



CMS Announcement – NFPA 101

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cess to: 2015 edition of NFPA 101

100 of 5

FEATURES OF FIRE PROTECTION

101-97

8.6.4.5 Any enclosure required at the lowest or highest level of a shaft by 8.6.4.1 through 8.6.4.3 shall be permitted to be protected by approved fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing.

8.6.5* Required Fire Resistance Rating. The minimum fire resistance rating for the enclosure of floor openings shall be as follows (see 7.1.3.2.1 for enclosure of exits):

- (1) Enclosures connecting four or more stories in new construction — 2-hour fire barriers
- (2) Other enclosures in new construction — 1-hour fire barriers
- (3) Existing enclosures in existing buildings — ½-hour fire barriers
- (4) Enclosures for lodging and rooming houses — as specified in Chapter 26
- (5) Enclosures for new hotels — as specified in Chapter 28
- (6) Enclosures for new apartment buildings — as specified in Chapter 30

8.6.6 Communicating Space. Unless prohibited by Chapters 11 through 43, unenclosed floor openings forming a communicating space between floor levels shall be permitted, provided that the following conditions are met:

- (1) The communicating space does not connect more than three contiguous stories.
- (2) The lowest or next-to-lowest story within the communicating space is a street floor.
- (3) The entire floor area of the communicating space is open and unobstructed, such that a fire in any part of the space will be readily obvious to the occupants of the space prior to the time it becomes an occupant hazard.
- (4) The communicating space is separated from the remainder of the building by fire barriers with not less than a 1-hour fire resistance rating, unless one of the following is met:
 - (a) In buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, a smoke barrier in accordance with Section 8.5 shall be permitted to serve as the separation required by 8.6.6(4).
 - (b) The requirement of 8.6.6(4) shall not apply to fully

(a) The requirement of 8.6.7(1) shall not apply to existing, previously approved atriums.

(b) Any number of levels of the building shall be permitted to open directly to the atrium without enclosure, based on the results of the engineering analysis required in 8.6.7(5).

(c)*Glass walls and inoperable windows shall be permitted in lieu of the fire barriers where all the following are met:

- i. Automatic sprinklers are spaced along both sides of the glass wall and the inoperable windows at intervals not to exceed 6 ft (1830 mm).
- ii. The automatic sprinklers specified in 8.6.7(c)i are located at a distance from the glass wall not to exceed 12 in. (305 mm) and arranged so that the entire surface of the glass is wet upon operation of the sprinklers.
- iii. The glass wall is of tempered, wired, or laminated glass held in place by a gasket system that allows the glass framing system to deflect without breaking (loading) the glass before the sprinklers operate.
- iv. The automatic sprinklers required by 8.6.7(c)i are not required on the atrium side of the glass wall and the inoperable window where there is no walkway or other floor area on the atrium side above the main floor level.
- v. Doors in the glass walls are of glass or other material that resists the passage of smoke.
- vi. Doors in the glass walls are self-closing or automatic-closing upon detection of smoke.
- vii. The glass is continuous vertically, without horizontal mullions, window treatments, or other obstructions that would interfere with the wetting of the entire glass surface.

(2) Access to exits is permitted to be within the atrium, and exit discharge in accordance with 7.7.2 is permitted to be within the atrium.

(3) The occupancy within the atrium meets the specifications for classification as low or ordinary hazard contents. (See

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[Table of Contents](#)

[Next >](#)

[Last >>](#)

TIA 15-1, Reference: Various sections (issued 8/14/2014) (PDF, 43 KB)

- **TIA 15-2, Reference: Various sections** (issued 8/14/2014) (PDF, 40 KB)
- **TIA 15-3, Reference: 12.4.1, 13.4.1, A.12.4.1, and A.13.4.1** (issued 8/14/2014) (PDF, 77 KB)
- **TIA 15-4, Reference: 11.8.5** (issued 8/4/2016) (PDF, 30 KB)

Standards Council Decisions