

CHAPTER 19

MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1901 MEANS OF EGRESS

1901.1 Objective. To protect people during egress and rescue operations.

1901.2 Functional statement. Enable occupants to exit the building, facility and premises or reach a safe place as appropriate to the design performance level determined in Chapter 3.

1901.3 Performance requirements.

1901.3.1 General. The construction, arrangement and number of means of egress, exits and safe places for buildings shall be appropriate to the travel distance, number of occupants, occupant characteristics, building height, and safety systems and features.

1901.3.2 Identification, illumination and safety of means of egress. Means of egress shall be clearly identified, provided with adequate illumination and be easy and safe to use.

1901.3.3 Unobstructed path. Means of egress shall provide an unobstructed path of travel from each safe place to not less than one exit.

1901.3.4 Protection from untenable conditions. Each safe place shall provide adequate protection from untenable conditions, an appropriate communication system, and adequate space for the intended occupants.

1901.3.5 Human biomechanics and expectation of consistency. Means of egress shall enable reasonable use by the occupants in the building with due regard to human biomechanics and expectation of consistency.

1901.3.6 Maintenance of means-of-egress systems. Suitable means of egress shall be provided in satisfactory arrangement throughout all buildings, facilities and premises, regardless of when they were constructed, based upon the number and character of occupants, length of travel, provision of existing alternative paths, timeline of emergency detection and response, risk level, time to exit, and safety systems provided.

1901.3.7 Maintenance of clear path. Means of egress shall be maintained without obstructions or reductions in capacity that would hinder the ability of the occupants to egress safely.

1901.3.8 Interference with identification of exits. Means of egress shall be readily identifiable. Buildings shall be operated and maintained in a manner that does not interfere with the identification of exits.

1901.3.9 Ease of use. Means of egress shall be maintained and operated in such a manner to ensure that all egress facilities are readily openable and available without special knowledge or effort consistent with the use or occupancy characteristics.

1901.3.10 Maintenance of illumination. Means of egress shall be maintained and operated in such a manner to ensure that adequate lighting to facilitate safe egress is available.

