

CHAPTER 7 FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 707.14.1, EXCEPTION 4 IBC Interpretation No. 24-03 2000 Edition Issued: 02-27-04

707.14.1 Elevator lobby. Elevators opening into a fire-resistance-rated corridor as required by Section 1004.3.2.1 shall be provided with an elevator lobby at each floor containing such a corridor. The lobby shall completely separate the elevators from the corridor by fire barriers and the required opening protection. Elevator lobbies shall have at least one means of egress complying with Chapter 10 and other provisions within this code.

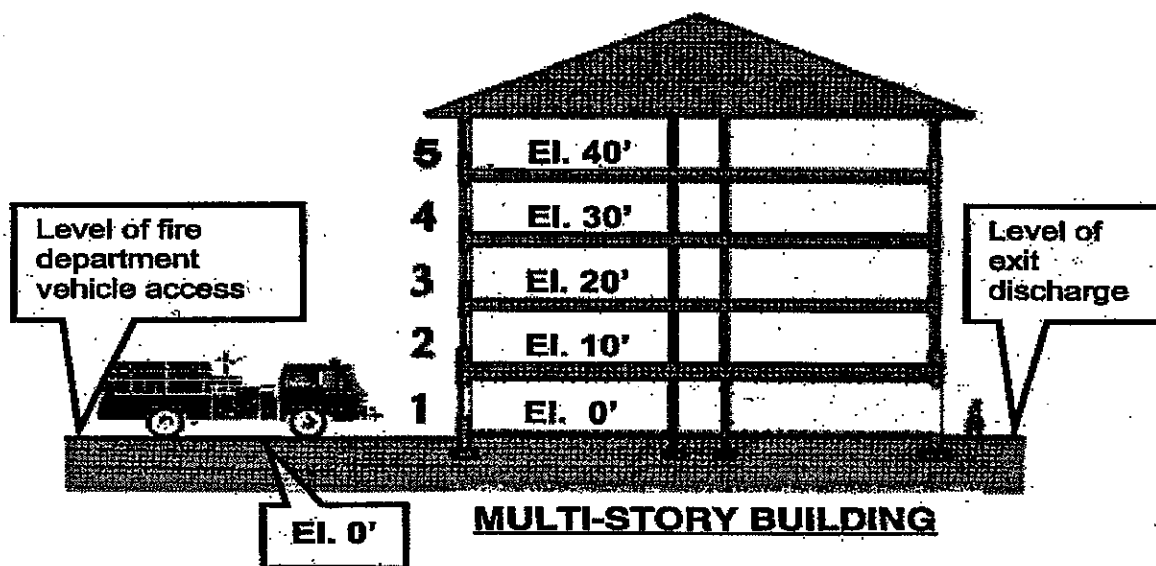
Exceptions:

1. In office buildings, separations are not required from a street floor elevator lobby provided the entire street floor is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
2. Elevators not required to be located in a shaft in accordance with Section 707.2.
3. Where additional doors are provided in accordance with Section 3002.6.
4. In other than Groups I-2 and I-3, and buildings more than four stories above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access, lobby separation is not required where the building, including the lobby and corridors leading to the lobby, is protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

Q: Given a building on grade, without a basement, see Attachment No. 1 drawing of a Multi-Story Building. Is the second story of this building the first story above the lowest level of fire department vehicular access?

A: No. When determining stories above the lowest level of fire department vehicular access, a level, or floor level, is not a story. A "level" is the horizontal plane that is part of a story, not the entire story height. A "story" is the vertical space between the upper surface of one floor level and the upper surface of the floor level next above or below.

The level of fire department vehicle access as shown in attached drawing of a Multi-Story Building is at elevation 0.0', the first floor level of the building is also at elevation 0.0' ; therefore, the level of fire department vehicle access and the first floor level of the building are at the same elevation. The first story of the building begins at elevation 0.0' (first floor) and extends to elevation 10.0' (second floor). The first story of the building is the first story above the level of fire department vehicle access.



Attachment No. 1