

**CHAPTER 10  
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1003.2.13.1.1  
IBC Interpretation No. 27-03  
2000 Edition  
Issued: 03-08-04**

**1003.2.13.1.1 Buildings with four or more stories.** In buildings where a required accessible floor is four or more stories above or below a level of exit discharge, at least one required accessible means of egress shall be an elevator complying with Section 1003.2.13.3.

**Exceptions:**

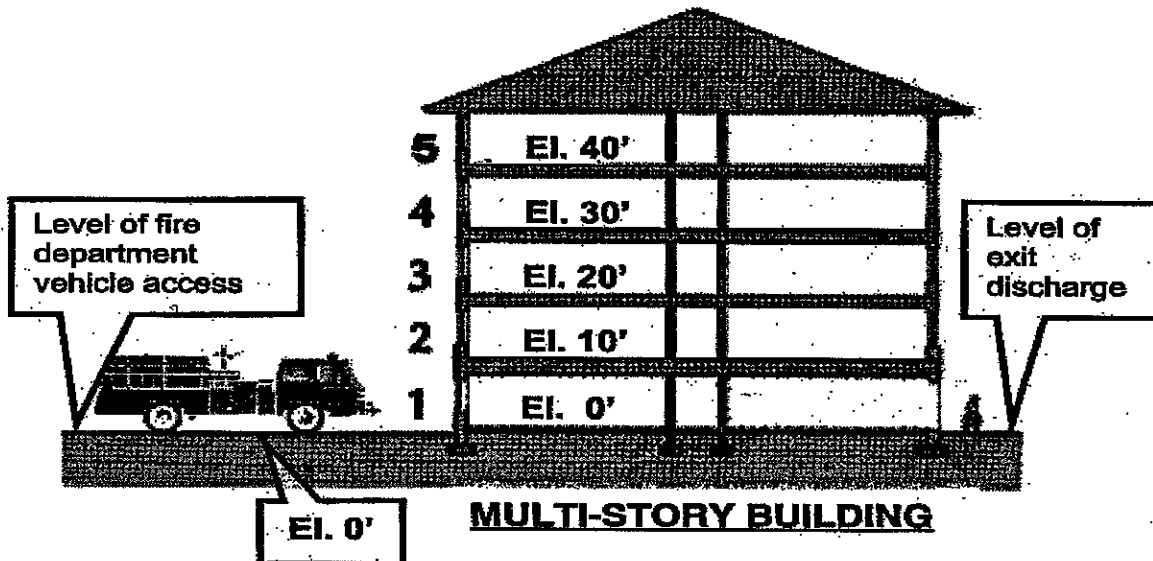
1. In buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or Section 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a horizontal exit and located at or above the level of exit discharge.
2. In buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or Section 903.3.1.2, the elevator shall not be required on floors provided with a ramp conforming to the provisions of Section 1003.3.4.



**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 exit discharge?

**A:** No. When determining stories above the lowest level of exit discharge, 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 exit discharge 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 exit discharge 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 exit discharge.



**Attachment No. 1**