

CHAPTER 7 FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 707.14.1, EXCEPTION 4 IBC Interpretation No. 62-07 2006 Edition Issued: 05-20-2008 BU_06_62_07

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: Where an enclosed elevator lobby is not required, in accordance with the conditions of Exception 4 to Section 707.14.1 of the *International Building Code*, is the elevator shaft enclosure door opening required to be smoke protected?

A: No. Elevator shaft enclosures are required to be constructed as fire barriers. Doorways in fire barriers are required to be protected by approved fire door assemblies. Smoke protection, in the form of fire door assemblies that also meet the requirements for smoke and draft control door assemblies, is not required. The requirements for approved fire door assemblies is provided elsewhere in Chapter 7 of the *International Building Code*.