



Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Dear Customer

Please find attached the December 2013 amendment to C/AS5 Acceptable Solution for Buildings used for Business, Commercial and Low Level Storage (Risk Group WB), published by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment combines the former Department of Building and Housing, Department of Labour, Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Science and Innovation.

To update your printed copy of C/AS5, please make the following changes:

Section	Previous version	December 2013 amendment
C/AS5 Acceptable Solution for Buildings used for Business, Commercial and Low Level Storage (Risk Group WB)		
Title pages	Remove document history/status	Replace with new document history/status
References	Remove pages 7/8	Replace with new pages 7/8
Definitions	Remove pages 9/10, 15/16	Replace with new pages 9/10, 15/16
C/AS5 Part 1	Remove pages 19–22	Replace with new pages 19–22
C/AS5 Part 2	Remove pages 27–30, 33/34	Replace with new pages 27–30, 33/34
C/AS5 Part 3	Remove pages 49/50, 53/54, 61/62	Replace with new pages 49/50, 53/54, 61/62
C/AS5 Part 4	Remove pages 69/70, 73/74, 79–82	Replace with new pages 69/70, 73/74, 79–82
C/AS5 Part 5	Remove pages 95/96	Replace with new pages 95/96
C/AS5 Part 7	Remove pages 103/104	Replace with new pages 103/104
Appendices	Remove pages 111/112	Replace with new pages 111/112

Status of C/AS5

This Acceptable Solution C/AS5, for buildings used for business, commercial and low level storage (Risk Group WB), provides a means of compliance with the New Zealand Building Code Clauses C1-C6 Protection from Fire. It is issued under section 22 of the Building Act 2004 as an Acceptable Solution.

This Acceptable Solution is one way that can be used to show compliance with the New Zealand Building Code Clauses C1-C6 Protection from Fire. Other ways of complying with the Building Code are described, in general terms, in the preface of the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

When can you use C/AS5

This Acceptable Solution is effective from 19 December 2013. It can be used to show compliance with the Building Code Clauses C1-C6 Protection from Fire. It does not apply to building consent applications submitted before 19 December 2013.

The previous version, Amendment 1 (Errata 1), of this Acceptable Solution can be used to show compliance with the Building Code Clauses C1-C6 Protection from Fire until 18 June 2014. It can be used for building consent applications submitted before 19 June 2014.

Document History		
	Date	Alterations
New document	Effective from 10 April 2012	C/AS5 is a new publication that can be used to show compliance with the Building Code Clauses C1-C6 Protection from Fire.
Amendment 1 (Errata 1)	Effective from 15 February 2013 until 18 June 2014	pp. 7–8 References pp. 13–14 Definitions p. 22 1.3 p. 25 Table 1.2 p. 27 2.2.1 and 2.2.3 p. 38 Table 3.2 p. 39 Figure 3.7 p. 44 Figure 3.12 p. 54 3.15.5 p. 74 4.15.6–4.15.8 pp. 85–97 5.2.1, 5.3.2, 5.5.4, 5.7.6, Figures 5.3 and 5.7, Table 5.2 p. 112 C4.1.2 and C5.1.1 p. 116 Index
Amendment 2	Effective from 19 December 2013	p. 7 References pp. 10 and 15 Definitions pp. 20 and 22 1.1.1, 1.3, Table 2.1 pp. 27–28 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.2.8 p. 30 2.3.1, 2.3.13 p. 34 3.3.2 p. 49 3.10.4 p. 54 3.15.2 p. 62 4.4.4, 4.4.5 p. 69 4.13.5, 4.13.6 p. 74 4.16.1 pp. 80–82 4.16.11, 4.16.12, 4.17.4, 4.17.6 p. 95 Figure 5.5 p. 104 7.2 p. 111 B2.1.1 p. 112 C6.1.2

References

For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code compliance, the New Zealand and other Standards, and other documents referred to in this Acceptable Solution (primary reference documents) shall be the editions, along with their specific amendments, listed below. Where the primary reference documents refer to other Standards or other documents (secondary reference documents), which in turn may also refer to other Standards or other documents, and so on (lower order reference documents), then the applicable version of these secondary and lower order reference documents shall be the version in effect at the date this Acceptable Solution was published.

Standards New Zealand		Where quoted
NZS/BS 476:- Part 21: 1987	Fire tests on building materials and structures	C5.1.1
	Methods for determination of the fire resistance of loadbearing elements of construction	
Part 22: 1987	Methods for determination of the fire resistance of non-loadbearing elements of construction	C5.1.1
AS/NZS 1668:-	The use of ventilation and air conditioning in buildings	3.10.4, Table 2.1, A2.1.1
Part 1: 1998	Fire and smoke control in multi-compartment buildings <i>Amend: 1</i>	
AS/NZS 2918: 2001	Domestic solid fuel burning appliances – installation	7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.3.3, 7.5.5, 7.5.10 Comment, 7.5.12, Figure 7.2
NZS 4232:- Part 2: 1988	Performance criteria for fire resisting closures Fire resisting glazing systems	Definitions
NZS 4332: 1997	Non-domestic passenger and goods lifts	6.4.3
NZS 4510: 2008	Fire hydrant systems for buildings <i>Amend: 1</i>	Table 2.1, A2.1.1
NZS 4512: 2010	Fire detection and alarm systems in buildings	Definitions, Table 2.1, 2.3.13, 6.2.1, A2.1.1, C6.1.6
NZS 4515: 2009	Fire sprinkler systems for life safety in sleeping occupancies (up to 2000 m ²)	Definitions, 4.11.7, 6.2.1, B3.1.1
NZS 4520: 2010	Fire resistant doorsets	4.2.4, 4.16.6, C6.1.1
NZS 4541: 2013	Automatic fire sprinkler systems	Definitions, Table 2.1, 2.3.13, 5.2.2, 6.2.1, B2.1.1
AS/NZS 5601:- Part 1: 2010	Gas installation General installations <i>Amend: 1</i>	7.2.1, 7.2.2
Standards Australia		
AS 1366:- Part 1: 1992	Rigid cellular plastics sheets for thermal insulation Rigid cellular polyurethane (RC/PUR) <i>Amend: 1</i>	4.17.2
Part 2: 1992	Rigid cellular polyisocyanurate (RC/PIR)	4.17.2
Part 3: 1992	Rigid cellular polystyrene – moulded (RC/PS-M) <i>Amend: 1</i>	4.17.2
Part 4: 1989	Rigid cellular polystyrene – extruded (RC/PS-E)	4.17.2

Errata 1
Feb 2013

Amend 2
Dec 2013

Amend 2
Dec 2013

		Where quoted
AS 1530:-	Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures	
Part 1: 1994	Combustibility test for materials	C4.1.1
Part 2: 1993	Test for flammability of materials	4.17.8, 4.17.9
Part 4: 2005	Fire-resistance tests of elements of building construction	4.5.9, C5.1.1
AS 1691: 1985	Domestic oil-fired appliances – installation	7.3.1, 7.3.2
AS 4072:-	Components for the protection of openings in fire-resistant separating elements	
Part 1: 2005	Service penetrations and control joints <i>Amend: 1</i>	C5.1.2
Errata 1 Feb 2013		
International Standards Organisation		
ISO 5660:-	Reaction-to-fire tests – Heat release, smoke production and mass loss rate	
Part 1: 2002	Heat release rate (cone calorimeter method)	C4.1.2, C7.1.1, C7.1.2
Part 2: 2002	Smoke production rate (dynamic measurement)	C4.1.2
Errata 1 Feb 2013		
ISO 9239:-	Reaction to fire tests for flooring	
Part 1: 2010	Determination of the burning behaviour using a radiant heat source	4.17.3, Table 4.2, C2.1
Errata 1 Feb 2013		
ISO 9705: 1993	Fire tests – Full scale room test for surface products	C4.1.2
European Standards Organisation		
Errata 1 Feb 2013		
BS EN 12101:-	Smoke and heat control systems	
Part 1: 2005	Specification for smoke barriers	Definitions
Building Research Establishment (UK)		
BRE Defect Action Sheet DAS 131: May 1989	External walls: Combustible external plastics insulation: Horizontal fire barriers	5.7.18 Comment
BRE Report 135: 1988	Fire performance of external thermal insulation for walls in multi-storey buildings. Rogowski B.F., Ramaprasad R., Southern J.R.	5.7.18 Comment
National Fire Protection Association of America		
NFPA 285: 1998	Standard method of test for the evaluation of flammability characteristics of exterior non-load-bearing wall assemblies containing components using the intermediate scale, multi-storey test apparatus	5.8.2
American Society for Testing and Materials		
ASTM D 2898: 2010	Standard practice for accelerated weathering of fire-retardant-treated wood for fire testing	C7.1.3
New Zealand Legislation		
Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations 2006		Definitions
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996		1.1.5

Definitions

The full list of definitions for italicised words may be found in the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

Access route A continuous route that permits people and goods to move between the apron or *construction* edge of the *building* to spaces within a *building*, and between spaces within a *building*.

Accessible Having features to permit use by *people with disabilities*.

Accessible route An *access route* usable by *people with disabilities*. It shall be a continuous route that can be negotiated unaided by a wheelchair user. The route shall extend from street *boundary* or car parking area to those spaces within the *building* required to be *accessible* to enable *people with disabilities* to carry out normal activities and processes within the *building*.

Adjacent building A nearby *building*, including an adjoining *building*, whether or not erected on *other property*.

Basement Any *firecell* or part of a *firecell* below the level of the lowest *final exit*.

Comment:

Because *fire safety systems* are increased with increases in *escape height*, the precautions for *basements* increase with *basement* depth. Thus a single floor *building* with one *basement* level is treated as a two floor *building*, a single floor *building* with three *basement* levels as a four floor *building*.

Boundary means any *boundary* that is shown on a survey plan that is approved by the Surveyor-General and deposited with the Registrar-General of Land, whether or not a new title has been issued.

Building has the meaning given to it by sections 8 and 9 of the Building Act 2004.

Comment:

Notwithstanding the definition of *building*, a number of separated *buildings* cannot be taken as a single *firecell* for the purposes of this Acceptable Solution.

Building Act 2004 (the Building Act) means the principal legislation dealing with building controls in New Zealand.

Comment:

The *Building Act* applies to the construction, alteration, and demolition of new and existing buildings throughout New Zealand.

Building Code means the regulations made under section 400 of the *Building Act 2004*.

Building consent means consent to carry out *building* work granted by a *building consent authority* under section 49 of the *Building Act 2004*.

Building consent authority has the meaning ascribed to it by section 7 of the *Building Act 2004*.

Building element Any structural and non-structural component or assembly incorporated into or associated with a *building*. Included are *fixtures*, services, *drains*, permanent mechanical installations for access, glazing, partitions, ceilings and temporary supports.

Building height Building height means the vertical distance between the floor level of the lowest *occupied space* above the ground and the top of the highest occupied floor, but not including spaces located within or on the roof that enclose stairways, lift shafts, or machinery rooms.

Cavity barrier A *construction* provided to close openings within a *concealed space* against the passage of *fire*, or to restrict the spread of *fire* within such spaces.

Chimney A *non-combustible* structure which encloses one or more *flues*, *fireplaces* or other heating appliances.

Chimney back The *non-combustible* wall forming the back of a *fireplace*.

Chimney breast The front *fireplace* wall construction above the *fireplace* opening.

Chimney jambs The side walls of a *fireplace*.

Combustible See *non-combustible*.

Concealed space Any part of the space within a *building* that cannot be seen from an *occupied space*.

Comment:

This term includes any ceiling space, roof space, space under a raised floor (such as computer rooms, floors, or stages), plenums, spaces under a tiered floor, "left-over spaces" created when some structural element or the like has been covered in; small service or duct spaces within the volume of a *firecell* and the like, but not a *protected shaft*.

Construct in relation to a *building*, includes to design, build, erect, prefabricate, and relocate the *building*; and construction has a corresponding meaning.

Damper blade A component of a *fire damper* that closes off the airway within a *fire damper* upon detection of *fire* or smoke.

Dead end That part of an open path where escape is possible in only one direction.

Comment:

A *dead end* ceases to exist where the *escape route* reaches a point in the *open path* which offers alternative directions of travel, or at a *final exit* or an *exitway*.

Doorset A complete assembly comprising a door leaf or leaves including any glazed or solid panels adjacent to or over the leaves within the door frame including hardware or other inbuilt features; and a door frame, if any, with its fixings to the wall and, for a sliding or tilting door, all guides and their respective fixings to the lintel, wall or sill.

Early childhood centre (ECC) means premises used regularly for the education or care of 3 or more children (not being children of the persons providing the education or care, or children enrolled at a school being provided with education or care before or after school) under the age of six—

a) by the day or part of a day; but

b) not for any continuous period of more than seven days.

ECC does not include home based early childhood services.

Escape height The height between the floor level in the *firecell* being considered and the floor level of the required *final exit* which is the greatest vertical distance above or below that *firecell*.

Comment:

1. It is necessary only to use the greatest height to the exits required for the *firecell* being considered, even though the *building* may have other *final exits* at lower or higher levels.
2. Where the *firecell* contains *intermediate floors*, or upper floors within *household units* the *escape height* shall be measured from the floor having the greatest vertical separation from the *final exit*.

Escape route A continuous unobstructed route from any *occupied space* in a *building* to a *final exit* to enable occupants to reach a *safe place*, and shall comprise one or more of the following: *open paths* and *safe paths*.

Comment:

Doors are not obstructions in an escape route provided they comply with C/AS1 and D1/AS1.

Exitway All parts of an *escape route* protected by *fire* or *smoke separations*, or by distance when exposed to open air, and terminating at a *final exit*.

External wall Any exterior face of a *building* within 30° of vertical, consisting of *primary* and/or *secondary elements* intended to provide protection against the outdoor environment, but which may also contain *unprotected areas*.

Comment:

A roof is an *external wall* if within 30° of the vertical.

Occupied space Any space within a *building* in which a *person* will be present from time to time during the *intended use* of the *building*.

Open path That part of an *escape route* (including *dead ends*) within a *firecell* where occupants may be exposed to *fire* or smoke while making their escape.

Open space Open space means land on which there are, and will be, no *buildings* and which has no roof over any part of it other than overhanging eaves.

Other property Any land or *buildings* or part of any land or *buildings*, that are:

- a) not held under the same *allotment*; or
- b) not held under the same *ownership*; and includes a *road*.

Owner In relation to land and any *buildings* on the land,—

- (a) means the *person* who—
 - (i) is entitled to the rack rent from the land; or
 - (ii) would be so entitled if the land were let to a tenant at a rack rent; and
- (b) includes—
 - (i) the *owner* of the fee simple of the land; and
 - (ii) any *person* who has agreed in writing, whether conditionally or unconditionally, to purchase the land or any leasehold estate or interest in the land or to take a lease of the land and who is bound by the agreement because the agreement is still in force.

Penetration A *building element* passing through an opening in a *fire separation*.

Comment:

A *penetration* may include, but is not limited to: pipes, cables, ducts, hoses, drains, cable trays, ropes, data outlets, power outlets, hatches, glazing, structural bracing etc.

People with disabilities People whose ability to use *buildings* is affected by mental, physical, hearing or sight impairment.

Place of safety Place of safety means either—

- (a) a *safe place*; or
- (b) a place that is inside a *building* and meets the following requirements:
 - (i) the place is constructed with *fire separations* that have fire resistance sufficient to withstand *burnout* at the point of the *fire source*; and
 - (ii) the place is in a *building* that is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system that complies with NZS 4541 or NZS 4515 as appropriate to the *building's use*; and
 - (iii) the place is designed to accommodate the intended number of persons; and
 - (iv) the place is provided with sufficient means of escape to enable the intended number of persons to escape to a *safe place* that is outside a *building*.

Primary element A *building element* providing the basic loadbearing capacity to the structure, and which if affected by *fire* may initiate instability or premature structural collapse.

Comment:

Suspended floors in multi-storey *buildings* are *primary elements*.

Property rating The *fire resistance rating* to be applied to elements of *construction* that allows for protection of *other property*.

Protected shaft A space, other than a *safe path*, enclosed by *fire separations* or *external walls* used to house *building services*, lifts, or conveyors which pass from one *firecell* to another.

Railway line has the meaning ascribed to it by section 4 of the Railways Act 2005.

Relevant boundary Relevant *boundary* means the *boundary* of an *allotment* that is *other property* in relation to the *building* in question and from which is measured the separation between the *building* and that *other property*; and for the *external wall* of any *building*, the *relevant boundary* is the nearest of—

- (a) a *boundary* of a freehold *allotment*, except that if the *other property* is a *road*, *railway line*, or public *open space*, the *relevant boundary* is the *boundary* on the far side of that *other property*; or
- (b) a *boundary* of a cross-lease or a company lease or a licence, except that if the *other property* is *open space* to which the lessee or licensee of the *building* in question has an exclusive right of access and occupation or to which 2 or more occupiers of the *building* in question have rights of access and occupation, the *relevant boundary* is the *boundary* on the far side of that *other property*; or
- (c) a *boundary* shown on a unit plan (but excluding a *boundary* between a principal unit and its accessory unit), except that if the *other property* is open space and is common property, the *relevant boundary* is the *boundary* on the far side of that *other property*.

Comment:

1. Where an easement, such as a right of way, occurs within an *allotment*, the *relevant boundary* shall remain the same as if the easement did not exist.
2. *Boundaries* within a cross-lease or company lease or licence are shown on a survey plan. In some cases the *boundary* is the *external wall* or roof of a *building*.
3. The unit title *boundaries* of principal units, accessory units, and common property are shown in the unit plan. A *boundary* is frequently an internal or *external wall*, an upper floor, or the roof of a *building*.
4. A wall along a *boundary* between two *allotments* is called a “party wall” when the *owners* of the *allotments* each have legal rights in respect of that wall registered by way of easements on one or both titles. An internal wall between cross-leases, company leases, or unit titles, or between one of them and common property, is not generally called a party wall but in that case also the lessees, unit title holders, or corporate body concerned each have legal rights in respect of that wall. Such a wall separates areas which are *other property* in relation to each other, but the wall itself is part of each property. The *fire* protection consequence of that legal concept is that such a wall can be regarded as a *fire separation* providing protection against horizontal *fire* spread in each direction. In other words, that wall may provide the appropriate *FRR* instead of each property having its own wall of that *FRR*.

Risk group The classification of a *building* or *firecells* within a *building* according to the use to which it is intended to be put.

Road This term has the meaning ascribed to it by section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974 and includes a public place and also includes a motorway.

Safe path That part of an *exitway* which is protected from the effects of *fire* by *fire separations*, *external walls*, or by distance when exposed to open air.

Part 1: General

CONTENTS

- 1.1 Introduction and scope
- 1.2 Using this Acceptable Solution
- 1.3 Alterations and changes of use to buildings
- 1.4 Calculating occupant loads

1.1 Introduction and scope

This Acceptable Solution can be used for establishing compliance with NZBC C1 to C6 Protection from Fire. It is one of a suite of Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 to C/AS7, each of them corresponding to a *risk group* (summarised in Table 1.1 and defined in Paragraph 1.1.1).

If the uses of a *building*, or part of a *building*, cover more than one *risk group*, one or more of these Acceptable Solutions may need to be followed to demonstrate compliance. Paragraph 1.2 explains how to determine the relevant *risk groups* for the *building* activities.

Notes shown under '**Comment**', occurring throughout this document, are for guidance purposes only and do not form part of this Acceptable Solution. Words in *italic* are defined at the front of this document. For ease of use, paragraphs, tables and figures containing similar information are allocated the same reference numbers in each of the Acceptable Solutions. If there is no corresponding information in a particular Acceptable Solution, the numbering is preserved by the notation:

- 1) "THIS PARAGRAPH DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK"
- 2) "**This table not required for this Acceptable Solution**"
- 3) Figures are omitted without notification.

Appendices to this Acceptable Solution are part of and have equal status to this Acceptable Solution.

Comment:

It is recommended that the commentary document for Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 to C/AS7 be read in conjunction with this Acceptable Solution.

Table 1.1 Risk groups and Acceptable Solutions			
	Acceptable Solution	Risk group	Applies to
C/AS1	Single <i>household units</i> and small <i>multi-unit dwellings</i>	SH	Houses, townhouses and small <i>multi-unit dwellings</i> Limited area outbuildings
C/AS2	Sleeping (non institutional)	SM	Permanent accommodation eg, apartments Transient accommodation eg, hotels, motels, hostels, backpackers Education accommodation
C/AS3	Care or detention	SI	Institutions, hospitals (excluding special care facilities), residential care, resthomes, medical day treatment (using sedation), detention facilities (excluding prisons)
C/AS4	Public access and educational facilities	CA	Crowds, halls, recreation centres, public libraries (<2.4 m storage height), cinemas, shops, personal services (eg, dentists and doctors except as included above, beautician and hairdressing salons), schools, restaurants and cafes, <i>early childhood centres</i>
C/AS5	Business, commercial and low level storage	WB	Offices (including professional services such as law and accountancy practices), laboratories, workshops, manufacturing (excluding <i>foamed plastics</i>), factories, processing, cool stores (capable of <3.0 m storage height) and other storage buildings capable of <5.0 m storage height, light aircraft hangars
C/AS6	High level storage and other high risks	WS	Warehouses (capable of ≥ 5.0 m storage height), cool stores (capable of ≥ 3.0 m storage height), trading and bulk retail (≥ 3.0 m storage height)
C/AS7	Vehicle storage and parking	VP	Vehicle parking – within a <i>building</i> or a separate <i>building</i>

Amend 2
Dec 2013**Comment:**

Designing a *building* to provide *fire* safety involves decisions on both the *construction* materials and layout needed to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The risk is assessed according to: the number and mobility of the occupants (*occupant load* and *risk group* of the *building*); the activities undertaken within the *building*; and the nature of the *building* materials and contents. This assessment allows each *building* activity to be categorised in a *risk group*, which is the basis for determining *fire* safety features.

Scope

1.1.1 The scope of this Acceptable Solution is restricted to *risk group* WB. This covers *buildings*, or parts of *buildings*, where people work. These include the following, provided they are no more than 20 storeys high (from ground level):

- a) Offices (including professional services such as law and accountancy practices)
- b) Industrial *buildings* such as factories, processing and manufacturing plants (excluding *foamed plastics*)
- c) Storage units capable of less than 5.0 m storage height
 - ca) Storage *buildings* capable of storage of 5.0 m or greater but with a height to apex of less than 8.0 m and floor area of less than 4200 m²
 - cd) Cool stores capable of less than 3.0 m high storage height
- e) Laboratories, and
- f) Light aircraft hangars.

Amend 2
Dec 2013

Outside the scope of this Acceptable Solution

1.1.2 *Buildings* or parts of *buildings* in *risk groups* other than WB are outside the scope of this Acceptable Solution. Refer to Table 1.1 and use the corresponding Acceptable Solution instead.

Buildings with complex features are outside the scope of this Acceptable Solution and also of Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 to C/AS7 corresponding to other *risk groups*. Verification Method C/VM2 shall be used instead. Complex features include:

- a) Atriums
- b) *Intermediate floors*, other than limited area *intermediate floors*
- c) Storage *buildings* that are capable of a storage height of ≥ 5.0 m, and
- d) *Buildings* more than 20 storeys high.

Buildings that require specific *fire* engineering design (ie, those requiring design calculations and modelling) also fall outside the scope of the Acceptable Solutions. If the Acceptable Solution cannot be followed in full, use Verification Method C/VM2 to demonstrate compliance.

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1.1.4 THIS PARAGRAPH DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Hazardous substances not covered by this Acceptable Solution

1.1.5 This Acceptable Solution does not provide for any use, storage or processing of *hazardous substances*. Compliance with NZBC F3 and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 shall be ensured where applicable in addition to the requirements of this Acceptable Solution.

1.2 Using this Acceptable Solution

1.2.1 The process for using this Acceptable Solution shall be as follows.

Step 1: Determine which Acceptable Solutions apply

- a) Determine the *risk group* for each of the activities carried out in the *building* (refer to Table 1.1 and to Paragraph 1.1.1 of this and the other Acceptable Solutions). If the activity is not listed explicitly, choose the nearest suitable *risk group*.
- b) If there is more than one *risk group* for a *firecell*, determine its primary *risk group* (see Paragraph 1.2.2: this is the one with the most onerous *fire* safety requirements).
- c) Apply this Acceptable Solution for any *firecell* in *risk group* WB by following steps 2 and 3.
- d) Then apply the relevant Acceptable Solutions for *firecells* with any other *risk groups* in the *building*.

Comment:

Firecells: The Acceptable Solutions use the concept of *firecells* to divide *buildings* into compartments. Each *firecell* can be considered individually in the first instance and subsequently the *fire* safety requirements for the whole *building* can be developed, for example when considering a multi-storey *building* that has different activities on a number of floors, or even has different activities/uses on the same floor.

Future flexibility: A *building* is very likely to undergo one or more changes of use over its lifetime. Even under the same use, floor layout and furnishing will alter to accommodate changes in technology and occupant practices. Therefore, at the time of initial *construction*, *owners* should consider the advantages of providing for *fire* safety systems to suit alternative occupancies as these systems could be difficult or excessively expensive to install at a later date.

For Paragraph 1.2.1 Step 1 b), the most onerous *fire* safety requirements usually occur in Part 2: Firecells, *fire* safety systems and *fire* resistance ratings of each Acceptable Solution. *Buildings* or parts of *buildings* with sleeping occupancies generally have the most onerous requirements.

Step 2: Determine the parameters for risk group WB

- a) Establish the relevant *building* measurements (these will include *building height*, floor plans, wall openings and distances to *relevant boundaries*).
- b) Work out the *occupant loads* for the relevant *building* spaces (refer to Paragraph 1.4).

Comment:
Applying the Acceptable Solution depends largely on the basic *building* measurements as above. Therefore, this should be determined as accurately as possible before using this document.

Comment:
For example, levels of a multi-storey *building* may be categorised in different *risk groups* such as:

Basement carparks	VP
Shopping floors	CA
Office floors	WB
Domestic accommodation	SM

A single floor may also contain several *risk groups* such as:

Offices	WB
Shops	CA
Cafeteria	CA

Step 3: Satisfy the fire safety requirements

Satisfy the *fire* safety requirements of this Acceptable Solution (refer to Parts 2-7), based on the *occupant loads* and on the *building's* dimensions and features where required.

Primary risk groups

1.2.2 If a *building* contains a number of different activities which individually may be categorised in different *risk groups*, the *risk group* designated for a particular *firecell* within a *building* shall be that of the primary *risk group*. The primary *risk group* shall be that one within the *firecell* that has the most onerous *fire* safety requirements.

1.2.3 Depending on the particular *building* and the uses or activities within that *building*, there may be several primary *risk groups*, with one or more on each floor.

1.3 Alterations and changes of use to buildings

If this Acceptable Solution is being used for an assessment of an existing *building* that is being *altered*, Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Acceptable Solution shall be considered to the extent necessary for compliance with the *Building Act* s112.

Errata 1
Amend 2

The *building work* itself shall comply fully with this Acceptable Solution.

Errata 1
Feb 2013

If this Acceptable Solution is being used where an existing *building* is undergoing a change of use, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Acceptable Solution shall be considered to the extent necessary for compliance with the *Building Act*.

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Where compliance with the requirements of the *Building Act* for alterations and changes of use is not fully demonstrated through using this Acceptable Solution, the level of assessment required shall be agreed with the *building consent authority* or *territorial authority*.

Comment:
The extent of assessment should be consistent with a number of risk factors including:

- a) Age of the *building*
- b) Importance level of the *building*
- c) Extent of the alteration.

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Errata 1
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- a) Type 3 alarm system. A direct connection to the Fire Service is not required where a phone is available at all times for 111 calls, and
- b) Type 18 *building fire* hydrant system, unless the Fire Service hose run distance from Fire Service vehicular access to any point on any floor is less than 75 m.

For 100 to 1000 people or >4.0 m but ≤25 m escape height:

- a) A Type 4 alarm system.
 - A Type 3 with supplementary smoke detection may be substituted if the environment is challenging for smoke detection.
 - A Type 6 alarm system may be substituted provided:
 - i) The *occupant load* is no greater than 500, and
 - ii) Each floor is a separate *firecell*, and
 - iii) Any small *intermediate floors* comply with Paragraph 4.13.5, and
 - iv) There are no sleeping *firecells* elsewhere in the *building*.

A direct connection to the Fire Service is not required where a phone is available at all times for 111 calls, and

- b) Type 9 smoke control in air handling systems, and
- c) Type 18 *building fire* hydrant system, unless the Fire Service hose run distance from Fire Service vehicular access to any point on any floor is less than 75 m.

For >1000 people or >25 m escape height:

- a) Type 7 alarm system, and
- b) Type 9 smoke control in air handling systems, and
- c) Type 18 *building fire* hydrant system in all cases where the *building height* is four storeys or more. Otherwise, a Type 18 system is required unless the Fire Service hose run distance from Fire Service vehicular access to any point on any floor is less than 75 m.

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2.2.3 If any *firecell* in a *building* requires a manual or automatic *fire* alarm or sprinkler system, that system shall be provided in all other *firecells* throughout the *building* (refer to Figure 2.1). As a Type 5 system (refer to Table 2.1) provides for non-latching smoke detection with heat detection back-up in sleeping spaces, other (non-sleeping) *firecells* shall be protected with standard automatic smoke detection. Where sleeping spaces are provided in the other *firecells* they shall be protected with a Type 5 system where a Type 4 is being extended. Smoke detection shall not be extended into *risk group* VP: heat detection shall be provided instead. If *risk group* VP is sprinkler protected as required by C/AS7 and the VP risk is *fire separated* from the rest of the *building* with *fire* rated separations designed to the property rating, the sprinkler system need not be extended through the rest of the *building*.

More than one risk group on a floor

2.2.4 If there is more than one *risk group* on one floor level, the *fire* safety requirements will depend on whether the *risk groups* occupy the same *firecell*, or whether the floor is divided by *fire separations* into different *firecells*.

Comment:

Refer to Paragraphs 2.2.1 to 2.2.3 for the requirements for individual *firecells* in this *risk group*.

2.2.5 Where *fire separations* are not needed between different *risk groups* on the same floor level, the *fire safety systems* adopted for the whole floor level shall be those of the primary *risk group* (as defined in Paragraph 1.2.2).

2.2.6 The *fire safety systems* required by Paragraph 2.2.3 shall be interconnected to alert all occupants of that floor level in the event of *fire*.

Comment:

Refer to Paragraphs 2.2.7 and 2.2.8 for the requirements for other floor levels in the *building*.

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Other floors in a building

2.2.7 The alarm systems required in a *building* shall be interconnected to alert all *building* occupants in the event of *fire*, except:

- a) In areas that have the local smoke component of a Type 5 system.
- b) DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Same risk group on different floors

2.2.8 Where *firecells* containing the same *risk group* occur at different levels in the same *building*, the *fire safety systems* for the *firecell* having the most onerous requirements shall be applied to all *firecells* in that *risk group*.

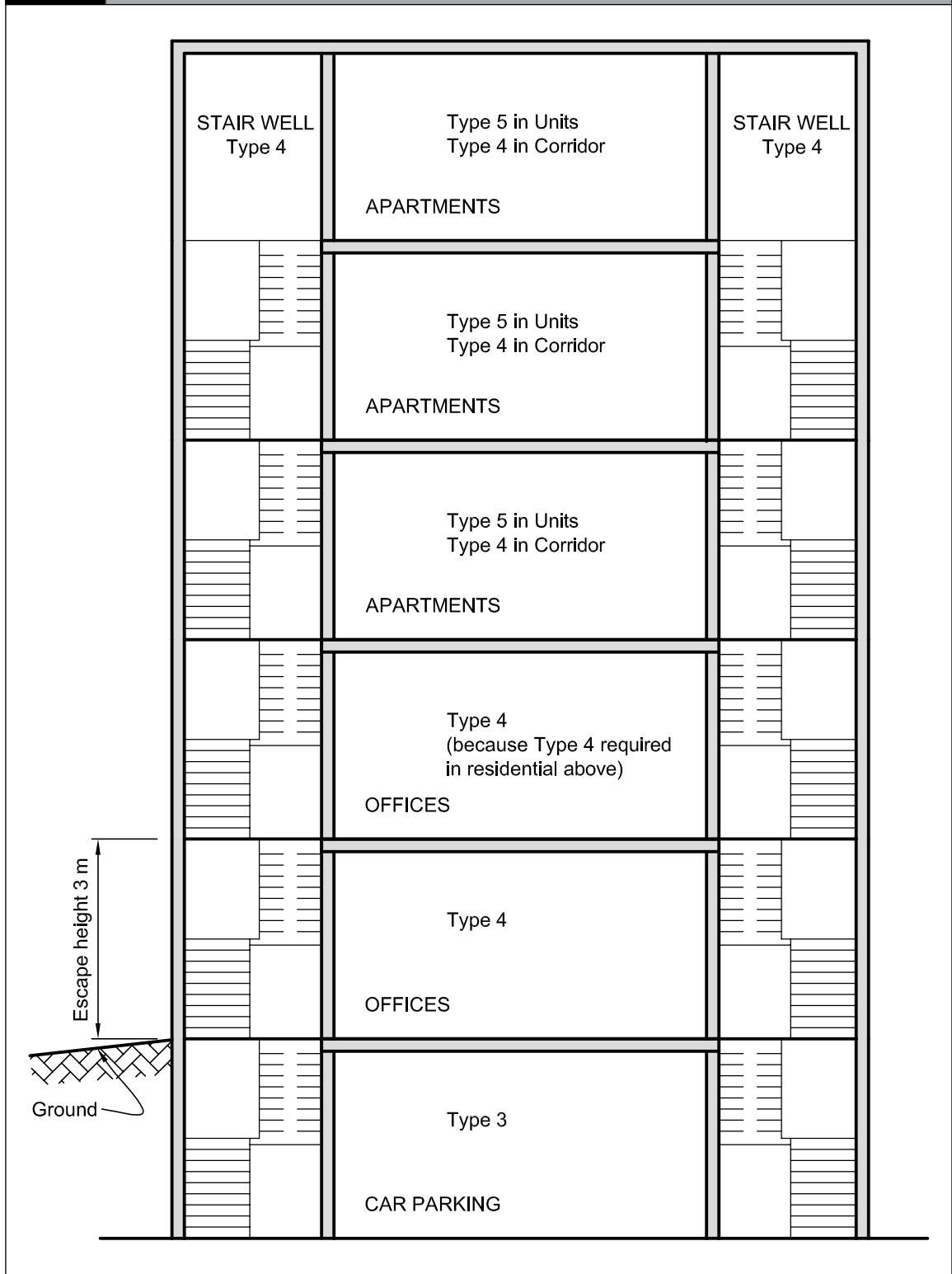
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Table 2.1 Fire safety systems specified in this Acceptable Solution		
Type of system	System description	Relevant Standards for installation
2	Alarm system with manual call points	NZS 4512
3	Heat detection system with manual call points	NZS 4512
4	Smoke detection and alarm system with manual call points	NZS 4512
5	Enhanced smoke detection and alarm system with manual call points	NZS 4512
6	Automatic <i>fire</i> sprinkler system	NZS 4541
7	Automatic <i>fire</i> sprinkler system with smoke detection and alarm system	NZS 4541, NZS 4512
9	Smoke control in air handling system	AS/NZS 1668.1
18	<i>Building fire</i> hydrant system	NZS 4510

Figure 2.1 Systems throughout a building
Paragraph 2.2.3



2.3 Fire resistance ratings

FRR values

2.3.1 Unless explicitly stated otherwise in this Acceptable Solution, the *fire resistance ratings (FRRs)* that apply for this *risk group* shall be as follows:

Life rating = 60 minutes. This applies to *fire* rating requirements in Part 3: Means of escape and Part 4: Control of internal fire and smoke spread.

Property rating = 120 minutes. This applies to *fire* rating requirements in Part 5: Control of external fire spread except that where the storage height is greater than 3.0 m and the *building* is closer than 15 m to any *relevant boundary* the rating shall be 180 minutes.

Comment:

Throughout this Acceptable Solution, minimum *FRRs* are specified for particular situations. It is therefore essential to check for specific requirements.

Structural elements in a single storey *building* need not be *fire* rated if *FRRs* are not required for any other reason.

2.3.2 If a *fire* sprinkler system is provided, the *FRRs* for *risk group* WB shall be:

Life rating = 30 minutes, and

Property rating = 60 minutes, except that where the storage height is greater than 3.0 m and the *building* is closer than 15 m to any *relevant boundary*, the rating shall be 90 minutes.

2.3.3 If there is more than one *risk group* on one floor in the *building*, the highest required *FRR* shall be applied to common spaces and shared *escape routes* for that floor level.

General requirements for FRRs

2.3.4 *FRRs* shall apply to the sides of *primary* and *secondary elements* which are exposed to *fire*.

2.3.5 When different *FRRs* apply on each side of a *fire separation*, being a wall, the higher rating shall apply to both sides.

2.3.6 Floors shall have an *FRR* for exposure from the underside.

2.3.7 The *FRR* of a *primary element* integral with a *fire separation* shall be no less than that of the *fire separation*.

2.3.8 Except as required by Paragraph 4.3.3, areas of *external wall* not permitted to be *unprotected areas* shall be rated for *fire* exposure from within a *firecell*.

2.3.9 Areas of *external wall* not permitted to be *unprotected areas* shall be rated for *fire* exposure from both sides equally where:

- Walls are within 1.0 m of the *relevant boundary*, or
- The *building height* is more than 10 m.
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2.3.10 *Building elements* shall have an *FRR* of no less than that of any *building element* to which they provide support within the *firecell* or in any adjacent *firecell*

2.3.11 Structural framing members connected to *building elements* with an *FRR* shall be rated at no less than the elements to which they are connected, or alternatively their connections and supports shall be designed so that their collapse during *fire* will not cause collapse of the *fire* rated elements.

Applying insulation component in FRR

2.3.12 *Insulation* ratings shall apply to:

- All *fire separations*, except as noted in Paragraph 2.3.13, and
- Parts of *external walls* which are not permitted to be *unprotected areas*, and
- Parts of *external walls* which are within 2.0 m of an external *exitway* where it is a single *means of escape from fire* (see Paragraph 3.11.2).

2.3.13 *Insulation* ratings are not required to apply to:

- Glazing installed in accordance with Paragraph 4.2, or
- Where sprinklers are installed throughout the *building* in accordance with either NZS 4541 or NZS 4515 as appropriate, or
- Fire stops* in accordance with Paragraph 4.4.5, or
- Fire dampers* and *damper blades* in accordance with Paragraph 4.16.12, or
- Fire resisting glazing* in accordance with Paragraph 5.4.3.

Table 3.1 Minimum number of escape routes from a floor level	
Number of occupants	Minimum number of <i>escape routes</i>
up to 500	2
up to 1000	3
up to 2000	4
up to 4000	5
up to 7000	6

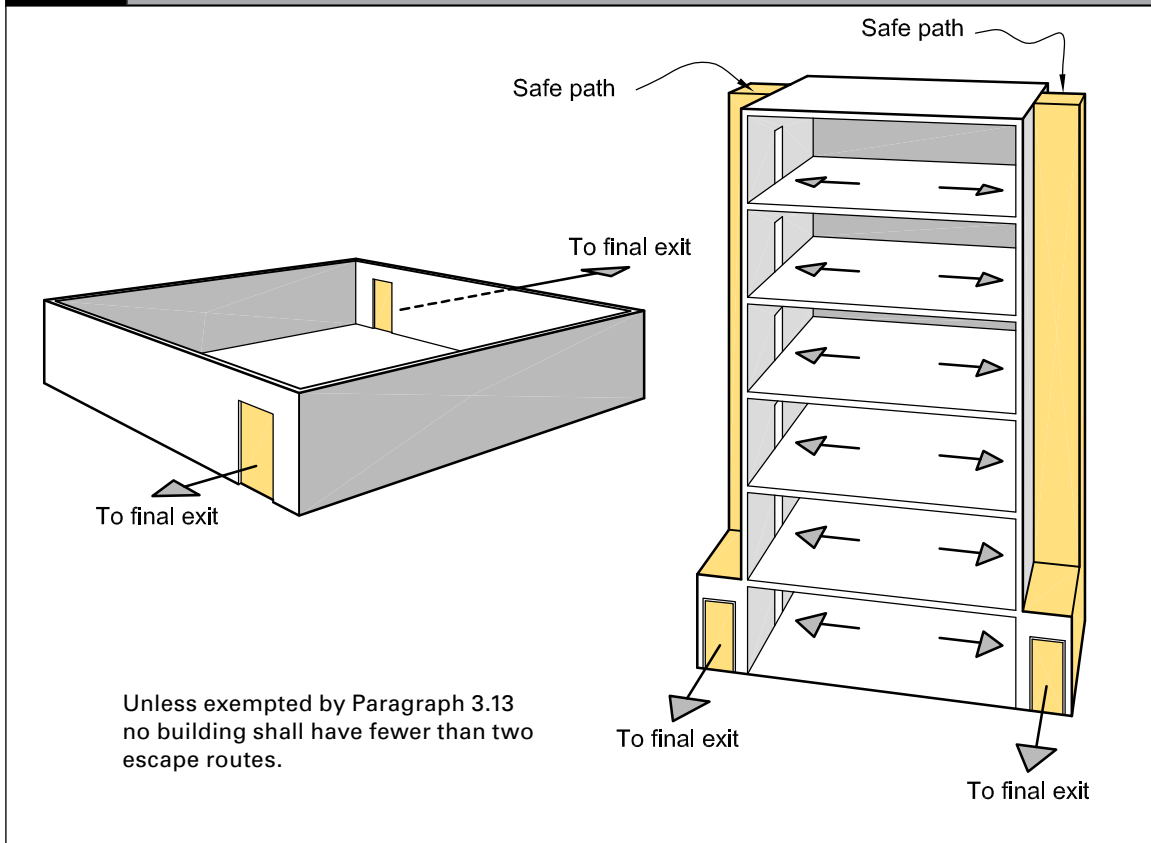
3.3 Height and width of escape routes

Height

3.3.1 Height requirements within *escape routes* shall be as follows:

- a) The clear height shall be no less than 2100 mm across the full width, except that isolated ceiling fittings not exceeding 200 mm in diameter may project downwards to reduce this clearance by no more than 100 mm, and
- b) Any door opening within, or giving access to, any *escape route* shall have a clear height of no less than 1955 mm for the required width of the opening.

Figure 3.2 Minimum number of escape routes
Paragraph 3.2.1



Width

3.3.2 Width requirements within *escape routes* shall be as follows:

- a) **Width of all available escape routes:** the total combined width of all available *escape routes* shall allow 7 mm/person for horizontal travel and 9 mm/person for vertical travel.
- b) **Not an accessible route or accessible stair:** if the *escape route* is not an *accessible route* or *accessible stair*, it shall have a minimum width of 850 mm for horizontal travel and 1000 mm for vertical travel, except in the following cases:
 - i) if an *escape route* is within an *exitway*, its width shall be no less than 1000 mm, and
 - ii) if there is no requirement for *people with disabilities*, the *occupant load* is less than 50 and the *escape route* is within an *open path*, its width may be reduced to 700 mm for horizontal travel and 850 mm for vertical travel.
- c) **Accessible routes and accessible stairs:** if the *escape route* is an *accessible route* or *accessible stair*, it shall have a minimum width of 1200 mm for horizontal travel and 1100 mm for vertical travel.

Comment:
See Paragraph 3.15.5 for allowable widths of doors.

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- d) **Provision for unusable escape routes:** except where *dead ends* and single *escape routes* are permitted, the total required width in unsprinklered *firecells* shall still be available should the widest of the *escape routes* be unusable due to the location of the *fire* or any other reason (see Figure 3.3).

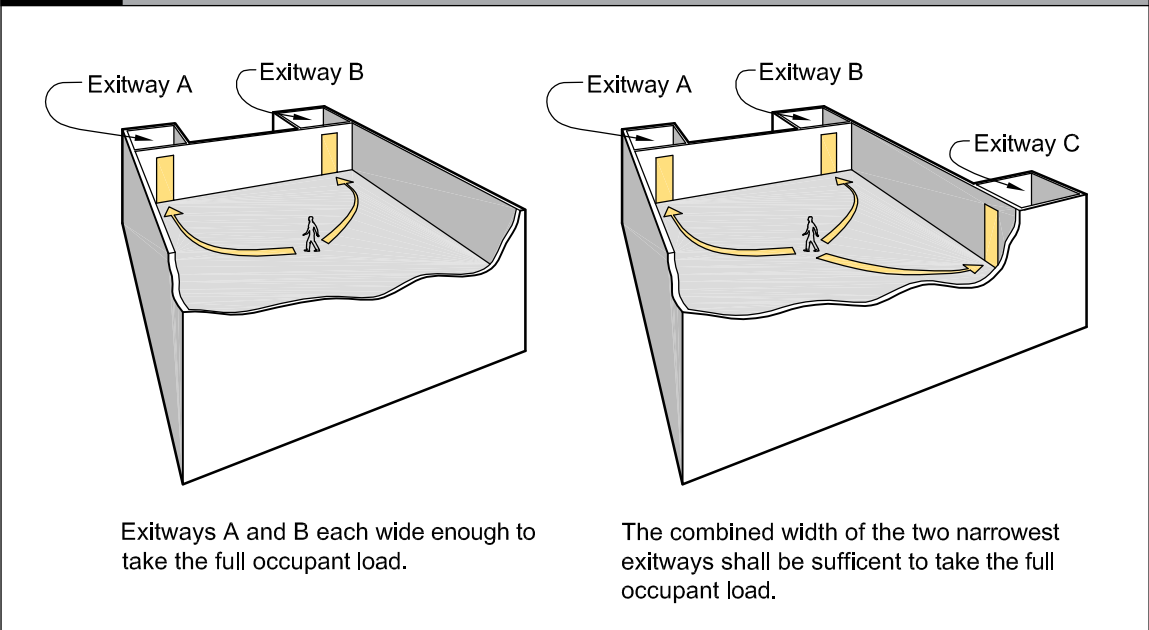
Comment:
Requirement d) may be achieved either by providing additional *escape routes* or by making the minimum required number wider.

- e) **Sprinkler concession:** if the *firecell* is sprinklered, requirement d) does not apply (ie, it is not necessary to provide extra width to allow for the possibility that one *escape route* may be unusable).
- f) **Horizontal escape route with a single direction of escape:** this shall be wide enough at any point to take the full *occupant load* from all contributing *occupied spaces*. However, the *escape route* may have its width increased progressively as it passes the exit from each *occupied space* (see Figure 3.4).

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Figure 3.3 Exitway widths in unsprinklered firecells
Paragraph 3.3.2 d)



- b) For *building occupant loads* up to 500, a Type 4 system is installed, and for *occupant loads* exceeding 500 a Type 7 system is installed. These systems shall be installed in the *exitway* and connected to alerting devices installed throughout the *building*, and
- c) The *escape route* is not impeded by the activity or the occupants involved in that activity, and
- d) Those activities:
 - i) are visible to users of the *exitway*, except in the case of *sanitary fixtures*
 - ii) exist only to provide support functions to the activities of the *risk group* served by the *exitway*, and
 - iii) can include, but are not limited to, a reception counter and toilet facilities.

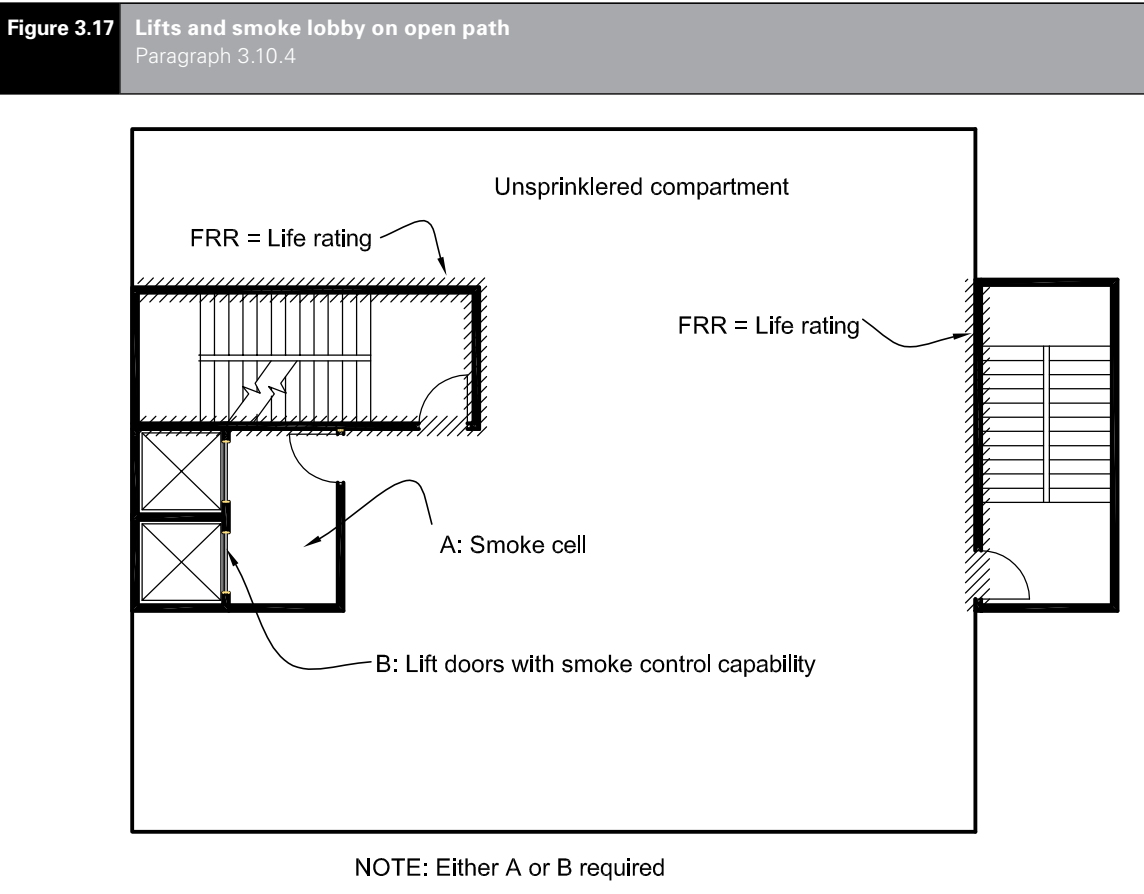
- a) The lift shaft and all its openings are located entirely within a single *firecell* containing the vertical *safe path*, and
- b) Passenger access into and from the lift takes place entirely within the *safe path*, and
- c) No other activity occurs within the vertical *safe path*, and
- d) The lift machine room is a separate *firecell*, and the openings for lift ropes through the *fire separation* are as small as practicable, and any *penetrations*, such as for electrical cables, are *fire stopped*. (See Paragraph 4.4 for *fire stopping*.)

Lifts

3.10.3 A passenger lift, but not a goods lift, may be located in a vertical *safe path* containing a *stairway* provided the following conditions are satisfied:

3.10.4 Lift landings located in *open paths* (see Figure 3.17) shall either be within a *smokecell* separated from all other areas or have lift landing doors with smoke control capability. This requirement does not apply if the *building* is protected with a Type 7 system or the lift shaft has a pressurisation system designed to AS 1668.1. Lift doors shall be as specified in Paragraphs 4.16.3 and 4.16.11.

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3.11 External escape routes

3.11.1 Where an *escape route* enters a space exposed to the open air (eg, an open *stairway*, a balcony, across a roof or a ground level path), it shall meet the requirements for a *safe path* between that point and the *final exit*. *Safe path* separation requirements shall be achieved by providing either distance or *fire rated construction* between the *escape route* and adjacent *firecells*, as specified in Paragraphs 3.11.2 to 3.11.6.

Comment:

Balconies with one direction of escape comply with the requirements of a *safe path* if the *external wall* beside the balcony has no *unprotected areas* or the balcony is large enough to allow separation by distance from the *external wall* (see Paragraph 3.11.2). Balconies with two directions of escape from all *firecell* exits are also considered to be *safe paths*, even if the adjacent *external wall* has 100% *unprotected area*.

Separation by distance

3.11.2 Separation by distance shall be achieved by:

- a) If there is only one direction of escape, roofs and *external walls* with no *unprotected areas* closer to an external *escape route* than:
 - i) 2.0 m if unsprinklered (see Figure 3.18), or
 - ii) 1.0 m if all *firecells* passed by the external *escape route* are sprinklered, or

Comment:

This provision is to limit heat radiation exposure to occupants who have only one direction of escape. Therefore the limiting distances apply horizontally to both sides of the *escape route*.

- b) Locating the *escape route* so that it diverges from *external walls* (see Paragraph 3.11.5 a)), or
- c) Providing alternative directions of escape from the point where the *escape route* passes through an *external wall* and becomes an external *escape route* (see Paragraph 3.11.5 b)).

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3.11.4 If the distance separating *external walls* or roofs from an external *dead end escape route* is less than permitted by Paragraph 3.11.2, those walls and roofs shall comply with the *FRR* requirements of Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.7.3 to 5.7.5. Glazing shall comply with Paragraph 4.2.

3.11.5 For an *escape route* which passes through an opening in an *external wall*, the *external wall* need not be *fire rated* if:

- a) The direction of escape to a single *final exit* diverges from the *external wall* at an angle of no less than 45° in plan, or
- b) The directions of escape to alternative *final exits* diverge from each other at an angle of no less than 90° in plan and those directions of escape do not travel past any *firecell* for a distance of more than 5.0 m.
- c) DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK
- d) For shopfronts, if the exit is onto the footpath it is not required to be *fire rated*.

Comment:

The relaxation of *FRR* requirements does not apply where *fire rated construction* is necessary due to the proximity of a *relevant boundary* (see Paragraph 5.3).

Separation by fire rated construction

3.11.6 Except where the separation distance requirements of Paragraph 3.11.2 are achieved:

- a) *External walls* and roofs adjacent to external *escape routes* shall comply with the *FRR* requirements of Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.7 and shall have no *unprotected areas*, except that glazing for *safe paths* complying with Paragraph 4.2 shall be permitted, and
- b) If the *escape route* is a balcony with a single direction of escape, and the vertical distance between the underside of the balcony and the closest *unprotected area* in the *external wall* below is less than 5.0 m (see Figure 3.19), balcony barriers shall:
 - i) have no openings, and
 - ii) be protected with a material having a *Group Number* of no greater than 2, and

Comment:

See Verification Method C/VM2 Appendix A for method of assigning the *Group Number*.

- d) The *escape height* is no greater than:
 - i) 10 m if unsprinklered, or
 - ii) 25 m if sprinklered, and
- e) In *buildings* with two or more floors, the vertical *safe path* is preceded by a *smoke lobby* on all floors except the topmost floor (refer to Paragraph 3.9.2 for sizing of the *smoke lobby*), and
- f) There are no more than 2 *basement* levels below ground and the vertical *safe path* from the *basement* levels is preceded by a *smoke lobby* (see Figure 3.11).

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3.15 Doors subdividing escape routes

Door closers and latching

3.15.1 Except as permitted by Paragraph 3.15.7 (revolving doors, automatic doors and access control systems), doors on *escape routes* shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) They shall be hinged or pivoted on one vertical edge only, except that sliding doors may be used where the space, including an *exitway*, has an *occupant load* of less than 20. Roller shutter doors or tilt doors shall not be used as *escape route* width except in an intermittently *occupied space* where the roller shutter door is the only *access route* and is open at all times the space is occupied, and

- b) *Fire* and *smoke control doors* shall be self-closing, and the self-closing device shall either be:
 - i) active at all times, or
 - ii) activated by releasing a *hold-open device* in response to operation of a smoke detector (see Paragraph 3.15.10), or
 - iii) a self-closer that is activated by operation of a smoke detector but allows the door to swing freely at other times. The smoke detector requirements shall be the same as for a *hold-open device* (see Paragraph 3.15.10), and
- c) If such doors are required to be secure, they shall be fitted with simple fastenings that can be readily operated from the direction approached by people making an escape complying with Paragraph 3.15.14, and
- d) They shall not be fitted with any locking devices unless these comply with Paragraph 3.15.2, and
- e) They shall have door handles which satisfy the requirements of Acceptable Solution D1/AS1 for use by *people with disabilities*, and
- f) They shall be *constructed* to ensure that the forces required to open these doors do not exceed those able to be applied:
 - i) with a single hand to release the latch (where fitted), and
 - ii) using two hands to set the door in motion, and
 - iii) using a single hand to open the door to the minimum required width.

Comment:

These requirements are based on the force requirements of Appendix C C6.1.3.

Locking devices

3.15.2 If the *building* is occupied, locking devices shall:

- a) Be clearly visible, located where such a device would be normally expected and, in the event of *fire*, designed to be easily operated without a key or other security device, and allow the door to open in the normal manner.

If the operation of a locking device is unusual, such as the pressing of a button close to the door, it shall have signage that complies with NZBC F8.3.1, and

Comment:

Examples of unacceptable locking or security devices are card access and keypad locks that are not interfaced with the *fire* alarm and detection systems.

- b) Not prevent or override the direct operation of panic fastenings fitted to any door
- c) If they are of an electromechanical type, they shall, in the event of a power failure or door malfunction, either:
 - i) automatically switch to the unlocked (fail-safe) condition, or
 - ii) be readily opened by an alternative method satisfying the requirements of Paragraph 3.15.2 a), and
- d) Not prevent people in vertical *safe paths* from entering other floors.

Comment:

One way of ensuring compliance with Paragraph 3.15.2 is to develop a *building* management plan.

A *building* management plan procedure should be approved by the *building consent authority* and should include a provision to ensure that all *escape route* doors are unlocked when anybody is lawfully in the *building*.

This Acceptable Solution does not prevent *owners*, for security purposes, from locking *escape route* doors when the *building* is unoccupied.

People escaping down a stair have to be able to move from one stair to another via a horizontal *safe path* corridor so that, if one stair becomes smoke-logged or unusable for any other reason, people can continue their escape along an alternative route. If the stair is a single means of escape, people will still need to move out of the stair and wait for rescue by emergency services within the floor.

Direction of opening

3.15.3 Doors on *escape routes* shall be hung to open in the direction of escape. However, this is not required if the number of occupants of spaces with egress using the door is no greater than 50. If escape may be in either direction, doors shall swing both ways. For manual sliding doors, see Paragraph 3.15.1.

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Degree and width of opening

3.15.5 Doors on *escape routes* (see Figure 3.22) shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) In *open paths*, provide an unobstructed opening width of no less than 760 mm and, when multi-leaf, have no single leaf less than 500 mm wide. The minimum door opening width may be reduced to 600 mm if it is not required to be an *accessible route*, and
- b) Within *exitways* (including entry and *final exit* doors), reduce the minimum *exitway* width required by Paragraph 3.3 by no more than the 125 mm allowed under Paragraph 3.3.6 d) to:
 - i) 725 mm into horizontal *safe paths*, or
 - ii) 875 mm within horizontal *safe paths* and in vertical *safe paths*, and
- c) Open no less than 90°, and
- d) Open onto a floor area which:
 - i) extends for a distance of no less than the arc of the door swing, and
 - ii) is at the same level on both sides of the door for the full width of the *escape route*, and

Comment:

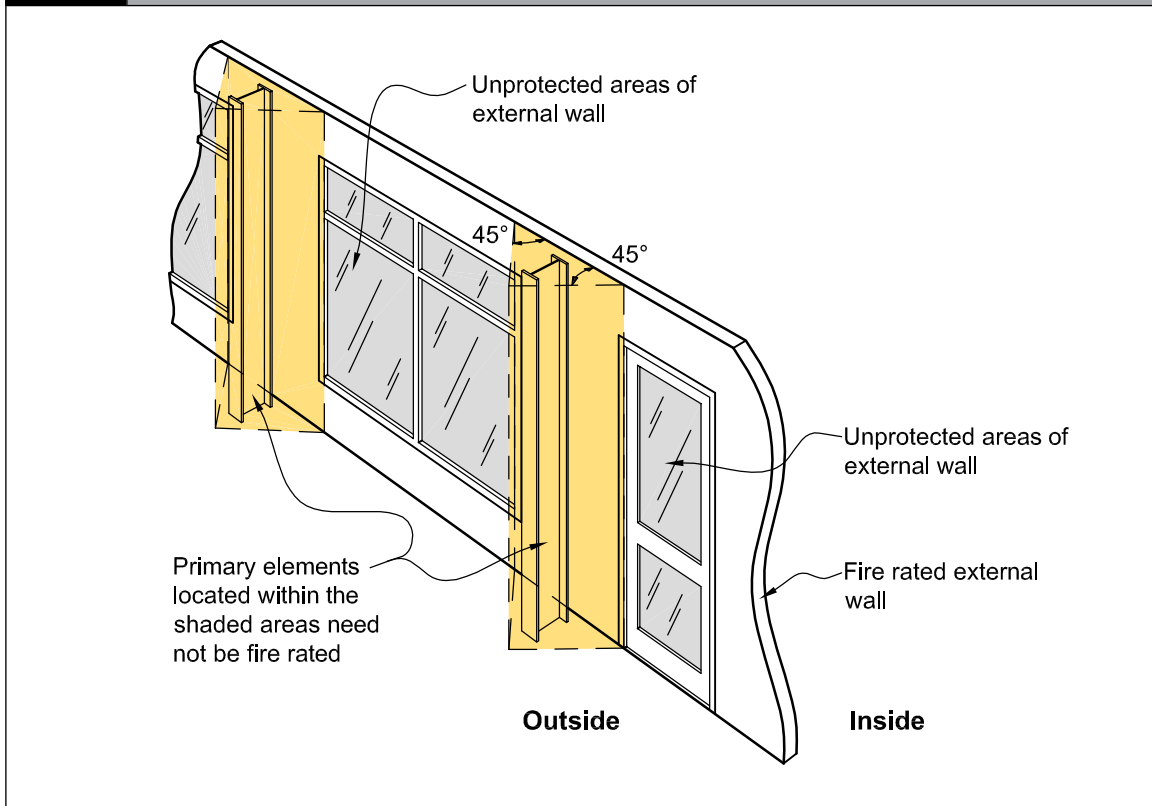
A 20 mm threshold weather-stop is acceptable on external doors (see Acceptable Solution D1/AS1).

- e) When opened, not cause the door swing to obstruct the minimum required width of any *escape route*. For example, doors which open onto a corridor used as an *escape route* shall not obstruct the minimum required width of that *escape route* (see Figure 3.23).

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Figure 4.1 Permissible positioning of unrated primary elements
Paragraph 4.3.3



Providing horizontal stability

4.3.5 *Building elements* required to have an *FRR* shall have their horizontal *stability* provided in one or more of the following ways:

- a) Be cantilevered from a structural base having an *FRR* of no less than that of the *building element* concerned
- b) Be supported within the *firecell* by other *building elements* having an *FRR* no less than that required for the element being supported. The *structural adequacy* and diaphragm action of supporting *building elements* located entirely within a single *firecell* must be assessed when exposed to *fire* from all relevant sides simultaneously
- c) Be supported by *primary elements* outside the *firecell*.

Comment:

It is assumed that *fire* will be restricted to the *firecell* of origin at least for the time required by the *property rating* of the *primary element* concerned.

The *stability* to a beam or *fire separation* may, for example, be provided by beam or diaphragm action of a floor or wall which is rated only for *structural adequacy*.

A *standard test* for *fire resistance* commonly exposes *fire separations* from one side only and may not be a suitable measure for determining the *structural adequacy* of a *building element* when exposed to *fire* from more than one side simultaneously.

4.4. Fire stopping

Introduction

4.4.1 The continuity and effectiveness of *fire separations* shall be maintained around *penetrations*, and in gaps between or within *building elements*, by the use of *fire stops*.

Fire stops

4.4.2 *Fire stops* shall have an *FRR* of no less than that required for the *fire separation* within which they are installed, and shall be tested in accordance with Appendix C C5.1.

4.4.3 *Fire stops* and methods of installation shall be identical to those of the prototype used in tests to establish their *FRR*.

4.4.4 The material selected for use as *fire stops* shall have been tested for the type and size of the gap or *penetration*, and for the type of material and *construction* used in the *fire separation*.

Comment:

There are many types of *fire stops* (eg, mastics, collars, pillows), each designed to suit specific situations. A *fire stop* is appropriate for a particular application if it passes the test criteria when installed as proposed.

4.4.5 A *fire stop* for a *penetration* is not required to have an *insulation* rating if means are provided to keep *combustible* materials at a distance of 300 mm away from the *penetration* and *fire stop* to prevent ignition.

4.5. Firecell construction

4.5.1 Each of the *building elements* enclosing a *firecell* is permitted to have a different *FRR*, as this rating will depend on the characteristics of the *firecell*, the reason for the *FRR*, and the *risk groups* contained on either side of any *fire separation*.

Comment:

An *FRR* of zero may apply to some walls and most roofs.

4.5.2 Except where *intermediate floors* are permitted, each floor in a multi-storey *building* shall be a *fire separation*.

4.5.3 *Fire and smoke separations* shall have no openings other than:

- a) For closures such as *doorsets*, and
- b) *Penetrations* complying with Paragraph 4.4, and
- c) For glazing permitted by Paragraph 4.2.

4.5.4 *Firecell* and *smokecell* effectiveness shall be maintained by ensuring continuity of *fire and smoke separations* at separation junctions, and around joints where closures, *protected shafts* and *penetrations* occur.

Junctions of fire separations

4.5.5 Where *fire separations* meet other *fire separations* or *fire rated parts of external walls*, they shall either be bonded together or have the junction *fire stopped* over its full length (see Figures 4.2 and 4.3).

4.5.6 Where one *fire separation* is a wall and the other a floor, the wall/floor junction shall be *constructed* with the *FRR* required for the higher rated element.

Junctions with roof

4.5.7 Vertical *fire separations* and *external walls* shall either:

- a) Terminate as close as possible to the external roof cladding and *primary elements* providing roof support, with any gaps fully *fire stopped* (see Figures 4.2 and 4.3), or
- b) Extend not less than 450 mm above the roof to form a parapet.

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4.13 Floors

4.13.1 Floors in *buildings* shall be *fire separations* (see Figure 4.6) except if any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) The floor is an *intermediate floor* within a *firecell* (see Paragraph 4.13.4 for the *FRR* requirement), or
- b) The floor is the lowest floor above an unoccupied subfloor space, and complies with Paragraph 4.14.1.

4.13.2 Floors only need to be rated from the underside (see Figure 4.6). The *FRR* of a floor shall be that rating applicable to the *firecell* directly below the floor.

Intermediate floors

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4.13.4 *Intermediate floors* and stairs used as access and their supporting *primary elements* within the *firecell* shall have *FRRs* of at least 30 minutes.

4.13.5 *Intermediate floors* shall satisfy the following conditions:

- a) If there are two or more separate *intermediate floors*, the levels of those floors above the *firecell* floor differ by no more than 1.0 m, and
- b) The total combined *occupant load* on the *intermediate floors* is not greater than 100, and
- c) The total combined area of the *intermediate floors* is no greater than specified in Paragraph 4.13.6.

4.13.6 For occupancies other than warehouses with storage height over 3.0 m, the total combined area of the *intermediate floors* within the *firecell* shall be the lowest of:

- a) 20% of the area of the *firecell* floor, not including the area of the *intermediate floors* if the *intermediate floors* are enclosed or partitioned or

- b) 40% of the area of the *firecell* floor, not including the area of the *intermediate floors* if the *intermediate floors*:

- i) are completely open, or
- ii) if enclosed or partitioned, a Type 4 system is installed, or

- c) The area that allows up to 100 occupants on the *intermediate floors* based upon the occupant density of the space in accordance with Paragraph 1.4.

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Comment:

The smaller (20%) floor area is a concession for spaces used essentially for storage with a low *occupant density*.

Firecells containing *intermediate floors* require the same *fire safety* precautions as single level *firecells* having the same total *occupant load* and *escape height*. Examples of *buildings* having *intermediate floors* which could meet these requirements are:

- Factories and warehouses.
- Offices.

As 100 occupants is the maximum *occupant load* of an *intermediate floor* (depending on the activity on that floor), the area of that floor cannot exceed that necessary to accommodate 100 persons.

4.13.7 *Intermediate floors* in warehouses capable of storage at a height of more than 3.0 m shall be limited to an area of 35 m².

Gantries, walkways and similar structures

4.13.8 Intermittently occupied structures such as walkways, ladders, flytowers and gantries that are not used by the public are not required to be *fire* rated provided no more than 10 persons have access concurrently.

Basement floors

4.13.9 *Basement firecells* shall be separated from one another, and from the lowest *firecell* above ground level, by *fire separations* having *FRRs* in accordance with Paragraph 2.3.

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4.14 Subfloor spaces

4.14.1 In buildings with an unoccupied subfloor space between the ground and lowest floor (see Figure 4.8), the *FRR* of that floor shall be in accordance with Paragraph 2.3, except that no *FRR* is required if the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) Vertical *fire separations* and *external walls* extend down to ground level and enclose the space, and
- b) Access is available only for intermittent servicing of plumbing, drainage or other static services, and

- c) The space is not used for storage and does not contain any installation such as machinery or heating appliances which could create a *fire hazard*, except when *fire separated* from the rest of the subfloor space.

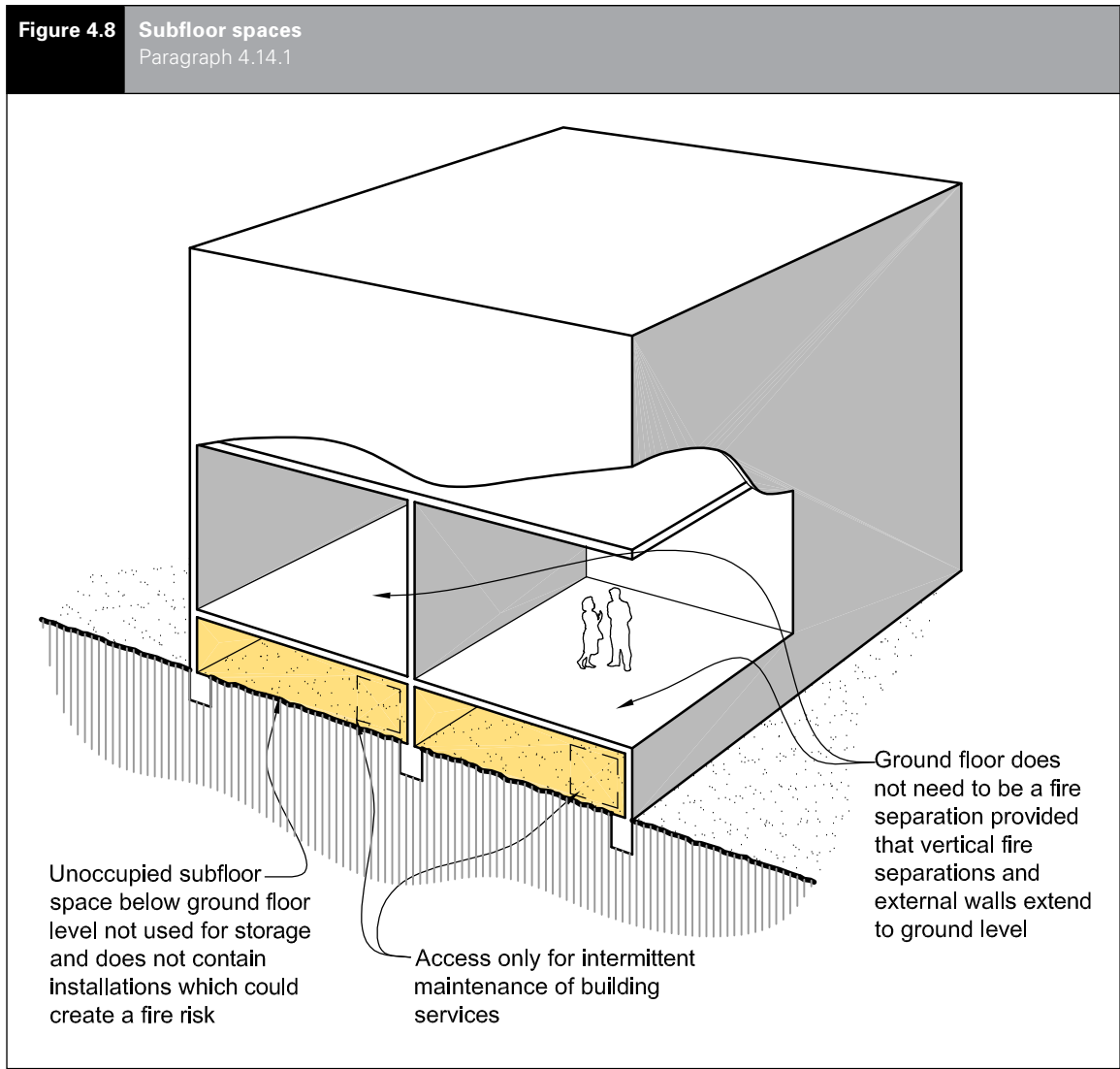


Figure 4.10 Curtain wall
Paragraphs 4.15.3 and 5.7.14

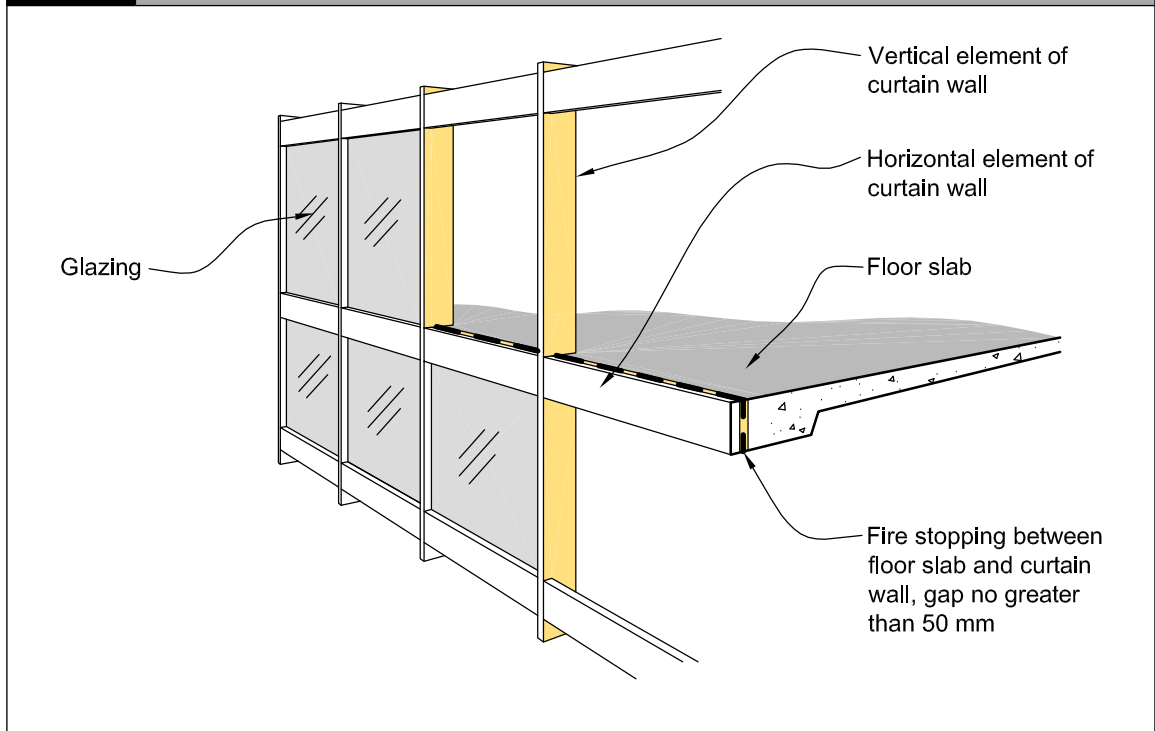
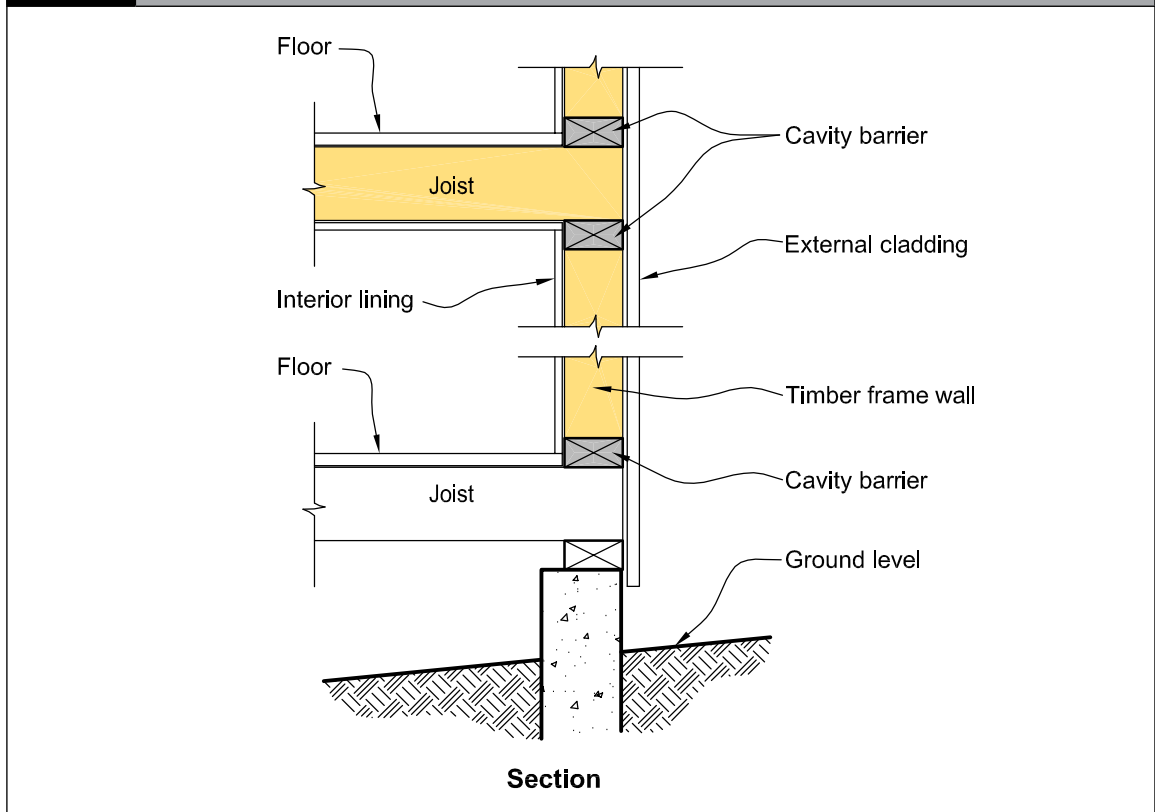


Figure 4.11 Hollow construction
Paragraph 4.15.3



Cavity barrier construction**4.15.5** *Cavity barriers* shall:

- a) Not reduce the *FRR* required for the element within which they are installed
- b) Where practical, be tightly fitted and mechanically fixed to rigid *construction*, but if this is not possible gaps shall be *fire stopped*, and
- c) Be fixed in a way that avoids impairment of their *fire separation* function as a result of:
 - i) *building* movement due to subsidence, shrinkage or thermal change, or
 - ii) collapse or failure of their components or fixings, or of abutting materials and any *penetrations* during a *fire*.

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4.15.8 THIS PARAGRAPH DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

- a) An *FRR* of *-/60/30 sm* if unsprinklered (except as permitted by Paragraphs 4.16.11 and 4.16.12), or
- b) An *FRR* of *-/30/- sm* if sprinklered.

Comment:

sm indicates that the closure performs as part of a *smoke separation*. See Paragraph 4.16.2 b) for doors in *smoke separations* and Paragraph 4.16.10 for access panels.

4.16.2 *Doorsets* which are required to be:

- a) *Fire doors* shall comply with Appendix C C6.1.1
- b) *Smoke control doors* shall, except as allowed by Paragraph 4.16.3, comply with Appendix C C6.1.2, and
- c) *Fire doors* with smoke control capability shall comply with both a) and b).

Comment:

Smoke seals may be of the brush type and need not incorporate intumescent material. However, intumescent seals may be required if the door is also a *fire door*.

4.16.3 *Doorsets* installed in *fire separations* between *firecells* and vertical *safe paths* or *protected shafts* shall have smoke seals on all edges, except that smoke seals may be omitted:

- a) At the sill of *doorsets*, and
- b) For lifts, if either:
 - i) the *firecell* is sprinklered and has an automatic smoke detection system, or
 - ii) a *smokecell* is placed between the doors and the rest of the *firecell*, other than when the lift shaft is permitted to be in the vertical *safe path*.

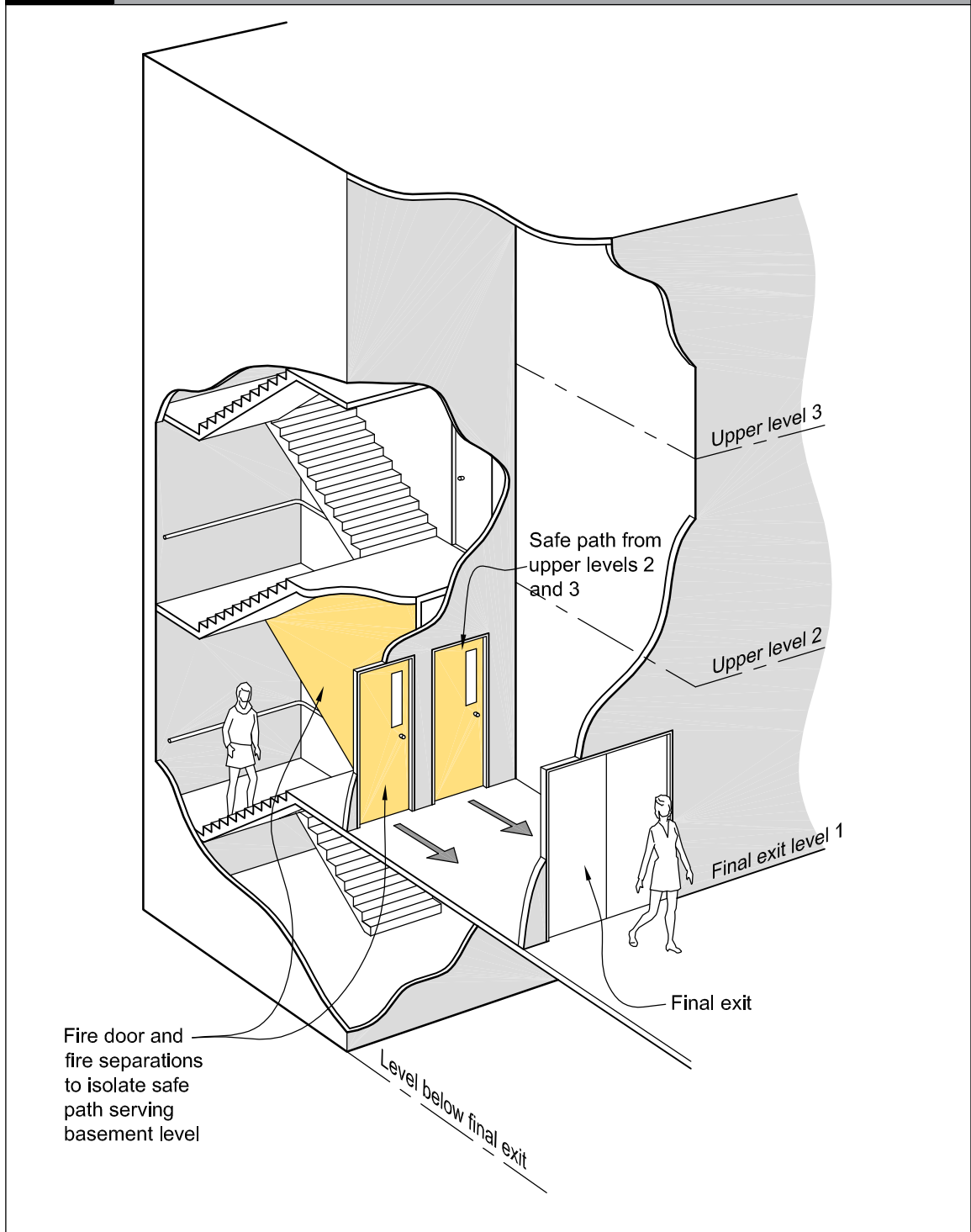
Fire door and smoke control door installation

4.16.4 *Fire doors* and *smoke control doors* shall be installed in accordance with Paragraph 3.15.

4.16 Closures in fire and smoke separations**Introduction**

4.16.1 If activities within a *building* require openings in *fire* or *smoke separations* (eg, for the passage of people, goods or services or for light), closures to those openings shall have the *fire* resistance and smoke control performance as follows:

Figure 4.16 Fire doors to separate floors above and below final exit level
Paragraph 4.16.9 d)

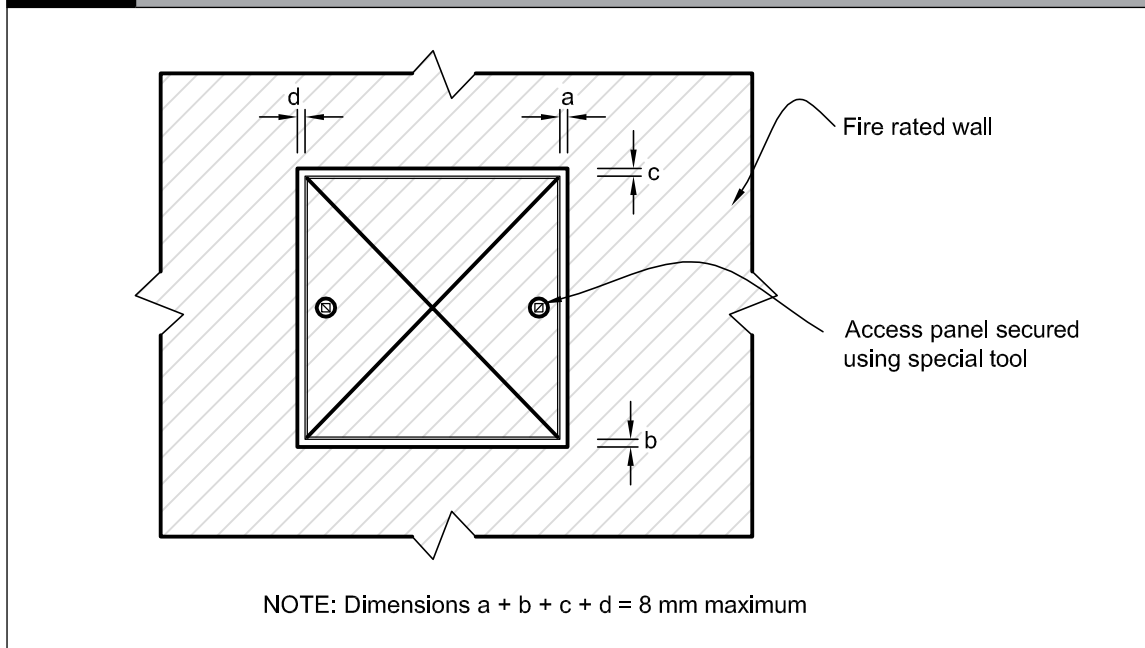


Protected shaft access panels

4.16.10 Access panels to *protected shafts* shall have the *fire* resistance performance as required by Paragraph 4.16.1 and shall:

- Be capable of being opened only with a special tool, and
- If smoke seals cannot be provided, be tight-fitting with a maximum total gap of 8 mm around the panel (see Figure 4.17).

Figure 4.17 Access panels
Paragraph 4.16.10



Lift landing doors

4.16.11 Other than where Paragraph 3.10.3 for a passenger lift within a vertical *safe path* applies, *doorsets* for lift landing doors opening into lift shafts which are *protected shafts* shall be *fire doors* complying with Paragraphs 4.16.1 to 4.16.3 except that an *insulation* rating is not required. Lift landing doors need not be *fire* rated from the shaft side.

Fire dampers

4.16.12 Unless fully enclosed by *construction* with an *FRR* of no less than that required for the *fire separation*, any air duct passing through a *fire separation* shall be equipped with a *fire damper* which, in the event of duct failure or collapse due to *fire*, closes the opening through

the separation. The *fire damper* shall have an *FRR* of no less than that of the *fire separation*, except that the *damper blade* is not required to have:

- An *insulation* rating if means to prevent *combustible* materials being placed closer than 300 mm to the the *fire damper* and air duct are provided, or
- A *structural adequacy* rating.

The *fire damper* shall be capable of being readily accessed for servicing.

Comment:

Fire dampers are not effective in stopping smoke and are not required in *smoke separations*. Smoke control in ducts is effected by smoke control devices in the air handling system. (See Paragraph 4.18.)

Fire shutters

4.16.13 If a floor has a service opening (eg, for stairs, a conveyor, forklift access or similar installation) which is not used as part of an *escape route* and which is fitted with a *fire shutter*, the floor may be treated as a *fire separation*.

4.16.14 The *fire shutter* shall be automatically activated by a signal from a smoke detector.

4.16.15 A *fire shutter* shall include a device to retard the rate of closing to no more than 150 mm per second.

4.17 Interior surface finishes, floor coverings and suspended flexible fabrics

Surface finish requirements for walls, ceilings, ducts and insulation

4.17.1 *Surface finish* requirements shall be as specified in Table 4.1.

Foamed plastics and exposed combustible insulating materials

4.17.2 If *foamed plastics building materials* or exposed *combustible insulating materials* form part of a wall, ceiling or roof system, the complete system shall achieve a *Group Number* as specified in Table 4.1 and the *foamed plastics* shall comply with the flame propagation criteria as specified in AS 1366 for the material being used. This requirement does not apply to *building elements* listed in Paragraph 4.17.6.

Comment:

The completed system may or may not include a surface lining product enclosing any insulation material from any adjacent *occupied space*. If a surface lining is not included, then the *foamed plastics* or *combustible insulating materials* when tested alone shall achieve a *Group Number* of 3, otherwise a surface lining is also required such that the completed system achieves a *Group Number* of 3. This paragraph applies to *foamed plastics building materials* whether exposed to view from the *occupied space* or enclosed.

Flooring

4.17.3 Flooring shall be either *non-combustible* or, when tested to ISO 9239-1, shall have a critical radiant flux of not less than that specified in Table 4.2.

4.17.4 Paragraph 4.17.3 shall apply to flexible finishes such as carpets, vinyl sheet or tiles, and to finished or unfinished floor surfaces.

Table 4.1		Surface finish requirements			
	<i>Exitways</i> All <i>occupied spaces</i> in importance level 4 <i>buildings</i>	All other <i>occupied spaces</i>	Ducts for HVAC systems: internal surfaces	Ducts for HVAC systems: external surfaces	Acoustic treatment and pipe insulation within air handling plenum
	Maximum permitted <i>Group Number</i>				
Unsprinklered	1S	3	1S	3	3
Sprinklered	2	3	2	3	3

Comment:

The method for assigning the *Group Number* to a material and for establishing the smoke production rate is specified in Verification Method C/VM2 Appendix A. Particular note should be made of the requirements for ducts. There are also instances of certain *surface finishes* being assigned *Group Numbers* without evaluation e.g. films and paint coatings.

Table 4.2 Critical radiant flux requirements for flooring		
Area of building	Minimum critical radiant flux when tested to ISO 9239-1	
	Buildings not protected with a fire sprinkler system	Buildings protected with a fire sprinkler system
Exitways in all buildings	2.2 kW/m ²	2.2 kW/m ²
Firecells accommodating more than 50 people	2.2 kW/m ²	1.2 kW/m ²
All other occupied spaces	1.2 kW/m ²	1.2 kW/m ²

Wood and wood products in floors

4.17.5 In any *firecell* which has a *firecell* below, the flooring may be of wood products (wood products include boards manufactured from wood fibres or chips bound by an adhesive) provided it has either a thickness of no less than 20 mm, or the floor assembly has an *FRR* of -/30/30 when exposed to *fire* from the flooring side.

Exceptions to surface finish requirement

4.17.6 *Surface finish* requirements do not apply to:

- Small areas of non-conforming product within a *firecell* with a total aggregate surface area of not more than 5.0 m²
- Electrical switches, outlets, cover plates and similar small discontinuous areas
- Pipes and cables used to distribute power or services
- Handrails* and general decorative trim of any material such as architraves, skirtings and window components, including reveals, provided these do not exceed 5% of the surface area of the wall or ceiling they are part of
- Damp-proof courses*, seals, caulking, flashings, thermal breaks and ground moisture barriers

f) Timber joinery and structural timber *building elements constructed* from solid wood, glulam or laminated veneer lumber. This includes heavy timber columns, beams, portals and shear walls not more than 3.0 m wide, but does not include exposed timber panels or permanent formwork on the underside of floor/ceiling systems

g) Individual *doorsets*, and

h) Continuous areas of permanently installed openable wall partitions having a surface area of not more than 25% of the divided room floor area or 5.0 m², whichever is less.

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j) DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

4.17.7 THIS PARAGRAPH DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK.

Suspended flexible fabrics

4.17.8 When tested to AS 1530 Part 2, suspended flexible fabrics shall, within all *occupied spaces* including *exitways*:

- Have a *flammability index* of no greater than 12, and
- When used as underlay to roofing (whether or not the space is sprinklered) or exterior cladding that is exposed to view, have a *flammability index* of no greater than 5.

Membrane structures

4.17.9 The fabric of structures such as tents, marquees or canopies shall be tested to AS 1530 Part 2 and shall achieve a *flammability index* of no greater than 12.

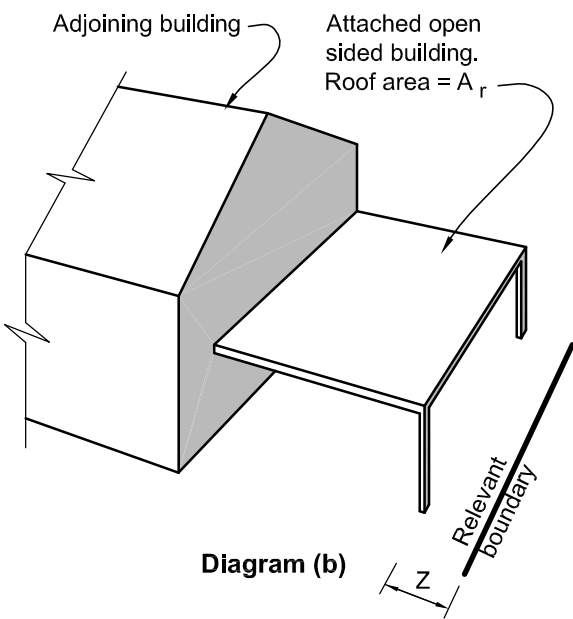
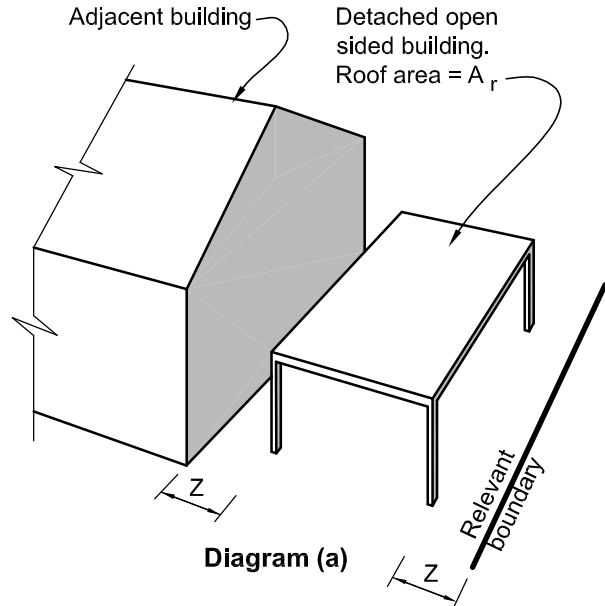
4.17.10 The requirements for membrane structures need not apply to small *occupant loads* such as camping tents and horticultural applications.

Air ducts

4.17.11 Where air ducts are contained wholly within a *protected shaft*, provided the shaft does not also contain lifts, only the interior *surface finish* of the air duct is required to comply with Table 4.1.

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Figure 5.5 Open sided buildings – distance and FRR requirements
Paragraph 5.6.6



Separation distances for non-fire rated construction

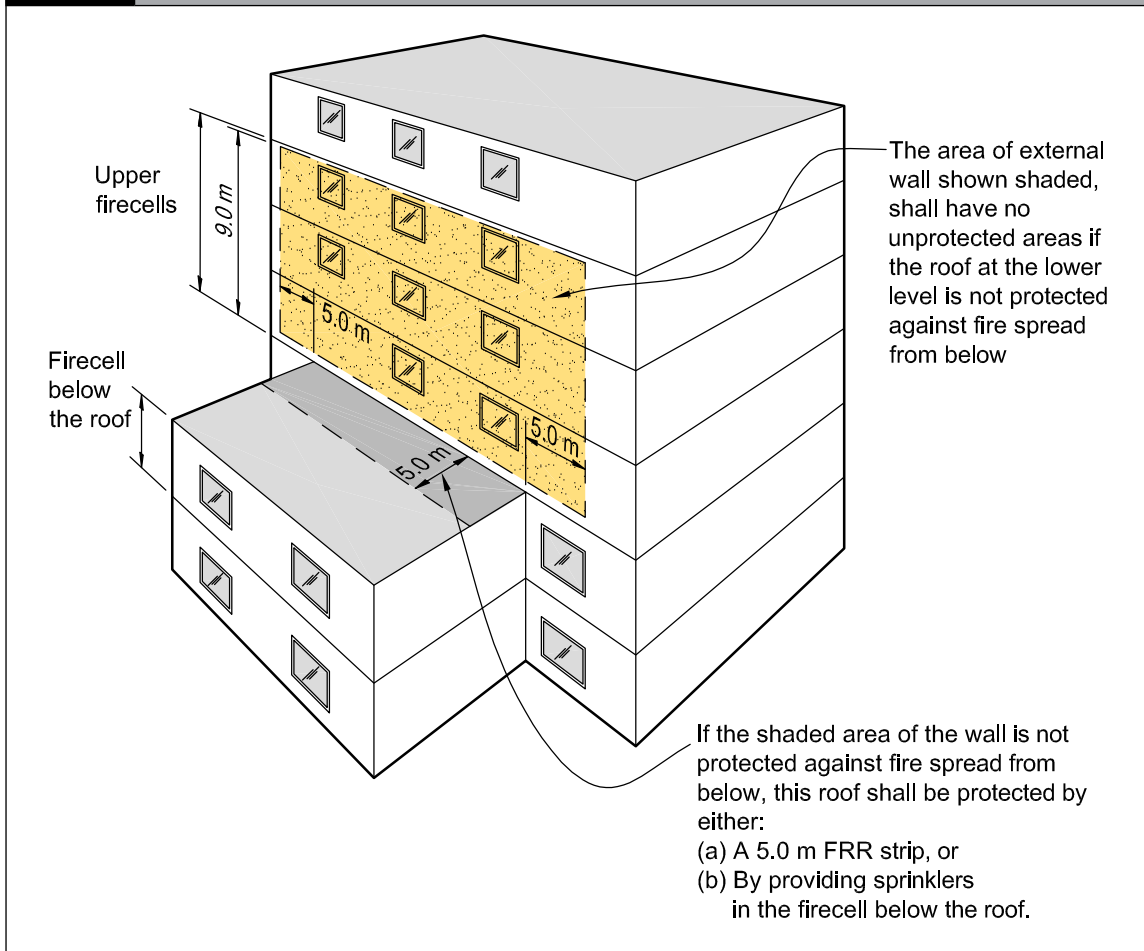
When A_r is no greater than 40 m², 'Z' shall be no less than 0.3 m.
When A_r exceeds 40 m², 'Z' shall be no less than 3.0 m.

NOTES:

1. This figure applies only to single storey open sided buildings.
2. In all cases at least two sides of the perimeter wall shall be completely open to the environment.

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Figure 5.6 External walls and roof, vertical fire spread
Paragraphs 5.7.7 and 5.7.9.



5.7.8 Roof protection shall be achieved by:

- a) Providing sprinklers throughout the building, or
- b) Constructing that part of the roof within 5.0 m horizontally of the wall, with an FRR in accordance with Paragraph 2.3. of the firecell below the roof.

5.7.9 External wall protection above an adjacent lower roof shall be provided by constructing the critical part of the wall (closer to the roof than 9.0 m vertically or 5.0 m horizontally (see Figure 5.6)) with an FRR in accordance with Paragraph 2.3.

External fire spread between different levels of the same building

5.7.10 Except where firecells are sprinklered, unprotected areas in external walls shall be protected against vertical fire spread where any of the following conditions occur:

- a) Firecells containing sleeping risk groups or exitways have an escape height of 10 m or more, or
- b) DELIBERATLY LEFT BLANK
- c) Firecells containing other property are located one above the other.

Part 7: Prevention of fire occurring

CONTENTS

- 7.1 Solid fuel appliances
- 7.2 Gas-burning appliances
- 7.3 Oil-fired appliances
- 7.4 Downlights
- 7.5 Open fires

The design, *construction* and/or installation of certain types of fixed appliances using controlled combustion and other fixed equipment is specified as follows.

7.1 Solid fuel appliances

7.1.1 AS/NZS 2918, with the modifications given in Paragraph 7.1.2, is an Acceptable Solution for the installation of :

- a) Domestic solid fuel burning appliances, installed in either domestic or commercial situations, and
- b) *Flue systems*.

A normative Appendix is an integral part of this Standard

7.1.2 Modifications to AS/NZS 2918

Delete Paragraph 3.8 and substitute the following:

“3.8 Seismic restraint

The appliance and the floor protector shall be mechanically fixed to the floor itself.

The test seismic force shall be taken as the application of a horizontal force equal to 0.40 times the appliance weight acting in any direction at the mid-height of the combustion chamber. The appliance shall not move, tilt or be dislodged from its installed position during the application of the test force.

The weight of the flue system and a wetback, if fitted, shall not be included in the test.”

Delete Section 7 and substitute the following:

“7.1 Ventilation

Ventilation shall be in accordance with Acceptable Solution G4/AS1.

7.2 Water heating equipment

Water heating appliances installed in conjunction with the heating appliance shall be vented and shall comply with Acceptable Solution G12/AS1.”

7.2 Gas-burning appliances

7.2.1 For gas-burning appliances AS/NZS 5601.1 sections 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 and Appendix H are Acceptable Solutions for the *construction* and installation of *flues* and sections 5.11, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.10 are Acceptable Solutions for the installation of appliances, with the modifications given in Paragraph 7.2.2.

7.2.2 Modifications to AS/NZS 5601.1

Delete paragraph 6.2.11 and substitute the following:

“6.2.11 Seismic restraint

Seismic restraint of appliances installed in buildings shall be designed in accordance with B1/VM1 Paragraphs 2.0 and 13.0.”

Add a Note to 6.4 as follows:

“Ventilation requirements are contained in Acceptable Solution G4/AS1. The ventilation requirements of this Standard may exceed the performance requirements of NZBC G4.”

Delete “CSIRO durability Class 2 or better” from Paragraph 3.1.2 (b) and substitute “H5 treatment”.

Delete the Note to Paragraph 3.1.2 (d).

Delete Paragraph 3.1.4 and substitute the following:

“3.1.4 Stability

The appliance shall be mechanically fixed to the building.

The test seismic force on the fuel tank shall be taken as the application of a horizontal force in kilograms numerically equal to 0.40 times the tank volume in litres acting at the centre of the tank. The test seismic force on the appliance shall be taken as the application of a horizontal force equal to 0.40 times the appliance operating weight acting at the centre of the appliance.

The appliance and the fuel tank shall resist their respective seismic forces with no significant movement.”

Delete the words “without specific approval” from Paragraph 3.2.8 (b).

Delete Paragraph 5.1.1.

Add Note to 5.2.2:

“Note: Refer to Acceptable Solution G4/AS1 for ventilation requirements.”

7.3.3 AS/NZS 2918 Sections 2 and 4 are also Acceptable Solutions for the installation of *flues* for domestic oil-fired appliances.

7.4 Downlights

7.4.1 Recessed luminaires shall be installed with clearances from *building elements* including insulation of 100 mm.

Comment:

The requirement for a clearance of 100 mm from recessed luminaires also applies when installing or replacing insulation where recessed luminaires are present.

7.3 Oil-fired appliances

7.3.1 AS 1691, with the modifications given in Paragraph 7.3.2, is an Acceptable Solution for the installation of domestic oil-fired appliances.

7.3.2 Modifications to AS 1691

Delete Paragraph 2.2.3 and substitute the following:

“2.2.3 Electrical equipment.

Electrical equipment shall comply with Acceptable Solution G9/AS1 or Verification Method G9/VM1.”

Appendix B (normative): Fire sprinkler systems

B1.1 Introduction

B1.1.1 Wherever sprinklers are required by this Acceptable Solution, they shall comply with the relevant New Zealand Standard, amended as shown in Paragraphs B2.1 and B3.1.

B2.1 Automatic fire sprinkler systems

B2.1.1 NZS 4541 is amended as follows:

Clause 103 Definitions

Sprinkler system A system including:

- (a) to (i) No change.
- (j) Delete.
- (k) Delete.
- (l) No change.

Clause 205 Delete entire clause.

Clause 209 Delete entire clause.

Clause 1203 Routine Surveys

Clause 1203.1 Delete first two paragraphs and replace with:

“It is important that a sprinkler system at all times complies with this Standard as amended by Paragraph B2.1 of Appendix B to C/AS5 in all respects. To ensure that building alterations, changes in process or storage patterns or progressive deterioration of system components do not prejudice system compliance, a comprehensive survey shall be carried out biennially at intervals not exceeding 28 months. Such surveys shall be carried out by an independent qualified person.”

B3.1 Residential fire sprinkler systems

B3.1.1 NZS 4515 is amended as follows:

Clause 1.5 Definitions

Sprinkler system A system including:

- (a) to (g) No change.
- (h) Delete.

Clause 1.11 Delete entire clause.

Clause 2.1.2 Delete.

Clause 2.1.3 Delete.

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Appendix C (normative): Test methods

C1.1 General

This Appendix contains test methods for confirming that specific *building elements* satisfy relevant provisions of the Acceptable Solutions for Protection from Fire. It includes both established *standard tests* and other test methods for *building elements* in situations where *standard tests* are unavailable.

C2.1 Flammability of floor coverings

Materials shall be assigned a critical radiant flux when tested to:

ISO 9239 Reaction to fire tests for flooring – Part 1: Determination of the Burning Behaviour using a radiant heat source.

C3.1 Flammability of suspended flexible fabrics and membrane structures

Materials shall be assigned a *flammability index* when tested to:

AS 1530 Methods for fire tests on building materials and structures – Part 2: Test for flammability of materials.

C4.1 Properties of lining materials

C4.1.1 Combustibility test

Materials shall be classified as *non-combustible* or *combustible* when tested to:

AS 1530 Methods for fire tests on building materials and structures – Part 1: Combustibility test for materials

C4.1.2 Material for internal surface linings shall be given a *Group Number* in accordance with Appendix A of C/VM2 and tested to either:

ISO 5660 Reaction-to-fire tests
Part 1 Heat release rate (cone calorimeter method), and
Part 2 Smoke production rate (dynamic method), or

ISO 9705 Fire tests – Full scale room test for surface products.

C5.1 Fire resistance

C5.1.1 *Primary* and *secondary elements*, closures and *fire stops* shall be assigned a *fire resistance rating (FRR)* when tested to:

- a) AS 1530 Methods for fire tests on building materials and structures – Part 4: Fire resistance tests of elements of building construction, or
- b) NZS/BS 476 Fire tests on building materials and structures – Parts 21 and 22.

C5.1.2 *Fire stops* shall be tested:

- a) In circumstances representative of their use in service, paying due regard to the size of expected gaps to be *fire stopped*, and the nature of the *fire separation* within which they are to be used, and
- b) In accordance with AS 4072: Components for the protection of openings in fire-resistant separating elements – Part 1: Service penetrations and control joints.

C6.1 Fire doors and smoke control doors

C6.1.1 *Fire doors* shall be evaluated in circumstances representative of their use in service, and shall comply with NZS 4520 Fire-resistant doorsets.

Smoke control doors

C6.1.2 A door shall be deemed to be a *smoke control door* if, in addition to the requirements in this Acceptable Solution for *smoke control doors*:

- a) The door is a *fire door* that is fitted with appropriate smoke seals, or if:
- b) It is *constructed* with solid core leaves. Solid timber core leaves, when used, shall have a leaf thickness of no less than 35 mm, and
- c) It is provided with smoke seals as required by this acceptable solution. Smoke seals shall be in continuous contact with the mating element, and located so as to minimise interruption by hardware, and
- d) The frames are constructed of timber, and the jambs are no less than 30 mm thick, and
- e) Any vision panel cut-outs are no less than 150 mm from the leaf edges.

Errata 1
Feb 2013

Amend 2
Dec 2013

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Dec 2013