



7.2.1.5.7* Stair Enclosure Re-entry.

Every door assembly in a stair enclosure serving more than four stories, unless permitted by [7.2.1.5.7.2](#), shall meet one of the following conditions:

- (1) Re-entry from the stair enclosure to the interior of the building shall be provided.
- (2) An automatic release shall be provided that meets all of the following:
 - (a) The automatic release shall unlock all stair enclosure door assemblies to allow re-entry.
 - (b) The automatic release shall be actuated with the initiation of the building fire alarm system.
 - (c) Door hardware for new installations shall be listed in accordance with UL 294, *Access Control System Units*.
- (3) Selected re-entry shall be provided in accordance with [7.2.1.5.7.1](#).

7.2.1.5.7.1

Door assemblies on stair enclosures shall be permitted to be equipped with hardware that prevents re-entry into the interior of the building, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) There shall be not less than two levels where it is possible to leave the stair enclosure to access another exit.
- (2) There shall be not more than four stories intervening between stories where it is possible to leave the stair enclosure to access another exit.
- (3) Re-entry shall be possible on the top story or next-to-top story served by the stair enclosure, and such story shall allow access to another exit.
- (4) Door assemblies allowing re-entry shall be identified as such on the stair side of the door leaf.
- (5) Door assemblies not allowing re-entry shall be provided with a sign on the stair side indicating the location of the nearest door opening, in each direction of travel, that allows re-entry or exit.

ENHANCED CONTENT

Expand

7.2.1.5.7.2

The requirements of [7.2.1.5.7](#), except as provided in [7.2.1.5.7.3](#), shall not apply to the following:

- (1) Existing installations in buildings that are not high-rise buildings as permitted in Chapters [11](#) through [43](#)
- (2) Existing installations in high-rise buildings as permitted in Chapters [11](#) through [43](#) where the occupancy is within a building protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section [9.7](#)
- (3) Existing approved stairwell re-entry installations as permitted by Chapters [11](#) through [43](#)
- (4) Stair enclosures serving a building permitted to have a single exit in accordance with

Chapters **11** through **43**

- (5) Stair enclosures in health care occupancies where otherwise provided in Chapter **18**
- (6) Stair enclosures in detention and correctional occupancies where otherwise provided in Chapter **22**

7.2.1.5.7.3

When the provisions of **7.2.1.5.7.2** are used, signage on the stair door leaves shall be required as follows:

- (1) Door assemblies allowing re-entry shall be identified as such on the stair side of the door leaf.
- (2) Door assemblies not allowing re-entry shall be provided with a sign on the stair side indicating the location of the nearest door opening, in each direction of travel, that allows re-entry or exit.

7.2.1.5.8

If a stair enclosure allows access to the roof of the building, the door assembly to the roof either shall be kept locked **preventing access to the roof** or shall allow re-entry from the roof.

ENHANCED CONTENT

Collapse 

Paragraph 7.2.1.5.8 was written to prevent building occupants from being trapped on a roof by a locked door assembly that does not permit re-entry into the building. If security concerns, for example, dictate that rooftop door assemblies are to be locked against entry from the outside, then the door assemblies also need to be locked from the inside to prevent unauthorized building occupants from going to the roof and becoming trapped. Note that there is no requirement that stair enclosure door assemblies provide rooftop access. Heroic helicopter rescues from rooftops of burning buildings, such as those portrayed in Hollywood movies, occur in real life only very occasionally.