

MEANS OF EGRESS

Common Myths and Mistaken Beliefs to Avoid

Appendix 3: Emergency Access to Floor Areas

Thus, it is required to designate on the floor areas which are their emergency access. It is required in a building more than 6 storeys in building heights, provided [3.4.6.18.]:

Requirements	Comments to validate compliance with the requirements
<p>1a) doors providing access to floor areas from exit stairs shall not have locking devices to prevent entry into any floor area from which the travel distance up or down to an unlocked door is more than 2 storeys;</p>	<p>It is important to identify storeys in exit stairs that include unlocked doors and to validate the number of storeys to reach them.</p> <p>As there is a “or” between “travel up” or “travel down”, it is required to identify, for the locked storeys, the next unlocked door, is more than 2 storeys in travel distance up or down.</p> <p>Practically, it is needed at intervals of not more than 5 storeys and at least one on one of the 3 upper or lower storeys.</p>
<p>1b) doors referred to in Clause (a) that provide access into the floor area shall be identified by a sign on the stairway side to indicate that they are openable from that side, and</p>	<p>It is important to plan and to design the signs for the unlocked doors and to avoid being in conflict of location with the floor numbering required in Article 3.4.6.19.</p> <p>In the NBC 2015, it is also required for the locked doors provided for floor areas access from the egress stairs shall be identified by a sign on the stairway side to indicate the location of the nearest unlocked door openable in each direction of the exit.</p>
<p>1c) a master key to fit all door locking devices that are intended to prevent entry into a floor</p>	<p>A master key to fit all door locking devices is usually used in buildings</p>

Requirements	Comments to validate compliance with the requirements
<p>area from an exit stair shall be provided in a designated location accessible to firefighters, or the door shall be provided with a wired glass panel not less than 0.0645 m² in area and located not more than 300 mm from the door opening hardware.</p>	<p>that include a room intended for the control and surveillance of the building. For some buildings, following an agreement with the municipality fire department, a key control box is also used.</p>
<p>2) If access to <i>floor areas</i> through unlocked doors is required by Clause (1)(a), it shall be possible for a person entering the <i>floor area</i> to have access through unlocked doors within the <i>floor area</i> to at least one other <i>exit</i>.</p>	<p>In the evacuation plans, this door located near the exit should be identified within the floor area to orient the persons.</p>

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