

Code Change No: E15-18 Part II

Original Proposal

Section(s): 1105.10 [BE] (New)

Proponent: Jeffrey Shapiro, representing International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration (jeff.shapiro@intlcodeconsultants.com)

THIS IS A TWO PART CODE CHANGE. PART I WILL BE HEARD BY THE MEANS OF EGRESS COMMITTEE. PART II WILL BE HEARD BY THE MECHANICAL CODE COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER OF THESE COMMITTEES. 2018 International Building Code

2018 International Mechanical Code

Add new text as follows:

1105.10 [BE] Means of egress. Machinery rooms larger than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) shall have not less than two exits or exit access doorways. Where two exit access doorways are required, one such doorway is permitted to be served by a fixed ladder or an alternating tread device. Exit access doorways shall be separated by a horizontal distance equal to one-half the maximum horizontal dimension of the room.

All portions of machinery rooms shall be within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of an exit or exit access doorway. An increase in exit access travel distance is permitted in accordance with Section 1017.1.

Exit and exit access doorways shall swing in the direction of egress travel and shall be equipped with panic hardware, regardless of the occupant load served. Exit and exit access doorways shall be tight fitting and self-closing.

Reason: It is appropriate for refrigeration machinery rooms to have panic hardware on means of egress doors to protect occupants because of the risk of a rapid release of hazardous or asphyxiant gases. The need for rapid escape from refrigeration machinery rooms is not unlike what is needed for Group H Occupancies, which are required by Section 1010.1.10 to have panic hardware on all swinging doors. Likewise, IIAR 2 includes this requirement for ammonia refrigeration machinery rooms.

It is also recommended that this section be duplicated in the IMC to ensure that the requirements are not overlooked by machinery room designers. The requirement in the IBC is not readily found as a refrigeration machinery room requirement since it is isolated in the means of egress chapter.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will increase the cost of construction for machinery rooms that would not already have been provided with panic hardware on means of egress doors, the requirement to have panic hardware will constitute an increased cost.

Public Hearing Results

Committee Action:

Approved as Submitted

Committee Reason: Approval was based on the proponent's published reason statement. (Vote 11-0)

Assembly Action:

None

Final Hearing Results

E15-18 Part II

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