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4.5 Compartmentation

4.5.1 *General*

a) It is important to limit the spread of a fire in any building. The usual method is to use fire barriers. In some instances these barriers need to be penetrated for ductwork, plumbing and electrical systems, and in such cases, use of passive fire protection measures shall be done so that the integrity of these barriers is not compromised.

b) Floor(s) shall be compartmented with area as given below.

4.5.2 All floors shall be compartmented/zoned with area of each compartment being not more than 750 m^2. The maximum size of the compartment shall be as follows, in case of sprinklered basement/building:

Sl No.	*Use*	*Compartmentation Area* m^2
(1)	(2)	(3)
i)	Basement car parking	3 000
ii)	Basements (other than car parking)	2 000
iii)	Institutional buildings: Subdivision C-1	1 800
iv)	Institutional buildings: Subdivision C-2 and C-3	1 125
v)	Mercantile and assembly buildings	2 000
vi)	Business buildings	3 000
vii)	All other buildings (Excluding low hazard and moderate hazard industrial buildings and storage buildings)[1)]	750

[1)] Compartmentation for low hazard and moderate hazard industrial buildings and storage buildings shall be done in consultation with local fire department.

In addition, there shall be requirement of a minimum of two compartments if the floor plate size is equal or less than the areas mentioned above. However, such requirement of minimum two compartments shall not be required, if the floor plate is less than 750 m^2.

Compartmentation shall be achieved by means of fire barrier having fire resistance rating of 120 min.

4.6 Smoke Control

4.6.1 *Smoke Exhaust and Pressurization of Areas Above Ground*

Corridors in exit access (exit access corridor) are created for meeting the requirement of use, privacy and layout in various occupancies. These are most often noted in hospitality, health care occupancies and sleeping accommodations.

Exit access corridors of guest rooms and indoor patient department/areas having patients lacking self preservation and for sleeping accommodations such as apartments, custodial, penal and mental institutions, etc, shall be provided with 60 min fire resistant wall and 20 min self-closing fire doors along with all fire stop sealing of penetrations.

Smoke exhaust system having make-up air and exhaust air system or alternatively pressurization system with supply air system for these exit access corridors shall be required.

Smoke exhaust system having make-up air and exhaust air system shall also be required for theatres/auditoria.

Such smoke exhaust system shall also be required for large lobbies and which have exit through staircase leading to exit discharge. This would enable eased exit of people through smoke controlled area to exit discharge.

All exit passageway (from exit to exit discharge) shall be pressurized or naturally ventilated. The mechanical pressurization system shall be automatic in action with manual controls in addition. All such exit passageway shall be maintained with integrity for safe means of egress and evacuation. Doors provided in such exit passageway shall be fire rated doors of 120 min rating.

Smoke exhaust system where provided, for above areas and occupancies shall have a minimum of 12 air changes per hour smoke exhaust mechanism. Pressurization system where provided shall have a minimum pressure differential of 25-30 Pa in relationship to other areas.

The smoke exhaust fans in the mechanical ventilation system shall be fire rated, that is, 250°C for 120 min.

For naturally cross-ventilated corridors or corridors with operable windows, such smoke exhaust system or pressurization system will not be required.

4.6.2 *Smoke Exhaust and Pressurization of Areas Below Ground*

Each basement shall be separately ventilated. Vents with cross-sectional area (aggregate) not less than 2.5 percent of the floor area spread evenly round the perimeter of the basement shall be provided in the form of grills, or breakable stall board lights or pavement lights or by way of shafts.

Alternatively, a system of mechanical ventilation system may be provided with following requirements:

a) Mechanical ventilation system shall be designed to permit 12 air changes per hour in case of fire or distress call. However, for

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