

NFPA 101B

Code for Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures

2002 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 101B

Code for

Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures

2002 Edition

This edition of NFPA 101B, *Code for Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Means of Egress, released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Safety to Life, and acted on by NFPA at its May Association Technical Meeting held May 19–23, 2002, in Minneapolis, MN. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 19, 2002, with an effective date of August 8, 2002, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 101B was approved as an American National Standard on July 19, 2002.

Origin and Development of NFPA 101B

NFPA 101B, first published in 1999, was developed to address a subset of the subject areas covered by NFPA 101[®], *Life Safety Code*[®] — namely, means of egress. NFPA offers NFPA 101B as a model reference for mandatory use by the model building codes in lieu of those codes' individual chapters on means of egress. See A.1.3 in Annex A.

This 2002 edition reflects the requirements of the 2000 edition of NFPA 101.

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule beside the paragraph, table, or figure in which the change occurred. These rules are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition. Where one or more complete paragraphs have been deleted, the deletion is indicated by a bullet between the paragraphs that remain.

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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex C.

Chapter 1 Administration**1.1 Scope.**

1.1.1 Title. NFPA 101B, *Code for Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures*, shall be known as the *Means of Egress Code*, is cited as such, and shall be referred to herein as “this *Code*” or “the *Code*.”

1.1.2* Danger to Life from Fire. This *Code* addresses those egress features necessary to minimize danger to life from fire and smoke, crowd pressures, and movement of individuals and groups.

1.1.3 Egress Facilities. The *Code* establishes minimum criteria for the design of egress facilities in order to permit prompt escape of occupants from buildings or, where desirable, into safe areas within buildings.

1.1.4 Areas Not Addressed. The *Code* does not attempt to address the following:

- (1) General fire prevention or building construction features that are normally a function of fire prevention codes and building codes
- (2) Prevention of personal injuries incurred by an individual's own negligence
- (3) Preservation of property from loss by fire

1.2* Purpose. (Reserved).

1.3* Application.

1.3.1 New Construction.

1.3.1.1 Means of egress for new construction shall comply with Chapter 5 of this *Code* except as modified by 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.

1.3.1.2 Large residential board and care occupancies with impractical evacuation capability shall meet the general requirements of Chapter 5 and those requirements specifically applicable to health care occupancies.

1.3.1.3 Where residential board and care occupancies are located within apartment buildings, the parts of the means of egress serving the apartment(s) used as a residential board and care occupancy shall meet the general requirements of Chapter 5 and those requirements specifically applicable to apartment buildings.

1.3.1.4 Ambulatory health care facilities shall be exempt from the means of egress requirements applicable to health care occupancies, provided the facility meets the general requirements of Chapter 5 and those requirements specifically applicable to business occupancies and ambulatory health care facilities.

1.3.1.5* Use Condition I detention and correctional occupancies shall meet the general requirements of Chapter 5 and those requirements specifically applicable to either residential occupancies or Use Condition II detention and correctional occupancies.

1.3.2 Means of Escape.

1.3.2.1 The means of escape provisions of Chapter 6 shall apply to the following:

- (1) One- and two-family dwellings
- (2) Dwelling units of apartment buildings
- (3) Guest rooms or guest suites of hotels and dormitories
- (4) Lodging and rooming houses
- (5) Small residential board and care occupancies

1.3.2.2 Means of egress from dwelling units to the outside and from guest rooms or guest suites to the outside shall be in accordance with Chapter 5.

1.3.3 Alterations, Repairs, or Change of Occupancy in Existing Structures. Alterations, repairs, or change of occupancy in existing structures shall comply with Chapter 5 as modified by Chapter 7.

1.4 Equivalency.

1.4.1* Equivalency Option. Nothing in this *Code* is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety as alternatives to those prescribed by this *Code*, provided that technical documentation is submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency and the system, method, or device is approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.4.2* Equivalency Compliance. Alternative systems, methods, or devices approved as equivalent by the authority having jurisdiction shall be recognized as being in compliance with this *Code*.

1.5 Units and Formulas.

1.5.1 SI Units. Metric units of measurement in this *Code* are in accordance with the modernized metric system known as the International System of Units (SI).

1.5.2 Primary Values. The SI value for a measurement, and the equivalent inch-pound value given in parentheses, shall each be acceptable for use as primary units for satisfying the requirements of this *Code*.

1.6 Enforcement. This *Code* shall be administered and enforced by the authority having jurisdiction designated by the governing authority. (See *Annex B* for sample wording for enabling legislation.)

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this code and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*®, 2002 edition.

NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, 2002 edition.

NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 110, *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 111, *Standard on Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, 2001 edition.

NFPA 251, *Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Endurance of Building Construction and Materials*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 252, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 257, *Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies*, 2000 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ANSI Publications. American National Standards Institute, Inc., 11 West 42nd Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10036.

ANSI A14.3, *Safety Code for Fixed Ladders*, 1992.

ICC/ANSI A117.1, *American National Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities*, 1998.

BHMA/ANSI A156.19, *American National Standard for Power Assist and Low Energy Power Operated Doors*, 1997.

ANSI A1264.1, *Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor and Wall Openings, Stairs and Railing Systems*, 1995.

2.3.2 ASME Publication. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990.

ASME/ANSI A17.1, *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators*, 2000.

2.3.3 ASTM Publication. American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

ASTM F 851, *Standard Test Method for Self-Rising Seat Mechanisms*, 1987.

2.3.4 UL Publication. Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

UL 924, *Standard for Safety Emergency Lighting and Power Equipment*, 1995.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this *Code*. Where terms are not in-

cluded, common usage of the terms shall apply. Words used in the present tense shall include the future; words used in the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter; the singular number shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular. Where terms are not defined in this chapter, they shall be defined using their commonly accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged*, shall be a source for commonly accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3* Code. A standard that is an extensive compilation of provisions covering broad subject matter or that is suitable for adoption into law independently of other codes and standards.

3.2.4 Labeled. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

3.2.5* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.6 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.7 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Accessible Means of Egress. See 3.3.69.1.

3.3.2* Aisle Accessway. That initial portion of an exit access that leads to an aisle.

3.3.3 Ambulatory Health Care Facility. See 3.3.74.1.

3.3.4 Anchor Store. A department store or major merchandising center that has direct access to the covered mall but in which all required means of egress is independent of the covered mall.

3.3.5 Area.

3.3.5.1 Floor Area.

3.3.5.1.1 Gross Leasable Area. The total floor area designated for tenant occupancy and exclusive use, expressed in square meters (square feet), measured from the centerlines of adjoining partitions and exteriors of outside walls.

3.3.5.1.2 Hazardous Area. An area of a structure or building that poses a degree of hazard greater than that normal to the general occupancy of the building or structure, such as those

areas used for the storage or use of combustibles or flammables; toxic, noxious, or corrosive materials; or heat-producing appliances.

3.3.5.1.3 Living Area. Any normally occupiable space in a residential occupancy, other than sleeping rooms or rooms that are intended for combination sleeping/living, bathrooms, toilet compartments, kitchens, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces, and similar areas.

3.3.6* Area of Refuge. An area that is either (1) a story in a building where the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and has not less than two accessible rooms or spaces separated from each other by smoke-resisting partitions; or (2) a space located in a path of travel leading to a public way that is protected from the effects of fire, either by means of separation from other spaces in the same building or by virtue of location, thereby permitting a delay in egress travel from any level.

3.3.7 Atmosphere.

3.3.7.1 Common Atmosphere. The atmosphere that exists between rooms, spaces, or areas within a building that are not separated by an approved smoke barrier.

3.3.7.2 Separate Atmosphere. The atmosphere that exists between rooms, spaces, or areas that are separated by an approved smoke barrier.

3.3.8 Automatic. That which provides a function without the necessity of human intervention.

3.3.9 Barrier.

3.3.9.1* Smoke Barrier. A continuous membrane, or a membrane with discontinuities created by protected openings, where such membrane is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke.

3.3.9.2* Thermal Barrier. A material that limits the average temperature rise of an unexposed surface to not more than 120°C (250°F) for a specified fire exposure complying with the standard time-temperature curve of NFPA 251, *Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Endurance of Building Construction and Materials*.

3.3.9.3 Fire Barrier (Wall). A wall, other than a fire wall, that has a fire resistance rating.

3.3.10* Birth Center. A facility in which low-risk births are expected following normal, uncomplicated pregnancies, and in which professional midwifery care is provided to women during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

3.3.11 Bleachers. A grandstand in which the seats are not provided with backrests.

3.3.12* Building. Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

3.3.12.1* Apartment Building. A building containing three or more dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

3.3.12.2 Bulk Merchandising Retail Building. A building in which the sales area includes the storage of combustible materials on pallets, in solid piles, or in racks in excess of 3050 mm (120 in.) in storage height.

3.3.12.3* Covered Mall Building. A building, including the covered mall, enclosing a number of tenants and occupancies, such as retail stores, drinking and dining establishments, en-

tertainment and amusement facilities, offices, and other similar uses, wherein two or more tenants have a main entrance into the covered mall.

3.3.12.4* Existing Building. A building erected or officially authorized prior to the effective date of the adoption of this edition of the *Code* by the agency or jurisdiction.

3.3.12.5* Flexible Plan and Open Plan Educational or Day-Care Building. A building or portion of a building designed for multiple teaching stations.

3.3.12.6* High-Rise Building. A building greater than 23 m (75 ft) in height where the building height is measured from the lowest level of fire department vehicle access to the floor of the highest occupiable story.

3.3.12.7* Special Amusement Building. A building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile and contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around, or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available due to the mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

3.3.13 Bulk Merchandising Retail Building. See 3.3.12.2.

3.3.14 Class A Mercantile Occupancy. All stores that have an aggregate gross area of more than 2800 m² (30,000 ft²) or that use more than three levels, excluding mezzanines, for sales purposes.

3.3.15* Class B Mercantile Occupancy. All stores of more than 280 m² (3000 ft²) but not more than 2800 m² (30,000 ft²) aggregate gross area, or that use floors above or below the street floor level for sales purposes.

3.3.16 Class C Mercantile Occupancy. All stores of not more than 280 m² (3000 ft²) gross area that use a maximum of one story or one story and mezzanines for sales purposes.

3.3.17* Common Path of Travel. The portion of exit access that must be traversed before two separate and distinct paths of travel to two exits are available.

3.3.18 Court. An open, uncovered, unoccupied space, unobstructed to the sky, bounded on three or more sides by exterior building walls.

3.3.18.1 Enclosed Court. A court bounded on all sides by the exterior walls of a building or by the exterior walls and lot lines on which walls are permitted.

3.3.19 Covered Mall. A covered or roofed interior area used as a pedestrian way and connected to a building(s) or portions of a building housing single or multiple tenants.

3.3.20 Covered Mall Building. See 3.3.12.3.

3.3.21 Day-Care Home. A building or portion of a building in which more than three but not more than twelve clients receive care, maintenance, and supervision, by other than their relative(s) or legal guardian(s), for less than 24 hours per day.

3.3.22 Detention and Correctional Residential Housing Area. Sleeping areas and any contiguous day room, group activity space, or other common spaces for customary access of residents.

3.3.23 Dwelling Unit. A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including