

*Part Two – Healthcare Codes &
Standards*

Life Safety Code 101

Key Words & Definitions

Jon Cechvala, AIA, NFPA, ASHE

Eppstein Uhen Architects

Jeff Eckstein, AIA, NFPA, ASHE

M.A. Mortenson

Life Safety Code
Key Words & Definitions

Life Safety Code 101

Key Words:

- *Horizontal Exit*
- *Exit Access Corridor*
- *Corridor and Corridor Walls*
- *Extinguishment*
- *Containment*

Life Safety Code 101

Key Words Continued

- *Fire Barrier Wall - Enclosure*
- *Fire Compartment Wall - Enclosure*
- *Fire Resistance Rating*
- *Smoke Barrier – Fire Barrier*
- *Smoke Compartment*
- *Smoke Tight Wall*

Fire Barrier

A continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall or floor assembly that is designed and constructed with a specified fire resistance rating to limit the spread of fire and that also will restrict the movement of smoke. Such barriers might have protected openings.

Fire Compartment

A space, within a building, that is enclosed by fire barriers on all sides, including the top and bottom.

Fire Resistance Rating

The time, in minutes or hours, that materials or assemblies have withstood a fire exposure as established in accordance with the test procedures of NFPA 251, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials*.

Smoke Barrier

A continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall, floor, or ceiling assembly, that is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke. A smoke barrier might not have a fire resistance rating. Such barriers might have protected openings.

Smoke Compartment

A space within a building enclosed by smoke barriers on all sides, including the top and bottom.

Horizontal Exit

A way of passage from one building to an area of refuge in another building on approximately the same level, or a way of passage through or around a fire barrier to an area of refuge on approximately the same level in the same building that affords safety from fire and smoke originating from the area of incidence and areas communicating there-with.

Exit Access Corridor – Exit Passageways

Corridors used as exit access and serving an area having an occupant load shall be separated from other parts of the building by walls having a 1-hour fire resistance rating, ½ hour for Exiting Facilities.

Exit Passageways must extend to the Exterior of the Building

Construction of Corridor Walls (Smoke Tight)

Corridor walls shall form a barrier to limit the transfer of smoke. Such walls shall be permitted to terminate at the ceiling where the ceiling is constructed to limit the transfer of smoke. No fire resistance rating is required for corridor walls.

Extinguishment

Buildings containing health care facilities shall be protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13.

Listed quick response or listed residential sprinklers shall be used throughout smoke compartments containing patient sleeping rooms.

Note: Quick response Heads provide “Life Support”

