

NEW 09' CODE CHANGE AFFECTS ALL MULTI STORY BUILDINGS

The 09' IBC Code 1007.9 and NFPA 101 section 7.2.12.1.1 now require all multi-story buildings to have two-way communications on all floors. NO EXCEPTIONS. In the past, all fully sprinklered and high rise residential buildings had been exempt. The new codes read as follows:

IBC 1007.9 (IFC [B] 1007.9) Two-way communication. A two-way communication system shall be provided at the elevator landing on each accessible floor that is one or more stories above or below the story of exit discharge complying with sections 1007.9.1 and 1007.9.2.

Exceptions:

1. Two-way communication systems are not required at the elevator landing where the two-way communication system is provided within areas of refuge in accordance with Section 1007.6.3.
2. Two-way communication systems are not required on floors provided with exit ramps conforming to the provisions of Section 1010.

1007.9.1 (IFC 1007.9.1) System requirements. Two-way communication systems shall provide communication between each required location and the fire command center or central control point location approved by the fire department. Where the central control point is not constantly attended, a two-way communication system shall have a timed automatic telephone dial-out capability to a monitoring location or 911. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

NFPA 101 Section 7.2.12.1.1

An area of refuge used as part of a required accessible means of egress in accordance with 7.5.4; consisting of a story in a building that is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 9.7; and having an accessible story that is one or more stories above or below a story of exit discharge shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) Each elevator landing shall be provided with a two-way communication system for communication between the elevator landing and the fire command center or a central control point approved by the authority having jurisdiction.
- (2) Directions for the use of the two-way communication system, instructions for summoning assistance via the two-way communication system, and written identification of the location shall be posted adjacent to the two-way communication system.
- (3) The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

7.2.12.1.2 An area of refuge used as part of a required accessible means of egress in accordance with 7.5.4 in other than a building that is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 9.7 shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) The area of refuge shall meet the general requirements of section 7.1.
- (2) The area of refuge shall meet the requirements of 7.2.12.2 and 7.2.12.3

7.2.12.2.5 The area of refuge shall be provided with a two-way communication system for communication between the area of refuge and a central control point.