

**7511.1031 SECTION 1031, MAINTENANCE OF THE MEANS OF EGRESS.**

Subpart 1. **IFC section 1031.2.** IFC section 1031.2 and subsection 1031.2.1 are amended and subsection 1031.2.3 is added to read as follows:

**1031.2 Reliability.** Required exit accesses, exits, and exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.

**1031.2.1 Security devices and egress locks.** Security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official. Security devices and locking arrangements in the means of egress that restrict, control, or delay egress shall be installed and maintained as required by this chapter or IFC Chapter 11, as amended.

(IFC section 1031.2.2 remains unchanged.)

**1031.2.3 Inspection and testing.** Locking arrangements in the means of egress that restrict, control, or delay egress, including locking arrangements and devices in accordance with Sections 1010.1.9.7 through 1010.1.9.10, shall be tested as follows:

1. The primary release functions shall be tested monthly for operability.
2. Fire alarm and sprinkler system interconnects and other failsafe release functions shall be tested at least annually for operability.
3. Testing shall be done by individuals who can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the operating components of the door being tested.
4. Deficiencies shall be corrected without delay. Written records of inspection and testing shall be kept and available to the fire code official.

Subp. 2. **IFC section 1031.3.** IFC section 1031.3 is amended to read:

**1031.3 Obstructions.** A means of egress shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of snow and ice. Means of egress shall remain free of any material or matter where its presence would obstruct or render the means of egress hazardous. No combustible storage is allowed in corridors or exit stairs.

Subp. 3. **IFC section 1031.7.** IFC section 1031.7 is amended to read:

**1031.7 Emergency escape and rescue openings.** Required emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates, or similar devices are allowed to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with this code and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening.

**Exception:** Window fall protection required by the building code.

Subp. 4. **IFC section 1031.10.2.** IFC section 1031.10.2 is amended to read:

**1031.10.2 Power test.** For battery-powered emergency lighting, a power test of the emergency lighting equipment shall be completed annually. The power test shall operate the emergency lighting for a minimum of 30 minutes. All emergency lighting shall remain sufficiently illuminated for the duration of the test.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 299F.011; 326B.02*

**History:** *32 SR 10; 40 SR 1437; 44 SR 610*

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