

CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1005.3.2, EXCEPTION 1 IBC Interpretation No. 28-03 2000 Edition Issued: 03-08-04

1005.3.2 Vertical exit enclosures. Interior exit stairways shall be enclosed. Vertical exit enclosures four stories or more shall be 2-hour fire-resistance rated. Vertical exit enclosures less than four stories shall be 1-hour fire-resistance rated. The number of stories shall be computed as all floor levels, including basements but excluding mezzanines. An exit enclosure shall not be used for any purpose other than means of egress. Vertical exit enclosures shall be constructed as fire barriers in accordance with Section 706. The enclosure requirements for interior exit ramps shall be the same as for interior exit stairways.

Exceptions:

1. In other than Groups H and I occupancies, a stairway serving an occupant load of less than 10 not more than one story above the level of exit discharge is not required to be enclosed.
2. Exits in buildings of Group A-5 where all portions of the means of egress are essentially open to the outside need not be enclosed.
3. Stairways serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit in occupancies in Group R-2 or R-3 and guestrooms or individual suites in occupancies in Group R-1 are not required to be enclosed.
4. Stairways that are not a required means of egress element are not required to be enclosed where such stairways comply with Section 707.2.
5. Stairways in open parking structures which serve only the parking structure are not required to be enclosed.
6. Stairways in occupancies in Group I-3 as provided for in Section 408.3.6 are not required to be enclosed
7. Means of egress stairways as required by Section 410.5.4 are not required to be enclosed.
8. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, a maximum of 50 percent of egress stairways serving one adjacent floor are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Any two such interconnected floors shall not be open to other floors.

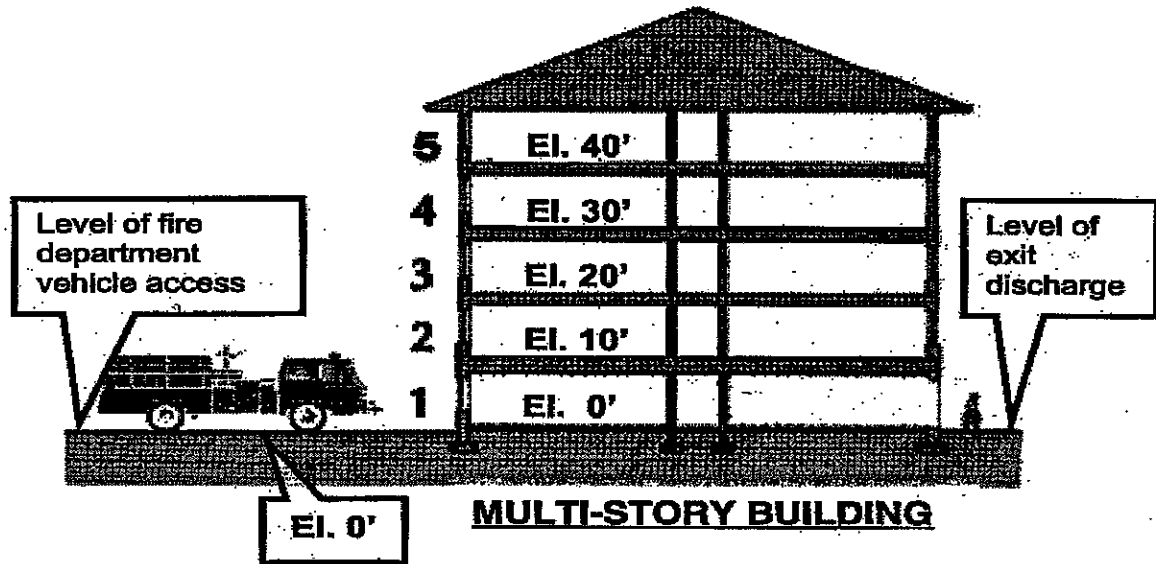


Q: Given a building on grade, without a basement, see Attachment No. 1 drawing of a Multi-Story Building. Is the second story of this building the first story above the lowest level of exit discharge?

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.

● Continued ●



Attachment No. 1