



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2010-07

To: LA Licensed Architects
LA Licensed Engineers
Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst Secretary/Plan Review, OSFM
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Fire Marshal Enforcement/Emergency Services, OSFM
Stephen Gogreve, Manager, OSFM
Pat Aronstein, Manager, OSFM
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From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: December 3, 2010

RE: MECHANICAL PLATFORMS

A core chapter provision of NFPA 101 requires an EXIT on every STORY used exclusively for mechanical equipment, unless there are at least two remote means of egress.

The occupancy chapter provisions of NFPA 101 prescribes a more restrictive condition for low or ordinary hazard industrial occupancies of not less than one EXIT from every STORY or SECTION, unless the EXIT can be reached (on another story) within the common path of travel permitted.

As a matter of clarification, this office provides the following definitions:

"MECHANICAL PLATFORM"

A normally unoccupied space, other than a utility chase, that is not within an INDUSTRIAL OCCUPANCY and that is used exclusively for electrical, mechanical, or plumbing equipment and does not exceed 1/3 of the floor area served by such equipment.

"EXIT FLOOR"

The nearest story containing EXITS for MECHANICAL PLATFORM egress.

A general requirement of NFPA 101 states, "*Interstitial spaces used solely for building or process systems directly related to the level above or below shall not be considered a separate story.*" Consideration should be given that a "mechanical platform" is part of the associated level served.

After considering various provisions of NFPA 101 and the penthouse provisions of IBC, the EXIT prescribed for every STORY or SECTION by the industrial occupancy chapter of NFPA 101 shall not be required at "MECHANICAL PLATFORMS", if ALL of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The MECHANICAL PLATFORM is secured from unauthorized access.
2. The MECHANICAL PLATFORM has at least two (2) remotely located means of egress served by components permitted for industrial occupancy, unless the EXIT FLOOR can be reached from any point on the MECHANICAL PLATFORM within the common path of travel permitted for industrial occupancy.
3. The MECHANICAL PLATFORM is occupied for maintenance purposes only.
4. The MECHANICAL PLATFORM is not be occupied by more than three (3) persons at any time.

DZ/FLF

Is Yours Working"??

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!!

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