

New Jersey Uniform Fire Code

SECTION F-601.0 GENERAL

- 601.1 Scope: The provisions of this chapter shall govern the maintenance and utilization of means of egress.
- 601.2 Unsafe means of egress: Deleted
- 601.3 Owner responsibility: The owner or lessee of every structure shall be responsible for the safety of all persons in, or occupying, such premises with respect to the adequacy of means of egress therefrom.
- 601.4 Approval required: Deleted
- 601.4.1 Place of Assembly: A place of assembly shall be a room or space accommodating individuals for religious, recreational, political, social or amusement purposes or for the consumption of food and drink, including all connected rooms or spaces with a common means of egress and entrance.
- 601.5 Egress plan: A plan complying with Section F-702.2 shall be submitted to the fire official and an approved copy shall be kept on the premises of assembly occupancies.
- F-601.6 Occupant load: The occupant load for structures shall be maintained pursuant to the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code provisions in effect at the time of construction. The occupant load for structures constructed under standards in force prior to the adoption of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code shall be calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.11(f)3.
- F-601.7 Posting of occupant load: An assembly occupancy shall be posted with an approved legible sign in contrasting colors conspicuously located near the main point of egress from the room or space stating the number of occupants permitted within such space. The number of occupants permitted shall be in accordance with the current certificate of occupancy issued pursuant to the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code for structures constructed and occupied under the provisions of that code, and shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.11(f)3 for structures constructed under standards in force prior to the adoption of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code for which structures no such certificate of occupancy has subsequently been issued.
- F-601.8 Overcrowding: A person shall not permit overcrowding or admittance of any person beyond the approved occupant load. The fire

official, upon finding overcrowded conditions or obstruction in aisles, passageways or other means of egress, or upon finding any condition which constitutes a hazard to life and safety, shall cause the occupancy, performance, presentation, spectacle or entertainment to be stopped until such a condition or obstruction is corrected and the addition of any further occupants prohibited until the approved occupant load is reestablished.

-601.9 Operator responsibility: The operator or the person responsible for the operation of an assembly or educational occupancy shall check egress facilities before such building is occupied to determine compliance with this section. If such inspection reveals that any element of the required means of egress cannot be accessed, is obstructed, locked, fastened or otherwise unsuited for immediate utilization, admittance to the building shall not be permitted until necessary corrective action has been completed.

SECTION F-602.0 DEFINITIONS

-602.1 General: The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as stated elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

Egress: See Means of egress.

Means of egress: A continuous and unobstructed path of travel from any point in a structure to a public way. A means of egress consists of three separate and distinct parts: the exit access; the exit; and the exit discharge. A means of egress comprises the vertical and horizontal means of travel and shall include: intervening room spaces; doors; hallways; corridors; passageways; balconies; ramps; stairs; enclosures; lobbies; escalators; horizontal exits; courts and yards.

Occupant load: The total number of persons permitted to occupy a building or portion thereof at any one time.

Overcrowding: A condition in which the number of occupants exceeds the total number of persons permitted to occupy a structure at any one time.

SECTION F-603.0 MAINTENANCE

-603.1 Continued maintenance: All means of egress devices and safeguards that are required by this chapter or which were required by a previous statute or another code when the structure was erected, altered or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order.

-603.2 Exterior egress: All exit discharge, exterior stairways and fire escapes shall be kept free of snow and ice. Any fire escape or exterior stairway found to be in a state of deterioration or determined to be unsafe by the fire official shall be repaired immediately. Depending on the structural condition, a load test of any fire escape shall be conducted before the escape is returned to service in accordance with the Uniform Construction Code.

SECTION F-604.0 ALTERATIONS

504.1 Minimum requirements: A structure shall not be occupied or used in any manner that will reduce the number of means of egress or the capacity of the means of egress below that which was required for the structure according to the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy.

504.1.1 [untitled]: A structure shall not be altered in any manner affecting the number or capacity of means of egress without first obtaining a permit from the construction official.

604.2 Areas under repair: Structures or portions of structures undergoing repair, renovation, alteration or reconstruction may be occupied as permitted by the construction official.

SECTION F-605.0 OBSTRUCTIONS

605.1 General: The means of egress from each part of the structure, including exits, stairways, egress doors and any panic hardware installed thereon, aisles, corridors, passageways and similar elements of the means of egress, shall at all times be maintained in a safe condition and available for immediate utilization and free of all obstructions. Security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval.

-605.2 Display: Aisles, passageways or stairways in any structure shall not be obstructed with tables, showcases, Christmas trees, vending machines or other obstructions during hours when the structure is open to the public, nor shall such obstructions be located in such a manner to interfere with fire-fighting access. Display boards, signs, coat racks and any other movable equipment that obstructs the path of egress travel shall be prohibited. A mirror shall not be placed in or adjacent to any means of egress in such a manner as to confuse the direction of egress. Draperies and similar hangings shall not obscure an exit.

SECTION F-606.0 EXITS

-606.1 General: An exit shall not be utilized for any purpose that interferes with its function as a means of egress, except as otherwise approved.

-606.1.1 Storage: Combustible or flammable material shall not be placed, stored or kept in any portion of an exit, elevator car or hoistway, or at the bottom of a stairway, fire escape or other means of escape, unless such space is enclosed and protected as required by the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy. Such storage shall be located so the presence or burning of the materials will not obstruct or render hazardous the means of egress.

-606.2 Number of exits: Deleted

-606.3 Exit enclosure: Deleted

-606.4 Exit capacity: The capacity of the exits serving a floor shall be sufficient for the occupant load thereof as determined by the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy.

SECTION F-607.0 EXIT ACCESS

-607.1 Corridor enclosure: Deleted

-607.2 Dead-end travel distance: Deleted

-607.3 Aisles: In each room where chairs or tables and chairs are utilized, the arrangement shall provide for ready access by aisle accessways and aisles to each egress door. The minimum clear width of each aisle in occupancies in Use Groups A, E and I-2 shall be maintained in accordance with the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy. In all other occupancies, aisles shall have a minimum required clear width of 44 inches (1118 mm) where serving an occupant load greater than 50, and 36 inches (914 mm) where serving an occupant load of 50 or less. The clear width of aisles shall not be obstructed by chairs, tables or other objects.

-607.4 Smoke barriers: Deleted

SECTION F-608.0 EGRESS DOORS

-608.1 Openable: All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort, except as provided in Section F-608.3.

-608.2 Interior stairway doors: All interior exit stairway doors in required exit stairways shall be openable from both sides without a key, special knowledge or effort at all times the structure or area served is occupied.

Exception: Exit stairway discharge doors shall be openable from the egress side and shall only be locked from the opposite side.

-608.3 Locks permitted: Locks or fasteners shall not be installed on egress doors, except in accordance with the following conditions:

1. In mental, penal or other institutions where the security of inmates is necessary, in which case properly trained supervisory personnel shall be continuously on duty and approved provisions shall be made to remove occupants safely in case of a fire or other emergency.
2. In problem security areas, special-purpose door alarms or locking devices shall be approved prior to installation. Manually operated edge or surface-molded flush bolts shall be prohibited.
3. Where the door hardware is in compliance with the Uniform

Construction Code.

508.4 Special performance features: All hardware systems or assemblies utilized in the operation of a door, including special performance features, shall be inspected for proper operation. The inspection shall determine that the hardware operates as required by this code.

508.5 Panic hardware: All doors equipped with latching devices serving rooms or spaces with an assembly or educational occupancy with an occupant load greater than 100 shall have the approved panic hardware maintained in compliance with the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy.

608.6 Closing: All fire doors shall comply with Section F-303.0.

SECTION F-609.0 EMERGENCY ESCAPE WINDOWS

609.1 Emergency escape: Deleted

609.2 Maintenance: All required emergency escape windows and doors shall be maintained operational and available to occupants of sleeping rooms.

609.3 Security: Existing bars, grilles, grates or similar devices may be permitted in required emergency escape windows provided such devices comply with Uniform Construction Code provisions and are equipped with approved release mechanisms which are operable from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or excessive force. Installation of any new device shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Construction Code.

SECTION F-610.0 ILLUMINATION AND SIGNS

-610.1 Egress illumination: Stairways, hallways and other means of egress, including exterior open spaces to or through which an exit leads, shall be kept adequately lighted at all times that the building served thereby is occupied.

-610.2 Exit signs: All means of egress shall be indicated with approved "Exit" signs where required by the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy. All "Exit" signs shall be maintained visible, and all illuminated exit signs shall be illuminated at all times that the structure is occupied. Supplemental internally illuminated directional signs, when necessary, shall be installed in accordance with the technical requirements of the Uniform Construction Code indicating the direction and way of egress.

-610.3 Information signs: A sign shall be provided at each floor landing in all interior stairways more than three stories above grade, designating the floor level above the floor of discharge. All elevator lobby call stations on all floor levels shall be identified by approved signs in accordance with the requirements for new buildings in the Uniform Construction Code.

Exception: The emergency sign shall not be required for elevators that are part of an accessible means of egress complying with the construction code in effect at the time of first occupancy.

2-610.4 Mistaken egress: All doors, passageways and stairways that are neither a means of egress nor provide access to a means of egress and are located or arranged so as to be mistaken for a means of egress, shall be properly identified as to their purpose.

2-610.5 Sign obscuration: Decorations, furnishings and equipment impairing the visibility of egress signs shall not be permitted. Brightly illuminated signs for other than egress purposes, displays or objects shall not be located in or near the line of vision to the required egress sign when of a character so as to detract attention from the egress sign such that the sign will not be noticed.

SECTION: 702

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS
0702. ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES

SECTION F-702.0 ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES

702.1 General: The employees or attendants of assembly occupancies shall be trained and drilled in the duties to be performed in case of fire, panic or other emergency.

702.2 Egress plan: A plan showing the occupant load, seating diagram and location of exits and aisles leading thereto shall be submitted to the fire official, and an approved copy shall be kept on the premises.

Exception: Temporary deviation from the specifics of the approved seating diagram shall be permitted, provided the occupant load is not increased and the intent of Chapter 6 is maintained.

702.3 Announcements: In theaters, motion picture theaters, auditoriums and other similar assembly occupancies where there are noncontinuous programs, an audible announcement shall be made not more than ten minutes prior to the start of each program to notify occupants of the location of the exits to be utilized in case of a fire or other emergency.

702.4 Fire extinguisher training: Employees or attendants of assembly occupancies who have been assigned such duties shall be instructed in the proper utilization of portable fire extinguishers and other manual fire suppression equipment, where provided.

SECTION: 2.7(a)

2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

07 Permits required

(a) Permits shall be required and obtained from the local enforcement

(a) Permits shall be required and obtained from the local enforcement agency for the activities specified in this section, except where they are an integral part of a process or activity by reason of which the use is required to be registered and regulated as a life hazard use. Permits shall at all times be kept in the premises designated therein and shall at all times be subject to inspection by the fire official.

1. Type 4 permits shall not be required when the storage or activity is incidental or auxiliary to the agricultural use of a farm property.

2. In a public or private K-12 educational building, or in a camp accommodating six or more children of school age, when such uses are registered as life hazard uses, no permit shall be required for activities which are consistent with the designed and intended use of the building or premises or part thereof.

3. Type 1 permit:

i. Bonfires

ii. The use of a torch or flame-producing device to remove paint from, or seal membrane roofs on, any building or structure;

iii. The occasional use of any non-residential occupancy other than Use Groups F, H or S for group overnight stays of persons over 2-1/2 years of age, in accordance with section F-709.0 of the Fire Prevention Code;

iv. Individual portable kiosks or displays when erected in a covered mall for a period of less than 90 days, and when not covered by a T 2 permit;

v. The use of any open flame or flame-producing device, in connection with any public gathering, for purposes of entertainment, amusement, or recreation;

vi. Welding or cutting operations except where the welding or cutting is performed in areas approved for welding by the fire official and registered as a type B life hazard use;

vii. The possession or use of explosives or blasting agents, other than model rocketry engines regulated under N.J.A.C. 12:194;

viii. The use of any open flame or flame-producing device in connection with the training of non-fire service personnel in fire suppression or extinguishment procedures;

ix. The occasional use in any buildings of a multipurpose room, with a maximum permitted occupancy of 100 or more for amusement, entertainment or mercantile type purposes.

x. The storage or handling of class I flammable liquids in closed containers of aggregate amounts of more than 10 gallons, but not more than 660 gallons inside a building, or more than 60 gallons, but not more than 60 gallons outside a building.

xi. The storage or handling of class II or IIIA combustible liquids in closed containers of aggregate amounts of more than 25 gallons, but not more than 660 gallons inside a building, or more than 60 gallons, but not more than 660 gallons outside a building.

xii. Any permanent cooking operation that requires a suppression system in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g) and is not defined as a life hazard use in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.4.

xiii. The use as a place of public assembly, for a total of not more than 15 days in a calendar year, of a building classified as a commercial or farm building under the Uniform Construction Code.

xiv. The temporary use of any building or portion thereof as a special amusement building for a total of not more than 15 days in a calendar year.

xv. The erection, operation, or maintenance of any tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy, excluding those used for recreational camping purposes, that meets the criteria in (a)3xvi(1) or (2) below shall require a Type 1 permit. Tents, tensioned membrane structures, or canopies greater than 16,800 square feet in area and greater than 140 feet in any dimension, whether one unit or composed of multiple units; remaining in place for more than 180 days; used or occupied between December 1 and March 31; having a permanent anchoring system or foundation; or containing platforms or bleachers greater than 11 feet in height shall be subject to the permitting requirements of the Uniform Construction Code (N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14).

(1) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy is greater than 900 square feet and more than 30 feet in any dimension whether it is one unit or composed of multiple units, but 16,800 square feet or less in area and 140 feet or less in any dimension, whether it is one unit or composed of multiple units.

(2) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy contains platforms or bleachers 11 feet or less in height;

xvi. The erection, operation, or maintenance of any outdoor combustible maze shall require a Type 1 permit if the outdoor combustible maze is less than six feet in height and does not contain electrical equipment. Outdoor combustible mazes that are six feet or greater in height or contain electrical equipment shall be subject to the permitting requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14.

(1) For the purposes of applying this requirement, an outdoor combustible maze is an attraction that lacks a roof and is designed

disorient patrons, reduce vision, present barriers, or otherwise impede the flow of traffic and does not consist solely of living rooted plants such as corn stalks or trees, but includes mazes created from plants that have been cut and attached to an object to support them.

(A) Mazes consisting solely of living, rooted plants, such as corn stalks or trees, may be repaired using cut, replacement plants that are otherwise the same as those of which the maze is created without the need for a permit.

(B) No permit shall be required for mazes up to 42 inches in height created of bales of hay or straw.

4. Type 2 permit:

- i. Bowling lane resurfacing and bowling pin refinishing involving the use and application of flammable liquids or materials;
- ii. Fumigation or thermal insecticide fogging;
- iii. Carnivals and circuses employing mobile enclosed structures used for human occupancy;
- iv. The use of a covered mall in any of the following manners
 - (1) Placing or constructing temporary kiosks, display booths, concession equipment or the like in more than 25 percent of the comm area of the mall;
 - (2) Temporarily using the mall as a place of assembly;
 - (3) Using open flame or flame devices;
 - (4) Displaying liquid or gas fueled powered equipment; o
 - (5) Using liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas or compressed flammable gas in containers exceeding five pound capacity.
- v. Storage outside of buildings of LP-gas cylinders when a part of a cylinder exchange program.

5. Type 3 permit:

- i. Industrial processing ovens or furnaces operating at approximately atmospheric pressures and temperatures not exceeding 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit which are heated with oil or gas fuel or which contain flammable vapors from the product being processed;
- ii. Wrecking yards, junk yards, outdoor used tire storage, waste material handling plants, and outside storage of forest products not otherwise classified; or
- iii. The storage or discharging of fireworks.

6. Type 4 permit:

SECTION: 2.7(a)2.

. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

07 Permits required

(a) Permits shall be required and obtained from the local enforcement
02. In a public or private K-12 educational building,

2. In a public or private K-12 educational building, or in a camp
accommodating six or more children of school age, when such uses are
registered as life hazard uses, no permit shall be required for activities
which are consistent with the designed and intended use of the building or
remises or part thereof.

SECTION: 2.9(c)

2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

09 Fees: registration, certificate of smoke detector and carbon

(c) The application fee for a permit shall be as follows

(c) The application fee for a permit shall be as follows:

1. Type 1 - \$42.00
2. Type 2 - \$166.00
3. Type 3 - \$331.00
4. Type 4 - \$497.00

i. Exception: There shall be no fee for Type 4 permits for storage or activity at a premises registered as a life haz use in accordance with this subchapter.

5. (Reserved)