

(b) On every floor of all buildings in which the stairways are required to be enclosed, there shall be provided over or near every door leading to such stairway an illuminated sign marked "Exit," with letters at least six (6) inches high.

Stairways Around Elevator Shafts.

Sec. 554. No stairway shall hereafter be constructed around or alongside elevator shafts in Class IIa, IIb, IIc, Class IIIb, Class IV, Class V, Class VI or Class VII buildings more than two (2) stories in height, unless such elevator shafts are enclosed and entirely separated from the stairway by fireproof walls. All doors leading to such enclosed elevator shafts must be provided with approved fire doors.

Stairway Railings—Balcony and Stair Platform Railings.

Sec. 555. (a) All stairways more than three (3) risers high shall have substantial railing, not less than thirty-four (34) inches in height, measurement of height, to be taken from center of tread.

(b) All stairs in buildings of Class I, Class II, Class IIIb, Class IV, Class V, Class VI and Class VII shall have handrails on both sides of the stairs.

(c) The required width of stairs must be in clear width between handrails or stair newel posts.

(d) Handrails for stairways which are by this code permitted to be circular or winding shall be provided and placed as directed by the Building Inspector.

Fire Escapes and Stand Pipes.

Sec. 556. (a) For the proper and necessary protection of life and property, all buildings more than three (3) stories in height (except private dwellings) now existing or hereafter to be constructed, shall, unless otherwise in this code provided, be equipped with a metallic fire escape or fire escapes, placed on the outside of such buildings, extending from proper openings to such fire escape on the 2nd floor to and above the roof.

See requirements in Sec. 559.

Heights of Buildings.

Sec. 557. Where by reason of the topography of the ground upon which a Class I, Class IIa, Class VI and Class VII building is constructed, and the height of any such building above grade is greater at one side or one end to the extent of one or more stories, than at the other side or end, and is so arranged that free and uninterrupted means of access is furnished from the portion that is higher above grade, to the portion that is lower above grade and such lower side or end is contiguous to a public street or alley, or to a court, yard, lawn, or other grounds from which there is free and unobstructed means of access to a public street, or alley, and such building is not more than One Hundred and Fifteen (115) feet in length, than such building shall, for the purpose of determining fire escape requirements, be considered a building of the height measured from that end or side where it is the lesser number of stories above grade.

Fire Escapes—Location of.

Sec. 558. The location of all fire escapes shall be as follows:

(72) inches in height. No riser in any such fire escape shall exceed eight (8) inches and no tread shall be less than ten (10) inches. The construction of balconies, railings, stringers, treads, ladder to roof and other parts shall comply with fire escape construction as otherwise hereinafter provided.

(c) Stairways shall be located as far from each other as practicable. The lower end of each stairway shall be in the immediate vicinity of the top of the stairs leading to the next lower story, and the line of travel from stairway to stairway shall be direct and easily accessible each to the other. At least one stairway or stationary ladder shall extend to the roof in all buildings more than two (2) stories in height. In Classes I, II and VI, the whole number of stairways required for each building shall be complete in every respect from the first to the top story.

Basement Stairways.

Sec. 551. (a) Every story below the street grade, having a floor area of more than five thousand (5,000) square feet shall have not less than two (2) stairways leading to the first story, or to some outside exit, and each such stairway shall be not less than three (3) feet wide. Every story below grade, having a floor area of less than five thousand (5,000) square feet, shall be provided with at least one (1) stairway not less than three (3) feet in width.

(b) Wherever the basement of a building is used as a salesroom or for manufacturing purposes, such room shall have at least one stairway, not less than three (3) feet in width, and such stairway shall lead direct to the street or outside of the building. If the floor of such basement exceeds five thousand (5,000) square feet, there shall be provided an additional stairway from such basement at least three (3) feet in width, for every additional five thousand (5,000) square feet or fractional part of such floor area.

Joint Stairways.

Sec. 552. Where two (2) floor areas of the same building adjoin, but are separated by fire division walls, they may have a stairway in common, provided, such stairway is not less than five (5) feet wide, and is inclosed in all stories of the building by fireproof walls continuous from basement floor to the required height above the roof in non-fireproof walls or partitions in fireproof buildings; and where the stairways and landings are of fireproof construction and the doors, frames, sash and casings are of metal and the glazed portions of wire glass, then each such stairway may be considered equivalent to one stairway from each such floor area. Where any such stairway provides exit from only one story, with a floor area not exceeding 5,000 square feet such fireproof stairway so enclosed in fireproof walls or partitions, may be considered as equivalent to two (2) stairways. All such stairway shafts shall have automatic self closing fire-doors at each floor arranged to swing into the shaft. At the ground floor similar doors, installed to swing outward, shall give egress to street or driveway leading into public space. All entrances to, and exits from each such stairway shall be of a width at least equal to the required width of the stairs. Otherwise than as above provided, where one or more stories of a building are divided by fire walls into separate floor areas, each floor area shall be equipped with stairs as otherwise provided.