire alarm signal to warn other building occupants and summon staff

Confinement of the effects of the fire by closing doors to isolate the fire area

Relocation of patients as detailed in the facility's fire safety plan

21.7.2.2 Fire Safety Plan

A written fire safety plan shall provide for all of the following:

Use of alarms

Transmission of alarms to fire department

Response to alarms

Isolation of fire

Evacuation of immediate area

Evacuation of smoke compartment

Preparation of floors and building for evacuation

Extinguishment of fire

21.7.2.3 Staff Response

21.7.2.3.1

All personnel shall be instructed in the use of and response to fire alarms.

21.7.2.3.2

All personnel shall be instructed in the use of the code phrase to ensure transmission of an alarm under either of the following conditions:

When the individual who discovers a fire must immediately go to the aid of an endangered person

During a malfunction of the building fire alarm system

21.7.2.3.3

Personnel hearing the code announced shall first activate the building fire alarm using the nearest fire alarm box and then shall execute immediately their duties as outlined in the fire safety plan.

21.7.3 Maintenance of Exits

21.7.3.1

Proper maintenance shall be provided to ensure the dependability of the method of evacuation selected.

21.7.3.2

Ambulatory health care occupancies that find it necessary to lock exits shall, at all times, maintain an adequate staff qualified to release locks and direct occupants from the immediate danger area to a place of safety in case of fire or other emergency.

21.7.4\* Smoking

Smoking regulations shall be adopted and shall include not less than the following provisions:

Smoking shall be prohibited in any room, ward, or compartment where flammable liquids, combustible gases, or oxygen is used or stored and in any other hazardous location, and such areas shall be posted with signs that read NO SMOKING or shall be posted with the international symbol for no smoking.

In ambulatory health care facilities where smoking is prohibited and signs are placed at all major entrances, secondary signs with language that prohibits smoking shall not be required.

Smoking by patients classified as not responsible shall be prohibited.

The requirement of 21.7.4(3) shall not apply where the patient is under direct supervision.

Ashtrays of noncombustible material and safe design shall be provided in all areas where smoking is permitted.

Metal containers with self-closing cover devices into which ashtrays can be emptied shall be readily available to all areas where smoking is permitted.

21.7.5 Furnishings, Mattresses, and Decorations

21.7.5.1\*

Draperies, curtains, and other loosely hanging fabrics and films serving as furnishings or decorations in ambulatory health care occupancies shall be in accordance with the provisions of 10.3.1, and the following also shall apply:

Such curtains shall include cubicle curtains.

Such curtains shall not include curtains at showers.

21.7.5.2

Newly introduced upholstered furniture shall comply with 10.3.2.1 and one of the following provisions:

The furniture shall meet the criteria specified in 10.3.2.2.

The furniture shall be in a building protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

21.7.5.3

Newly introduced mattresses shall comply with 10.3.3 and one of the following provisions:

The mattresses shall meet the criteria specified in 10.3.3.2.

The mattresses shall be in a building protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

21.7.5.4

Combustible decorations shall be prohibited, unless one of the following criteria is met:

They are flame-retardant.

The decorations meet the flame propagation performance criteria contained in Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of NFPA 701.

The decorations exhibit a heat release rate not exceeding 100 kW when tested in accordance with NFPA 289 using the 20 kW ignition source.

\*The decorations, such as photographs, paintings, and other art, are attached directly to the walls, ceiling, and non-fire-rated doors in accordance with the following:

Decorations on non-fire-rated doors do not interfere with the operation or any required latching of the door and do not exceed the area limitations of 21.7.5.4(4)(b) or 21.7.5.4(4)(c).

Decorations do not exceed 20 percent of the wall, ceiling, and door areas inside any room or space of a smoke compartment that is not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

Decorations do not exceed 30 percent of the wall, ceiling, and door areas inside any room or space of a smoke compartment that is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

21.7.5.5 Soiled Linen and Trash Receptacles

21.7.5.5.1

Soiled linen or trash collection receptacles with capacities greater than 64 gal (242 L) shall be located in a hazardous area when not attended.

21.7.5.5.2\*

Containers greater than 64 gal (242 L) used solely for recycling clean waste or for patient records awaiting destruction shall be permitted to be excluded from the requirements of 21.7.5.5.1 where all the following conditions are met:

Each container shall be limited to a maximum capacity of 96 gal (363 L).

Containers for combustibles shall be labeled and listed as meeting the requirements of FM Approval 6921, Approval Standard for Containers for Combustible Waste, however, such testing, listing, and labeling shall not be limited to FM Approvals.

21.7.5.5.3

The provisions of 10.3.8, applicable to containers for waste or linen, shall not apply.

21.7.6 Maintenance and Testing

See 4.6.12.

21.7.7\* Engineered Smoke Control Systems

21.7.7.1

Existing engineered smoke control systems, unless specifically exempted by the authority having jurisdiction, shall be tested in accordance with established engineering principles.

21.7.7.2

Systems not meeting the performance requirements of the testing specified in 21.7.7.1 shall be continued in operation only with specific approval of the authority having jurisdiction.

21.7.7.3

Test documentation shall be maintained on the premises at all times.

21.7.8 Portable Space-Heating Devices

Portable space-heating devices shall be prohibited in all ambulatory health care occupancies, unless both of the following criteria are met:

Such devices are listed and labeled for use as a freestanding, movable heater in accordance with UL 1278, Movable and Wall- or Ceiling-Hung Electric Room Heaters.

21.7.9 Construction, Repair, and Improvement Operations

21.7.9.1

Construction, repair, and improvement operations shall comply with 4.6.10.

21.7.9.2

The means of egress in any area undergoing construction, repair, or improvements shall be inspected daily for compliance with 7.1.10.1 and shall also comply with NFPA 241.

21.7.10 Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

21.7.10.1

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

21.7.10.2

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

