4. FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

Table A.2.4: FAQ– Fire and Life Safety Systems

QUESTION	ANSWER
27. What is the mode of ventilation for exit staircases in highrise buildings (23m or more in height)?	i. Every escape staircase serving buildings of 23 m in height or more must be made a smoke proof enclosure. The means of achieving a smoke proof enclosure should be by pressurization.
28. What is the required mode of ventilation for non-high rise buildings?	i. Staircase ventilation for non-highrise buildings shall be provided with natural, mechanical ventilation or by providing smoke proof enclosures.
29. In what situation does staircases serving the basement level need to be pressurized?	i. All fire exit staircases that serve the basement floors shall also be pressurized if the same staircase shafts serving the upper floors are pressurized. Fire exit staircases that only serve the basement which have more than 2 levels or more than 7m below the level of discharge (high depth underground buildings and structures) shall be pressurized. ii. Fire exit staircases that only serve the basement which have less than 2 or levels or less than 7m below the level of discharge (low depth underground buildings and structures) shall not be required pressurization.
30. What is the minimum rate of mechanical ventilation for internal corridors ?	i. Mechanically ventilated internal corridor shall have a purging rate of at least 6 air changes per hour.
31. What is the minimum rate of mechanical ventilation for basements?	i. The purge rate for basement shall be at least 9 air changes per hour.
32. What is the percentage of opening required for natural ventilation and the distance from the internal corridor?	i. Naturally ventilated internal corridor shall be by fixed ventilation openings in an external wall and such ventilation openings being not less than 15 % of the floor area of the internal corridor. ii. Natural ventilation opening shall not be more than 9 m from any part of the internal corridor.