**Chapter 36 New Mercantile Occupancies**

36.1 General Requirements

36.1.1 Application

36.1.1.1

The requirements of this chapter shall apply to new buildings or portions thereof used as mercantile occupancies. (See 1.3.1.)

36.1.1.2 Administration

The provisions of Chapter 1, Administration, shall apply.

36.1.1.3 General

The provisions of Chapter 4, General, shall apply.

36.1.1.4

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to life safety requirements for all new mercantile buildings. Specific requirements shall apply to suboccupancy groups, such as Class A, Class B, and Class C mercantile occupancies; mall structures; and bulk merchandising retail buildings, and are contained in paragraphs pertaining thereto.

36.1.1.5

Additions to existing buildings shall comply with 36.1.1.5.1, 36.1.1.5.2, and 36.1.1.5.3.

36.1.1.5.1

Additions to existing buildings shall conform to the requirements of 4.6.7.

36.1.1.5.2

Existing portions of the structure shall not be required to be modified, provided that the new construction has not diminished the fire safety features of the facility.

36.1.1.5.3

Existing portions shall be upgraded if the addition results in a change of mercantile subclassification. (See 36.1.2.2.)

36.1.1.6

When a mercantile occupancy changes from Class C to Class A or Class B, or from Class B to Class A, the provisions of this chapter shall apply.

36.1.1.7

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

36.1.2 Classification of Occupancy

36.1.2.1 General

Mercantile occupancies shall include all buildings and structures or parts thereof with occupancy as defined in 6.1.10.

36.1.2.2 Subclassification of Occupancy

36.1.2.2.1

Diagram

Mercantile occupancies shall be subclassified as follows:

Class A, all mercantile occupancies having an aggregate gross area of more than 30,000 ft2 (2800 m2) or occupying more than three stories for sales purposes

Class B, as follows:

All mercantile occupancies of more than 3000 ft2 (280 m2), but not more than 30,000 ft2 (2800 m2), aggregate gross area and occupying not more than three stories for sales purposes

All mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft2 (280 m3) gross area and occupying two or three stories for sales purposes

Class C, all mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft2 (280 m2) gross area and used for sales purposes occupying one story only

UpCodes Diagrams

P

NFPA: Mercantile Classifications

36.1.2.2.2

For the purpose of the classification required in 36.1.2.2.1, the requirements of 36.1.2.2.2.1, 36.1.2.2.2.2, and 36.1.2.2.2.3 shall be met.

36.1.2.2.2.1

The aggregate gross area shall be the total gross area of all floors used for mercantile purposes.

36.1.2.2.2.2

Where a mercantile occupancy is divided into sections, regardless of fire separation, the aggregate gross area shall include the area of all sections used for sales purposes.

36.1.2.2.2.3

Areas of floors not used for sales purposes, such as an area used only for storage and not open to the public, shall not be counted for the purposes of the classifications in 36.1.2.2.1(1), 36.1.2.2.2.3(2), and 36.1.2.2.2.3(3), but means of egress shall be provided for such nonsales areas in accordance with their occupancy, as specified by other chapters of this Code.

36.1.2.2.3

Mezzanines shall comply with 8.6.10.

36.1.2.2.4

Where a number of tenant spaces under different management are located in the same building, the aggregate gross area for subclassification shall be one of the following:

Where tenant spaces are not separated, the aggregate gross floor area of all such tenant spaces shall be used in determining classification per 36.1.2.2.1.

Where individual tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 2-hour fire resistance rating, each tenant space shall be individually classified.

Where tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 1-hour fire resistance rating, and the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), each tenant space shall be individually classified.

The tenant spaces in a mall structure in accordance with 36.4.4 shall be classified individually.

36.1.3 Multiple Occupancies

36.1.3.1 General

36.1.3.1.1

All multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with 6.1.14 and 36.1.3.

36.1.3.1.2

Where there are differences in the specific requirements in this chapter and provisions for mixed occupancies or separated occupancies as specified in 6.1.14.3 and 6.1.14.4, the requirements of this chapter shall apply.

36.1.3.1.3

In other than bulk merchandising mercantile occupancies, 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 from nonhazardous spaces in assembly, educational, day care, health care, ambulatory health care, residential, residential board and care occupancies, and business occupancies.

36.1.3.2 Combined Mercantile Occupancies and Parking Structures

36.1.3.2.1

The fire barrier separating parking structures from a building classified as a mercantile occupancy shall be a fire barrier having a minimum 2-hour fire resistance rating.

36.1.3.2.2

Openings in the fire barrier required by 36.1.3.2.1 shall not be required to be protected with fire-protection-rated opening protectives in enclosed parking structures that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), or in open parking structures, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

The openings do not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier in which they are located.

The openings are used as a public entrance and for associated sidelight functions.

The building containing the mercantile occupancy is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

\*Means are provided to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to the openings and entering the building.

Physical means are provided to prevent vehicles from being parked or driven within 10 ft (3050 mm) of the openings.

The openings are protected as a smoke partition in accordance with Section 8.4, with no minimum fire protection rating required.

36.1.4 Definitions

36.1.4.1 General

For definitions, see Chapter 3, Definitions.

36.1.4.2 Special Definitions

A list of special terms used in this chapter follows:

Anchor Building. See 3.3.37.2.

Bulk Merchandising Retail Building. See 3.3.37.4.

Enclosed Mall Concourse. See 3.3.177.2.

Food Court. See 3.3.51.2

Gross Leasable Area. See 3.3.22.3.

Major Tenant. See 3.3.176.

Mall Concourse. See 3.3.177.

Mall Structure. See 3.3.284.4.

Open Mall Concourse. See 3.3.177.1.

Open-Air Mercantile Operation. See 3.3.207.

36.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents

36.1.5.1

The contents of mercantile occupancies shall be classified in accordance with Section 6.2.

36.1.5.2

Mercantile occupancies classified as high hazard in accordance with Section 6.2 shall meet all of the following additional requirements:

Exits shall be located so that not more than 75 ft (23 m) of travel from any point is needed to reach the nearest exit.

From every point, there shall be not less than two exits accessible by travel in different directions (no common path of travel).

All vertical openings shall be enclosed.

36.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements

(Reserved.)

36.1.7 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.

36.2 Means of Egress Requirements

36.2.1 General

36.2.1.1

All means of egress shall be in accordance with Chapter 7 and this chapter.

36.2.1.2

No inside open stairway or inside open ramp shall be permitted to serve as a component of the required means of egress system for more than one floor.

36.2.1.3

Where there are two or more floors below the street floor, the same stairway or other exit shall be permitted to serve all floors, but all required exits from such areas shall be independent of any open stairways between the street floor and the floor below it.

36.2.1.4

Where exits from the upper floor also serve as an entrance from a principal street, the upper floor shall be classified as a street floor in accordance with the definition of street floor in 3.3.283 and shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter for street floors.

36.2.1.5

High hazard mercantile occupancies shall be arranged in accordance with 36.1.5.2.

36.2.1.6 Grab Bars for Bathtubs, Bathtub-Shower Combinations, and Showers

36.2.1.6.1

Where bathtubs, bathtub-shower combinations, or showers are present, grab bars shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of 24.2.8.

36.2.1.6.2

The provisions of 36.2.1.6.1 shall not apply to display bathtubs, bathtub-shower combinations, or showers.

36.2.2 Means of Egress Components

36.2.2.1 Components Permitted

Components of means of egress shall be limited to the types described in 36.2.2.2 through 36.2.2.12.

36.2.2.2 Doors

36.2.2.2.1

Doors complying with 7.2.1 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.2.2\*

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

36.2.2.2.3

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

36.2.2.2.4 Reserved

36.2.2.2.5

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

36.2.2.2.6

Sensor-release of electrical locking systems complying with 7.2.1.6.2 shall be permitted in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6 or an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1)

36.2.2.2.7

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

36.2.2.2.8

All doors at the foot of stairs from upper floors or at the head of stairs leading to floors below the street floor shall swing in the direction of egress travel.

36.2.2.2.9

Revolving doors complying with 7.2.1.10 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.3 Stairs

36.2.2.3.1

Stairs complying with 7.2.2 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.3.2

Spiral stairs complying with 7.2.2.2.3 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.4 Smokeproof Enclosures

Smokeproof enclosures complying with 7.2.3 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.5 Horizontal Exits

Horizontal exits complying with 7.2.4 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.6 Ramps

Ramps complying with 7.2.5 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.7 Exit Passageways

36.2.2.7.1

Exit passageways complying with 7.2.6 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.7.2\*

Exit passageways in a mall structure shall be permitted to accommodate the following occupant loads independently:

Portion of the occupant load assigned to the exit passageway from only the mall concourse

Largest occupant load assigned to the exit passageway from a single tenant space

36.2.2.8 Reserved

36.2.2.9 Reserved

36.2.2.10 Fire Escape Ladders

Fire escape ladders complying with 7.2.9 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.11 Alternating Tread Devices

Alternating tread devices complying with 7.2.11 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.12 Areas of Refuge

36.2.2.12.1

Areas of refuge complying with 7.2.12 shall be permitted.

36.2.2.12.2

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.

36.2.3 Capacity of Means of Egress

36.2.3.1

The capacity of means of egress shall be in accordance with Section 7.3.

36.2.3.2

In Class A and Class B mercantile occupancies, street floor exits shall be sufficient for the occupant load of the street floor plus the required capacity of stairs and ramps discharging through the street floor.

36.2.4 Number of Means of Egress

36.2.4.1

Means of egress shall comply with all of the following, except as otherwise permitted by 36.2.4.2 through 36.2.4.5:

The number of means of egress shall be in accordance with Section 7.4.

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

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

36.2.4.2

Exit access, as required by 36.2.4.1(3), shall be permitted to include a single exit access path for the distances permitted as common paths of travel by 36.2.5.2.

36.2.4.3

A single means of egress shall be permitted in a Class C mercantile occupancy, provided that the travel distance to the exit or to a mall pedestrian way (see 36.4.4.2) does not exceed 75 ft (23 m).

36.2.4.4

A single means of egress shall be permitted in a Class C mercantile occupancy, provided that the travel distance to the exit or to a mall concourse does not exceed 100 ft (30 m), and the story on which the occupancy is located, and all communicating levels that are traversed to reach the exit or mall concourse, are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

36.2.4.5

A single means of egress to an exit or to a mall concourse shall be permitted from a mezzanine within any Class A, Class B, or Class C mercantile occupancy, provided that the common path of travel does not exceed 75 ft (23 m), or does not exceed 100 ft (30 m) if protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

36.2.5 Arrangement of Means of Egress

36.2.5.1

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

36.2.5.2

Common paths of travel shall be limited by any of the following:

Common paths of travel shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m) in mercantile occupancies classified as low or ordinary hazard.

Common paths of travel shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m) in mercantile occupancies classified as low or ordinary hazard where the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

Common paths of travel shall not be permitted in mercantile occupancies classified as high hazard.

36.2.5.3

Diagram

Dead-end corridors shall comply with 36.2.5.3.1 or 36.2.5.3.2.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Dead End Corridors (NFPA)

36.2.5.3.1

In buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), dead-end corridors shall not exceed 50 ft (15 m).

36.2.5.3.2

In all buildings not complying with 36.2.5.3.1, dead-end corridors shall not exceed 20 ft (6100 mm).

36.2.5.4

Aisles leading to each exit shall be required, and the aggregate width of such aisles shall be not less than the required width of the exit.

36.2.5.5

Required aisles shall be not less than 36 in. (915 mm) in clear width.

36.2.5.6

In Class A mercantile occupancies, not less than one aisle of a 60 in. (1525 mm) minimum clear width shall lead directly to an exit.

36.2.5.7

In mercantile occupancies other than bulk merchandising retail buildings, if the only means of customer entrance is through one exterior wall of the building, one-half of the required egress width from the street floor shall be located in such wall. Means of egress from floors above or below the street floor shall be arranged in accordance with Section 7.5.

36.2.5.8

Not less than one-half of the required exits shall be located so as to be reached without passing through checkout stands.

36.2.5.9

Checkout stands or associated railings or barriers shall not obstruct exits, required aisles, or approaches thereto.

36.2.5.10\*

Where wheeled carts or buggies are used by customers, adequate provision shall be made for the transit and parking of such carts to minimize the possibility that they might obstruct means of egress.

36.2.5.11

Exit access in Class A and Class B mercantile occupancies that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), and exit access in all Class C mercantile occupancies, shall be permitted to pass through storerooms, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

Not more than 50 percent of exit access shall be provided through the storeroom.

The storeroom shall not be subject to locking.

The main aisle through the storeroom shall be not less than 44 in. (1120 mm) wide.

The path of travel through the storeroom shall be defined, direct, and continuously maintained in an unobstructed condition.

36.2.6 Travel Distance to Exits

Travel distance shall be as specified in 36.2.6.1, 36.2.6.2, and 36.2.6.3 and shall be measured in accordance with Section 7.6.

36.2.6.1

In mercantile occupancies classified as ordinary hazard, travel distance shall not exceed 150 ft (46 m).

36.2.6.2

In mercantile occupancies classified as ordinary hazard in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), travel distance shall not exceed 250 ft (76 m).

36.2.6.3

In mercantile occupancies classified as high hazard, travel distance shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m).

36.2.7 Discharge From Exits

36.2.7.1

Exit discharge shall comply with Section 7.7 and 36.2.7.2.

36.2.7.2\*

Fifty percent of the exits shall be permitted to discharge through the level of exit discharge in accordance with 7.7.2 only where the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).

36.2.8 Illumination of Means of Egress

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

36.2.9 Emergency Lighting

Class A and Class B mercantile occupancies and mall structures shall have emergency lighting facilities in accordance with Section 7.9.

36.2.10 Marking of Means of Egress

Where an exit is not immediately apparent from all portions of the sales area, means of egress shall have signs in accordance with Section 7.10.

36.2.11 Special Means of Egress Features

36.2.11.1 Reserved

36.2.11.2 Lockups

Lockups in mercantile occupancies shall comply with the requirements of 22.4.6.

36.2.11.3\* Hazardous Materials

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

36.3 Protection

36.3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings

Any vertical opening shall be protected in accordance with Section 8.6, except under any of the following conditions:

In Class A or Class B mercantile occupancies protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), unprotected vertical openings shall be permitted at one of the following locations:

Between any two floors

Among the street floor, the first adjacent floor below, and the adjacent floor (or mezzanine) above

In Class C mercantile occupancies, unprotected openings shall be permitted between the street floor and the mezzanine.

The draft stop and closely spaced sprinkler requirements of NFPA 13 shall not be required for unenclosed vertical openings permitted in 36.3.1(1) and 36.3.1(2).

Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.6.9.2 shall be permitted and the provision of 8.6.9.2(5) shall not apply.

Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.6.9.7 shall be permitted and the number of contiguous stories shall not be limited.

36.3.2 Protection From Hazards

36.3.2.1\* General

Hazardous areas shall be protected in accordance with 36.3.2.1.1 or 36.3.2.1.2.

36.3.2.1.1\*

Hazardous areas shall be protected in accordance with Section 8.7.

36.3.2.1.2

In general storage and stock areas protected by an automatic extinguishing system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) or 9.7.1.2, an enclosure shall be exempt from the provisions of 8.7.1.2.

36.3.2.2\* 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.

In high hazard areas, all vertical openings shall be enclosed.

36.3.2.3\* Hazardous Materials

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

36.3.2.4\* Commercial Cooking Operations

Commercial cooking operations shall be protected in accordance with 9.2.3, unless the cooking equipment is one of the following types:

Outdoor equipment

Equipment used only for food warming

36.3.3 Interior Finish

36.3.3.1 General

Interior finish shall be in accordance with Section 10.2.

36.3.3.2 Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish

Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 10.2 shall be Class A, Class B, or Class C.

36.3.3.3 Interior Floor Finish

36.3.3.3.1

Interior floor finish shall comply with Section 10.2.

36.3.3.3.2

Interior floor finish in exit enclosures shall be Class I or Class II.

36.3.3.3.3

Interior floor finish shall comply with 10.2.7.1 or 10.2.7.2, as applicable.

36.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems

36.3.4.1 General

Class A mercantile occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6.

36.3.4.2 Initiation

Initiation of the required fire alarm system shall be by any one of the following means:

Manual means in accordance with 9.6.2.1(1)

Approved automatic fire detection system in accordance with 9.6.2.1(2) that provides protection throughout the building and the provision of 9.6.2.6 shall apply.

Approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.6.2.1(3) that provides protection throughout the building and the provision of 9.6.2.6 shall apply.

36.3.4.3 Notification

36.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification

During all times that the mercantile occupancy is occupied, the required fire alarm system, once initiated, shall perform one of the following functions:

It shall activate an alarm in accordance with 9.6.3 throughout the mercantile occupancy.

Positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.5 shall be permitted.

36.3.4.3.2 Emergency Forces Notification

Emergency forces notification shall be provided and shall include notifying both of the following:

Fire department in accordance with 9.6.4

Approved, local emergency organization, if provided

36.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements

36.3.5.1

Mercantile occupancies shall be protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) in any of the following specified locations:

Throughout all mercantile occupancies three or more stories in height

Throughout all mercantile occupancies exceeding 12,000 ft2 (1115 m2) in gross area

Throughout stories below the level of exit discharge where such stories have an area exceeding 2500 ft2 (232 m2) and are used for the sale, storage, or handling of combustible goods and merchandise

Throughout multiple occupancies protected as mixed occupancies in accordance with 6.1.14 where the conditions of 36.3.5.1(1), 36.3.5.1(2), or 36.3.5.1(3) apply to the mercantile occupancy

36.3.5.2

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in all mercantile occupancies in accordance with Section 9.9.

36.3.6 Corridors

36.3.6.1\*

Where access to exits is provided by corridors, such corridors shall be separated from use areas by fire barriers in accordance with Section 8.3 having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating, except under any of the following conditions:

Where exits are available from an open floor area

Within a space occupied by a single tenant

Within buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1)

36.3.6.2

Openings in corridor walls required by 36.3.6.1 to have a fire resistance rating shall be protected in accordance with Section 8.3.

36.3.7 Subdivision of Building Spaces

(No special requirements.)

36.4 Special Provisions

36.4.1 Limited-Access or Underground Buildings

See Section 11.7.

36.4.2 High-Rise Buildings

High-rise buildings shall comply with the requirements of Section 11.8.

36.4.3 Open-Air Mercantile Operations

36.4.3.1

Open-air mercantile operations, such as open-air markets, gasoline filling stations, roadside stands for the sale of farm produce, and other outdoor mercantile operations, shall be arranged and conducted to maintain free and unobstructed ways of travel at all times.

36.4.3.2

Ways of travel shall allow prompt escape from any point of danger in case of fire or other emergency, with no dead ends in which persons might be trapped due to display stands, adjoining buildings, fences, vehicles, or other obstructions.

36.4.3.3

Mercantile operations that are conducted in roofed-over areas shall be treated as mercantile buildings, provided that canopies over individual small stands to protect merchandise from the weather are not construed as constituting buildings for the purpose of this Code.

36.4.4\* Mall Structures

36.4.4.1

The provisions of 36.4.4 shall apply to mall structures three or fewer stories in height and any number of anchor buildings.

36.4.4.2 Special Definitions

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

Anchor Building. A building housing any occupancy having low- or ordinary-hazard contents and having direct access to a mall structure, but having all required means of egress independent of the mall concourse. (See 3.3.37.2.)

Food Court. A public seating area located in a mall concourse that serves adjacent food preparation tenant spaces. (See 3.3.51.2.)

Gross Leasable Area. Fifty percent of major tenant areas, and 100 percent of all other floor areas designated for tenant occupancy and exclusive use, including storage areas. The area of tenant occupancy is measured from the centerlines of joint partitions to the outside of the tenant walls. (See 3.3.22.3.)

Mall Concourse. A common pedestrian area within a mall structure that serves as access for two or more tenants and does not exceed three levels that are open to each other. (See 3.3.177.)

\*Open Mall Concourse. A mall concourse that either (1) has 50 percent or more of the total area of the solid mall concourse perimeter walls and solid roof area open to the atmosphere with openings distributed uniformly over the length of the mall concourse, or (2) has an approved open mall concourse engineering analysis. (See 3.3.177.1.)

Enclosed Mall Concourse. A mall concourse that does not meet the definition of open mall concourse. (See 3.3.177.2.)

\*Mall Structures. A single building enclosing a number of tenants and occupancies wherein two or more tenants have a main entrance into one or more mall concourses. For the purpose of this chapter, anchor buildings shall not be considered as a part of the mall structure. (See 3.3.284.4.)

Major Tenant. A tenant space, in a mall structure, with one or more main entrances from the exterior that also serve as exits and are independent of the mall concourse. (See 3.3.176.)

36.4.4.3 General

36.4.4.3.1

The mall structure shall be treated as a single building for the purpose of calculation of means of egress and shall be subject to the requirements for appropriate occupancies, except as modified by the provisions of 36.4.4, and the mall concourse shall be of a clear width not less than that needed to accommodate egress requirements as set forth in other sections of this Code.

36.4.4.3.2\* Open Mall Concourse Engineering Analysis

A mall concourse shall be permitted to be classified as an open mall concourse where an approved engineering analysis demonstrates that the mall concourse is designed to keep the smoke layer interface at 6 ft (1830 mm) above the highest walking level surface open to the mall concourse, for a period equal to 1.5 times the calculated egress time or 20 minutes, whichever is greater.

36.4.4.4\* Travel Distance

36.4.4.4.1

The travel distance within a tenant space to an exit or to the mall concourse shall not exceed the maximum travel distance permitted by the occupancy chapter.

36.4.4.4.2

An additional 200 ft (61 m) shall be permitted for travel through the enclosed mall concourse or 300 ft (91 m) for travel through the open mall concourse, provided that all the following requirements are met:

\*The mall concourse shall be of a clear width not less than that needed to accommodate egress requirements, as set forth in other sections of this chapter, but shall be not less than 20 ft (6100 mm) wide in its narrowest dimension.

On each side of the mall floor area, the mall concourse shall be provided with an unobstructed exit access of not less than 10 ft (3050 mm) in clear width parallel to, and adjacent to, the mall tenant front.

\*The exit access specified in 36.4.4.4.2(2) shall lead to an exit having a width of not less than 66 in. (1675 mm).

The mall concourse, and all buildings connected thereto, except open parking structures, shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), which shall be installed in such a manner that any portion of the system serving tenant spaces can be taken out of service without affecting the operation of the portion of the system serving the mall concourse.

\*Walls dividing tenant spaces from each other shall have a fire resistance rating of not less than 1 hour, and all of the following also shall apply:

The partition shall extend to the underside of the ceiling or to the floor or roof deck above.

No separation shall be required between a tenant space and the mall concourse.

\*Mall concourses with a floor opening connecting more than two levels shall be provided with a smoke control system.

36.4.4.5 Mixed Occupancies

Assembly occupancies, other than stadiums and arenas, and business and mercantile occupancies located in mall structures shall not be required to comply with the provisions of 6.1.14.4.

36.4.4.6 Means of Egress Details

36.4.4.6.1

Dead ends not exceeding a length equal to twice the width of the mall concourse for enclosed mall concourses or two and a half times the width of the mall concourse for open mall concourses, measured at the narrowest location within the dead-end portion of the mall concourse, shall be permitted.

36.4.4.6.2

Every story of a mall structure shall be provided with the number of means of egress specified by Section 7.4 and as modified by 36.4.4.6.2.1 or 36.4.4.6.2.2.

36.4.4.6.2.1

Exit access travel shall be permitted to be common for the distances permitted as common paths of travel by 36.2.5.2.

36.4.4.6.2.2

A single means of egress shall be permitted in a Class C mercantile occupancy or a business occupancy, provided that the travel distance to the exit or to a mall concourse (see 36.4.4.2) does not exceed 100 ft (30 m).

36.4.4.6.3

Every floor of a mall concourse shall be provided with the number of means of egress specified by Section 7.4, with not less than two means of egress remotely located from each other.

36.4.4.6.4

Class A and Class B mercantile occupancies connected to a mall concourse shall be provided with the number of means of egress required by Section 7.4, with not less than two means of egress remotely located from one another.

36.4.4.6.5\*

Each individual anchor building shall have means of egress independent of the mall concourse.

36.4.4.6.6

Each individual major tenant of a mall structure shall have a minimum of one-half of its required means of egress independent of the mall concourse.

36.4.4.6.7

Each assembly occupancy with an occupant load of 500 or more shall have not less than one-half of its required means of egress independent of the mall concourse.

36.4.4.6.8\*

Emergency lighting shall be provided in accordance with 36.2.9.

36.4.4.7 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems

36.4.4.7.1 General

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

36.4.4.7.2 Initiation

Initiation of the required fire alarm system shall be by means of the required automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.6.2.1(3).

36.4.4.7.3 Notification

36.4.4.7.3.1 Occupant Notification

During all times that the mall concourse is occupied, the required fire alarm system, once initiated, shall perform one of the following functions:

It shall activate a general alarm in accordance with 9.6.3 throughout the mall concourse, and positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.5 shall be permitted.

Occupant notification shall be made via a voice communication or public address system in accordance with 9.6.3.10.2

36.4.4.7.3.2\*

Visible signals shall not be required in mall concourses. (See 9.6.3.6.7 and 9.6.3.6.8.)

36.4.4.7.3.3 Emergency Forces Notification

Emergency forces notification shall be provided and shall include notifying all of the following:

Fire department in accordance with 9.6.4

Approved, local emergency organization, if provided

36.4.4.7.4 Emergency Control

The fire alarm system shall be arranged to automatically actuate smoke management or smoke control systems in accordance with 9.6.6.2(3).

36.4.4.7.5 Risk Analysis for Mass Notification

A risk analysis in accordance with Section 9.14 shall be performed for new mall structures to determine whether a mass notification system is required.

36.4.4.8 Tenant Spaces

Each individual tenant space shall have means of egress to the outside or to the mall concourse, based on occupant load calculated by using Table 7.3.1.2.

36.4.4.9 Exit Passageways

Exit passageways shall comply with 36.4.4.9.1 and 36.4.4.9.2.

36.4.4.9.1

Exit passageways in a mall structure shall be permitted to accommodate the following occupant loads independently:

Portion of the occupant load assigned to the exit passageway from only the mall concourse

Largest occupant load assigned to the exit passageway from a single tenant space

36.4.4.9.2\*

Rooms housing building service equipment, janitor closets, and service elevators shall be permitted to open directly onto exit passageways, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

The required fire resistance rating between such rooms or areas and the exit passageway shall be maintained in accordance with 7.1.3.2.

Such rooms or areas shall be protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), but the exceptions in NFPA 13 allowing the omission of sprinklers from such rooms shall not be permitted.

Service elevators opening into the exit passageway shall not open into areas other than exit passageways.

Where exit stair enclosures discharge into the exit passageway, the provisions of 7.2.1.5.7 shall apply, regardless of the number of stories served.

36.4.4.10 Plastic Signs

Within every store or level, and from sidewall to sidewall of each tenant space facing the mall concourse, plastic signs shall comply with all of the following:

Plastic signs shall not exceed 20 percent of the wall area facing the mall concourse.

Plastic signs shall not exceed a height of 36 in. (915 mm), except if the sign is vertical, in which case the height shall not exceed 8 ft (2440 mm) and the width shall not exceed 36 in. (915 mm).

Plastic signs shall be located a minimum distance of 18 in. (455 mm) from adjacent tenants.

Plastics, other than foamed plastics, shall meet one of the following criteria:

They shall be light-transmitting plastics.

They shall have a self-ignition temperature of 650°F (343°C) or greater when tested in accordance with ASTM D1929, Standard Test Method for Determining Ignition Temperatures of Plastic, and a flame spread index not greater than 75 and a smoke developed index not greater than 450 when tested in the manner intended for use in accordance with ASTM E84, Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, or UL 723, Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials.

The edges and backs of plastic signs in the mall concourse shall be fully encased in metal.

Foamed plastics shall have a maximum heat release rate of 150 kW when tested in accordance with UL 1975, Fire Tests for Foamed Plastics Used for Decorative Purposes, or in accordance with NFPA 289 using the 20 kW ignition source.

Foamed plastics shall comply with all of the following:

The density of foamed plastic signs shall be not less than 20 lb/ft3 (320 kg/m3).

The thickness of foamed plastic signs shall be not greater than 1/2 in. (13 mm).

36.4.4.11 Kiosks

Kiosks and similar structures (temporary or permanent) shall not be considered tenant spaces and shall meet all of the following requirements:

Combustible kiosks and similar structures shall be constructed of any of the following materials:

Fire-retardant-treated wood complying with the requirements for fire-retardant-impregnated wood in NFPA 703

Light-transmitting plastics complying with the building code

Foamed plastics having a maximum heat release rate not greater than 100 kW when tested in accordance with UL 1975, Fire Tests for Foamed Plastics Used for Decorative Purposes, or in accordance with NFPA 289 using the 20 kW ignition source

Metal composite material (MCM) having a flame spread index not greater than 25 and a smoke developed index not greater than 450 in accordance with ASTM E84, Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, or UL 723, Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, when tested as an assembly in the maximum thickness intended for use

Textiles and films meeting the flame propagation performance criteria contained in NFPA 701

The minimum horizontal separation between kiosks, or groups of kiosks, and other structures within the mall concourse shall be 20 ft (6100 mm).

Each kiosk, or group of kiosks, or similar structure shall have a maximum area of 300 ft2 (27.8 m2).

36.4.4.12\* Smoke Control

Smoke control in accordance with Section 9.3 and complying with 8.6.7(5) shall be provided in an enclosed mall concourse with floor openings connecting more than two stories.

36.4.4.13 Automatic Extinguishing Systems

36.4.4.13.1

The mall structure and all anchor buildings shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) and 36.4.4.13.2 through 36.4.4.13.4.

36.4.4.13.2

The system shall be installed in such a manner that any portion of the system serving tenant spaces can be taken out of service without affecting the operation of the portion of the system serving the mall concourse.

36.4.4.13.3\*

Any shade structures, canopies, awnings, or similar structures in the open mall concourse shall be protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

36.4.4.13.4\*

Kiosks or similar structures located within the enclosed mall concourse shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.

36.4.5 Bulk Merchandising Retail Buildings

New bulk merchandising retail buildings exceeding 12,000 ft2 (1115 m2) in area shall comply with the requirements of this chapter, as modified by 36.4.5.1 through 36.4.5.6.2.

36.4.5.1 Minimum Construction Requirements

Bulk merchandising retail buildings shall have a distance of not less than 16 ft (4875 mm) from the floor to the ceiling, from the floor to the floor above, or from the floor to the roof of any story.

36.4.5.2 Means of Egress Requirements

36.4.5.2.1

All means of egress shall be in accordance with Chapter 7 and this chapter.

36.4.5.2.2

Not less than 50 percent of the required egress capacity shall be located independent of the main entrance/exit doors.

36.4.5.3 Storage, Arrangement, Protection, and Quantities of Hazardous Commodities

The storage, arrangement, protection, and quantities of hazardous commodities shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the following:

The fire code (see 3.3.99)

NFPA 13

NFPA 30

NFPA 30B

NFPA 400, Chapter 14, for organic peroxide formulations

NFPA 400, Chapter 15, for oxidizer solids and liquids

NFPA 400, various chapters, depending on characteristics of a particular pesticide

36.4.5.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems

36.4.5.4.1 General

Bulk merchandising retail buildings shall be provided with a fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6.

36.4.5.4.2 Initiation

Initiation of the required fire alarm system shall be by means of the required approved automatic sprinkler system (see 36.4.5.5) in accordance with 9.6.2.1(3).

36.4.5.4.3 Occupant Notification

During all times that the mercantile occupancy is occupied, the required fire alarm system, once initiated, shall activate an alarm in accordance with 9.6.3 throughout the mercantile occupancy, and positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.5 shall be permitted.

36.4.5.4.4 Emergency Forces Notification

Emergency forces notification shall be provided and shall include notifying both of the following:

Fire department in accordance with 9.6.4

Approved, local emergency organization, if provided

36.4.5.5 Extinguishing Requirements

Bulk merchandising retail buildings shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) and the applicable provisions of the following:

The fire code (see 3.3.98)

NFPA 13

NFPA 30

NFPA 30B

36.4.5.6 Emergency Action Plan and Employee Training

36.4.5.6.1

There shall be in effect an approved written plan for the emergency egress and relocation of occupants.

36.4.5.6.2

All employees shall be instructed and periodically drilled with respect to their duties under the plan.

36.4.6 Alcohol-Based Hand-Rub Dispensers

Alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers in accordance with 8.7.3.3 shall be permitted.

36.5 Building Services

36.5.1 Utilities

Utilities shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.1.

36.5.2 Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning

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

36.5.3 Elevators, Escalators, and Conveyors

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

36.5.4 Waste Chutes, Incinerators, and Laundry Chutes

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

36.6 Reserved

36.7 Operating Features

36.7.1 Emergency Action Plans

Emergency action plans complying with Section 4.8 shall be provided in high-rise buildings.

36.7.2 Drills

In every Class A or Class B mercantile occupancy, employees shall be periodically trained in accordance with Section 4.7.

36.7.3 Extinguisher Training

Employees of mercantile occupancies shall be periodically instructed in the use of portable fire extinguishers.

36.7.4 Food Service Operations

Food service operations shall comply with 12.7.2.

36.7.5 Upholstered Furniture and Mattresses

The provisions of 10.3.2 shall not apply to upholstered furniture and mattresses.

36.7.6 Soiled Linen and Trash Receptacles

The requirements of 10.3.8 for containers for waste, waste, or linen with a capacity of 20 gal (75.7 L) or more shall not apply.

36.7.7 Inspection of Door Openings

Door openings shall be inspected in accordance with 7.2.1.14.

36.7.8 Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

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



