

CHAPTER 24 GLASS AND GLAZING

SECTION 2406.3, ITEM 10 2006 Edition IBC Interpretation No. 10-08 Issued: 11-26-2008 BU_06_10_08

2406.3 Hazardous locations. The following shall be considered specific hazardous locations requiring safety glazing materials:

1. Glazing in swinging doors except jalousies (see Section 2406.3.1).
2. Glazing in fixed and sliding panels of sliding door assemblies and panels in sliding and bifold closet door assemblies.
3. Glazing in storm doors.
4. Glazing in unframed swinging doors.
5. Glazing in doors and enclosures for hot tubs, whirlpools, saunas, steam rooms, bathtubs and showers. Glazing in any portion of a building wall enclosing these compartments where the bottom exposed edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above a standing surface.
6. Glazing in an individual fixed or operable panel adjacent to a door where the nearest exposed edge of the glazing is within a 24-inch (610 mm) arc of either vertical edge of the door in a closed position and where the bottom exposed edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above the walking surface.

Exceptions:

1. Panels where there is an intervening wall or other permanent barrier between the door and glazing.
 2. Where access through the door is to a closet or storage area 3 feet (914 mm) or less in depth. Glazing in this application shall comply with Section 2406.3, Item 7.
 3. Glazing in walls perpendicular to the plane of the door in a closed position, other than the wall towards which the door swings when opened, in one- and two-family dwellings or within dwelling units in Group R-2.
7. Glazing in an individual fixed or operable panel, other than in those locations described in preceding Items 5 and 6, which meets all of the following conditions:
 - 7.1. Exposed area of an individual pane greater than 9 square feet (0.84 m²);
 - 7.2. Exposed bottom edge less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor;
 - 7.3. Exposed top edge greater than 36 inches (914 mm) above the floor; and
 - 7.4. One or more walking surface(s) within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally of the plane of the glazing.

Exception: Safety glazing for Item 7 is not required for the following installations:

1. A protective bar 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) or more in height, capable of withstanding a horizontal load of 50 pounds plf (730 N/m) without contacting the glass, is installed on the accessible sides of the glazing 34 inches to 38 inches (864 mm to 965 mm) above the floor.
 2. The outboard pane in insulating glass units or multiple glazing where the bottom exposed edge of the glass is 25 feet (7620 mm) or more above any grade, roof, walking surface or other horizontal or sloped (within 45 degrees of horizontal) (0.78 rad) surface adjacent to the glass exterior.
8. Glazing in guards and railings, including structural baluster panels and nonstructural in-fill panels, regardless of area or height above a walking surface.
 9. Glazing in walls and fences enclosing indoor and outdoor swimming pools, hot tubs and spas where all of the following conditions are present:
 - 9.1. The bottom edge of the glazing on the pool or spa side is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above a walking surface on the pool or spa side of the glazing; and
 - 9.2. The glazing is within 60 inches (1524 mm) horizontally of the water's edge of a swimming pool or spa.

- 10. Glazing adjacent to stairways, landings and ramps within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally of a walking surface; when the exposed surface of the glass is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above the plane of the adjacent walking surface.
- 11. Glazing adjacent to stairways within 60 inches (1524 mm) horizontally of the bottom tread of a stairway in any direction when the exposed surface of the glass is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above the nose of the tread.

Exception: Safety glazing for Item 10 or 11 is not required for the following installations where:

- 1. The side of a stairway, landing or ramp which has a guardrail or handrail, including balusters or in-fill panels, complying with the provisions of Sections 1013 and 1607.7; and
- 2. The plane of the glass is greater than 18 inches (457 mm) from the railing.

REFERENCED SECTION:

1002.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

STAIR. A change in elevation, consisting of one or more risers.

STAIRWAY. One or more flights of stairs, either exterior or interior, with the necessary landings and platforms connecting them, to form a continuous and uninterrupted passage from one level to another.

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Q: Is a change of elevation consisting of a single riser subject to the provisions regarding stairways in Section 2406.3, Item 10 of the *International Building Code*?

A: No. A change of elevation consisting of a single riser does not meet the definition of stairway, i.e. one or more flight of stairs with the necessary landings connecting them. Although the single riser is not subject to the provisions of Section 2406.3, Item 10, it could be considered a hazardous location if it met all the provisions of Item 7.