



Door Leaf Width

This article examines Chapter 7, Means of Egress, found in the *NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2009 edition*. We will cover some of the changes that have been made under 7.2, **Means of Egress Components**, specifically the 2006 edition paragraphs **7.2.1.2.1** through **7.2.1.2.4** in comparison to the new version under the 2009 edition.

Note: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

7.2.1.2 Door Leaf Width.

7.2.1.2.1* Measurement of Clear Width.

7.2.1.2.1.1 Swinging Door Assemblies. For swinging door assemblies, clear width shall be measured as follows:

1. The measurement shall be taken at the narrowest point in the door opening.
2. The measurement shall be taken between the face of the door leaf and the stop of the frame.
3. For new swinging door assemblies, the measurement shall be taken with the door leaf open 90 degrees.
4. For any existing door assembly, the measurement shall be taken with the door leaf in the fully open position.
5. Projections of not more than 4 in. (100 mm) into the door opening width on the hinge side shall not be considered reductions in clear width, provided that such projections are for purposes of accommodating panic hardware or fire exit hardware and are located not less than 34 in. (865 mm), and not more than 48 in. (1220 mm), above the floor.
6. Projections exceeding 6 ft 8 in. (2030 mm) above the floor shall not be considered reductions in clear width.

7.2.1.2.1.2 Other than Swinging Door Assemblies.

For other than swinging door assemblies, clear width shall be measured as follows:

1. The measurement shall be taken at the narrowest point in the door opening.

2. The measurement shall be taken as the door opening width when the door leaf is in the fully open position.
3. Projections exceeding 6 ft 8 in. (2030 mm) above the floor shall not be considered reductions in clear width.

7.2.1.2.2* Measurement of Egress Capacity Width.

7.2.1.2.2.1 Swinging Door Assemblies. For swinging door assemblies, egress capacity width shall be measured as follows:

1. The measurement shall be taken at the narrowest point in the door opening.
2. The measurement shall be taken between the face of the door leaf and the stop of the frame.
3. For new swinging doors assemblies, the measurement shall be taken with the door leaf open 90 degrees.
4. For any existing door assembly, the measurement shall be taken with the door leaf in the fully open position.
5. Projections not more than 3½ in. (90 mm) at each side of the door openings at a height of not more than 38 in. (965 mm) shall not be considered reductions in egress capacity width.
6. Projections exceeding 6 ft 8 in. (2030 mm) above the floor shall not be considered reductions in egress capacity width.

7.2.1.2.2.2 Other than Swinging Door Assemblies.

For other than swinging door assemblies, egress capacity width shall be measured as follows:

1. The measurement shall be taken at the narrowest point in the door opening.
2. The measurement shall be taken at the door opening width when the door leaf is in the fully open position.
3. Projections not more than 3½ in. (90 mm) at each side of the door openings at a height of not more than 38 in. (965 mm) shall not be considered reductions in egress capacity width.



4. Projections exceeding 6 ft 8 in. (2030 mm) above the floor shall not be considered reductions in egress capacity width.

7.2.1.2.3 Minimum Door Leaf Width.

7.2.1.2.3.1 For purposes of determining minimum door opening width, the clear width in accordance with **7.2.1.2.1** shall be used, unless door leaf width is specified.

7.2.1.2.3.2 Door openings in means of egress shall be not less than 32 in. (810 mm) in clear width, unless one of the following conditions exists:

1. Where a pair of door leaves is provided, one door leaf shall provide not less than a 32 in. (810 mm) clear width opening.
2. Exit access door assemblies serving a room not exceeding 70 ft² (6.5 m²) and not required to be accessible to persons with severe mobility impairments shall be not less than 24 in. (610 mm) in door leaf width.
3. Door openings serving a building or portion thereof not required to be accessible to persons with severe mobility impairments shall be permitted to be 28 in. (710 mm) in door leaf width.
4. In existing buildings, the existing door leaf width

shall be not less than 28 in. (710 mm).

5. Door openings in detention and correctional occupancies, as otherwise provided in Chapters 22 and 23, shall not be required to comply with 7.2.1.2.3.
6. Interior door openings in dwelling units as otherwise provided in Chapter 24 shall not be required to comply with 7.2.1.2.3.
7. A power-operated door leaf located within a two-leaf opening shall be exempt from the minimum 32 in. (810 mm) single-leaf requirement in accordance with 7.2.1.9.1.5.
8. Revolving door assemblies, as provided in 7.2.1.10, shall be exempt from the minimum 32 in. (810 mm) width requirement.
9. *Where a single door opening is provided for discharge from a stairway required to be a minimum of 56 in. (1420 mm) wide in accordance with 7.2.2.2.1.2(B), and such door assembly serves as the sole means of exit discharge from such stairway, the clear width of the door opening, measured in accordance with 7.2.1.2.2, shall be not less than two-thirds the required width of the stairway.

To acquire CEP points, answer the following questions:

1. At what degree of opening is the egress capacity width measurement taken for new swinging door assemblies?

2. For existing door assemblies, what is the position of the door leaf when the egress capacity width measurement is taken?

3. Where can further explanation for a paragraph with an asterisk (*) be found?

4. Where pairs of doors are provided, one door leaf shall not be less than a 32 inch clear width opening.

- True False



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Door Leaf Width

To acquire CEP points, answer the following questions:

1. At what degree of opening is the egress capacity width measurement taken for new swinging door assemblies?

90 degrees

2. For existing door assemblies, what is the position of the door leaf when the egress capacity width measurement is taken?

Fully open position

3. Where can further explanation for a paragraph with an asterisk (*) be found?

Annex A

4. Where pairs of doors are provided, one door leaf shall not be less than a 32 inch clear width opening.

True



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