

CHAPTER 7 FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 707.14.1 IBC Interpretation No. 36-07 2006 Edition Issued: 01-02-08 BU_06_60_07

406.3.1 Scope [Open parking garages]. Except where specific provisions are made in the following subsections, other requirements of this code shall apply.

406.3.11 Enclosure of vertical openings. Enclosure shall not be required for vertical openings except as specified in Section 406.3.8.

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

406.3.8 Means of egress. Where persons other than parking attendants are permitted, open parking garages shall meet the means of egress requirements of Chapter 10. Where no persons other than parking attendants are permitted, there shall not be less than two 36-inch-wide (914 mm) exit stairways. Lifts shall be permitted to be installed for use of employees only, provided they are completely enclosed by noncombustible materials.

707.14.1 Elevator lobby. An enclosed elevator lobby shall be provided at each floor where an elevator shaft enclosure connects more than three stories. The lobby shall separate the elevator shaft enclosure doors from each floor by fire partitions equal to the fire-resistance rating of the corridor 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. Enclosed elevator lobbies are not required at the street floor, 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 are not required to have enclosed elevator lobbies.
3. Where additional doors are provided at the hoistway opening in accordance with Section 3002.6. Such doors shall be tested in accordance with UL 1784 without an artificial bottom seal.
4. In other than Group I-3, and buildings having occupied floors located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access, enclosed elevator lobbies are not required where the building is protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
5. Smoke partitions shall be permitted in lieu of fire partitions to separate the elevator lobby at each floor where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
6. Enclosed elevator lobbies are not required where the elevator hoistway is pressurized in accordance with Section 707.14.2.



Q: The provisions in Section 406.3.11 of the *International Building Code*, which address special detailed requirements for open parking garages, stipulate specifically that vertical openings are not required to be enclosed, other than specifically addressed in Section 406.3.8 for employee lifts. Therefore, a vertical opening for an elevator located within, open to and serving only the open parking garage is not required to be enclosed. Where a non-fire-resistance-rated enclosure is provided for an elevator in an open parking garage, is an enclosed elevator lobby, per Section 707.14.1, required?

A: No. The requirements in Section 406.3.11 are specific to an open parking garage and clearly stipulate that vertical openings are not required to be enclosed, except as specified in Section 406.3.8. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, vertical openings for stairs, ramps, elevators, and parking levels. An enclosed elevator lobby, per Section 707.14.1, is required where an elevator shaft enclosure is required to provide fire-resistance-rated opening protection between stories and the elevator shaft connects more than three stories. Where a vertical opening

through a floor/ceiling assembly, such as an elevator shaft, connecting any number of stories is not required to be protected by a shaft enclosure, such as in an open parking garage per Section 406.3.11, an enclosed elevator lobby is not required.
