



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

AREA OF RESCUE ASSISTANCE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



AREAS OF RESCUE ASSISTANCE (4.3.11)

4.3.11.1 Location and Construction

An area of rescue shall be one of the following:

- (1) A portion of a stairway landing within a smoke-proof enclosure (complying with local requirements).
- (2) A portion of an exterior balcony located immediately adjacent to an exit stairway when the balcony complies with local requirements for exterior exit balconies. Openings to the interior of the building located within 20 feet (6m) of the area of rescue assistance shall be protected with fire assemblies having a three-fourths hour fire protection rating.
- (3) A portion of a one-hour fire-resistive corridor (complying with local requirements for fire resistive construction and for openings) located immediately adjacent to an exit enclosure
- (4) A vestibule located immediately adjacent to an exit enclosure and constructed to the same fire resistive standards as required for corridors and openings.
- (5) A portion of a stairway landing within an exit enclosure which is vented to the exterior and separated from the interior of the building with not less than one-hour fire-resistive doors.
- (6) When approved by the appropriate local authority, an area or a room which is separated from other portions of the building by a smoke barrier. Smoke barriers shall have a fire-resistive rating of not less than one hour and shall completely enclose the area or room. Doors in the smoke barrier shall be tight-fitting smoke-and draft-control assemblies, have a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes and shall be self-closing or automatic closing. The area or room shall be provided with an exit directly to an exit enclosure. Where the room or area exits into an exit enclosure which is required to be of more than one-hour fire-resistive construction, the room or area shall have the same fire-resistive construction, including the same opening protection, as required for the adjacent exit enclosure.
- (7) An elevator lobby with elevator shafts and adjacent lobbies are pressurized as required for smoke-proof enclosures by local regulations and when complying with requirements herein for size, communication, and signage. Such pressurization system shall be activated by smoke detectors on each floor located in a manner approved by the appropriate local authority. Pressurization equipment and its ductwork within the building shall be separated from other portions of the building by a minimum two-hour fire-resistive construction.

4.3.11.2. Size

Each area of rescue assistance shall provide at least two accessible areas each being not less than 30 inches by 48 inches (760 mm by 1220 mm). The area of rescue assistance shall not encroach on any required exit width. The total number of such 30-inch by 48-inch (760 mm by 1220 mm) areas per story shall not be less than one for every 200 persons of calculated occupant load served by the area of rescue assistance.

EXCEPTION: The appropriate local authority may reduce the minimum number of 30-inch by 48-inch (760 mm by 1220 mm) areas to one for each area of rescue assistance on floors where the occupant load is less than 200.

4.3.11.3 Stairway Width

Each stairway adjacent to an area of rescue assistance shall have a minimum clear width of 48 inches between handrails.

4.3.11.5 Identification

Each area of rescue assistance shall be identified by a sign which states "AREA OF RESCUE ASSISTANCE" and displays the international symbol of accessibility. The sign shall be illuminated when exit sign illumination is required. Signage shall also be installed at all inaccessible exits and where otherwise necessary to clearly indicate the direction to areas of rescue assistance. In each area of rescue assistance, instruction on the use of the area under emergency conditions shall be posted adjoining the two-way communication system.

