With the new edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, the 2009 edition adds provisions to Chapter 7 for electrically controlled egress doors, horizontal-sliding doors, elevator lobby access door locking, and door inspection and maintenance. The criteria of Chapter 7 was expanded to have applicability to all three portions of the means of egress: exit access, exit, and exit discharge.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule beside the paragraph, table, or figure in which the change occurred. These rules are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition. Where one or more complete paragraphs have been deleted, the deletion is indicated by a bullet (•) between the paragraphs that remain.

Chapter 7, means of egress, has had a considerable amount of changes and revisions, including inspection of door openings and electrically controlled egress door assemblies.

**7.2.1.15 Inspection of Door Openings.**

**7.2.1.15.1** Where required by Chapters 11 through 43, door assemblies for which the door leaf is required to swing in the direction of egress travel shall be inspected and tested not less than annually in accordance with 7.2.1.15.2 through 7.2.1.15.8.

**7.2.1.15.2** Fire-rated door assemblies shall be inspected and tested in accordance with NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives.

**7.2.1.15.3** The inspection and testing interval for fire-rated and nonrated door assemblies shall be permitted to exceed 12 months under a written performance-based program in accordance with 5.2.2 of NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives.

**7.2.1.15.4** A written record of the inspections and testing shall be signed and kept for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction.

**7.2.1.15.5** Functional testing of door assemblies shall be performed by individuals who can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the operating components of the type of door being subjected to testing.

**7.2.1.15.6** Door assemblies shall be visually inspected from both sides of the opening to assess the overall condition of the assembly.

**7.2.1.15.7** As a minimum, the following items shall be verified:

1. Floor space on both sides of the openings is clear of obstructions, and door leaves open fully and close freely.
2. Forces required to set door leaves in motion and move to the fully open position do not exceed the requirements in 7.2.1.4.5.
3. Latching and locking devices comply with 7.2.1.5.
4. Releasing hardware devices are installed in accordance with 7.2.1.5.9.1.
5. Door leaves of paired openings are installed in accordance with 7.2.1.5.10.
6. Door closers are adjusted properly to control the closing speed of door leaves in accordance with accessibility requirements.
7. Projection of door leaves into the path of egress does not exceed the encroachment permitted by 7.2.1.4.3.
8. Powered door openings operate in accordance with 7.2.1.9.
9. Signage required by 7.2.1.4.1(3), 7.2.1.5.4, 7.2.1.6, and 7.2.1.9 is intact and legible.
10. Door openings with special locking arrangements function in accordance with 7.2.1.6.
11. Security devices that impede egress are not installed on openings, as required by 7.2.1.5.11.

**7.2.1.15.8** Door openings not in proper operating condition shall be repaired or replaced without delay.
7.2.1.5.5 Electrically Controlled Egress Door Assemblies. Door assemblies in the means of egress shall be permitted to be electrically locked if equipped with approved, listed hardware that incorporates a built-in switch, provided that the following conditions are met:
1. The hardware for occupant release of the lock is affixed to the door leaf.
2. The hardware has an obvious method of operation that is readily operated in the direction of egress.
3. The hardware is capable of being operated with one hand in the direction of egress.

To acquire CEP points, answer the following questions:

1. What chapter(s) in NFPA 101, 2009, addresses the inspection requirements of fire door assemblies?

2. When shall door assemblies that swing in the direction of egress travel be inspected?

3. How are changes from earlier editions indicated in NFPA 101?

4. A door assembly in the means of egress automatically unlocks when power is interrupted.
   - True
   - False

The information presented in this article is highlights from the standard. Users of these documents should consult applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
1. What chapter(s) in NFPA 101, 2009, addresses the inspection requirements of fire door assemblies?
   Chapter 7

2. When shall door assemblies that swing in the direction of egress travel be inspected?
   Not less than annually

3. How are changes from earlier editions indicated in NFPA 101?
   By vertical rule beside the paragraph

4. A door assembly in the means of egress automatically unlocks when power is interrupted.
   □ True □ False

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Door Inspection & Electrically Controlled Egress

To acquire CEP points, answer the following questions: