

Chapter Comm 58

HEALTH CARE, DETENTION AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Subchapter I — Health Care Facilities

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Subchapter I — Health Care Facilities

Part 1 — Scope

Comm 58.001 Scope. (1) GENERAL. The provisions of this subchapter shall apply, on or after the effective date of this section, to the following:

(a) New health care facilities and additions to existing health care facilities;

(b) Alterations and remodeling affecting structural strength, fire hazard, natural lighting or replacement of major equipment. Alterations and remodeling do not include minor repairs necessary for the maintenance of any building or structure. Where buildings are being remodeled or altered, only those components or systems being remodeled or altered shall be made to conform with the rules in effect at the time the remodeling or alteration occurs; and

(c) Change of use where the requirements for the new use are more stringent than those for the previous use.

(2) APPLICATION. (a) The rules of this subchapter are not retroactive unless specifically stated in the individual administrative rule.

(b) The rules of this subchapter do not apply to alterations or remodeling of buildings, constructed prior to the effective date of this paragraph, being undertaken solely for the purpose of obtaining federal certification or state licensure.

(c) Where other sections of chs. Comm 50–64 specify different requirements than those contained in this subchapter, the requirements of this subchapter shall govern.

(3) VARIANCE. Where explicit conformance with the rules of this subchapter is not attained, the department will consider and may grant a variance as specified in s. Comm 50.25. The department will consider the results obtained from nationally recognized evaluation procedures (for example, Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES) as specified in Appendix C of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code 101–1981) in evaluating requests for variance.

Special Note: The purpose of this subchapter is to eliminate conflicting rules between department of commerce and department of health and family services (DHFS). DHFS is involved with the enforcement of the federal requirements for the Title XVIII (Medicare) and Title XIX (Medicaid) programs. Since the basis of the federal program for construction purposes is compliance with the NFPA, 101 Life Safety Code, the rules of this subchapter reflect the rules of the NFPA, 101 Life Safety Code, 1981 edition.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1–1–82; cr. (2) (c), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11–1–82.

Part 2 — General Requirements

Comm 58.01 Class of construction. (1) TWO OR MORE STORIES. Except as provided in par. (d), all health care facilities 2 or more stories in height shall be of fire-resistant type 1 construction as specified in s. Comm 51.03 (1) with the following modifications:

(a) *Floor framing support assemblies.* Floor framing support assemblies shall have a minimum fire-resistant rating of 2 hours.

(b) *Roof assemblies.* Roof assemblies shall have a minimum fire-resistant rating of 1½ hours.

(c) *Exterior bearing walls.* All exterior bearing walls shall have a minimum fire-resistant rating of 3 hours.

(d) Health care facilities up to and including 3 stories in height may be of Type 3 construction if completely protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.

(2) ONE-STORY CONSTRUCTION. (a) *Hospitals.* 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., one story hospitals shall be of type 3 metal

frame protected construction or better as specified in Table 51.03-A with the following specifications:

a. Roof framing assemblies for types 1, 2 and 3 construction shall have a minimum fire-resistive rating of one hour.

b. All exterior bearing walls of type 3 construction shall have a minimum fire-resistive rating of one hour.

2. One story hospitals provided with a complete automatic fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with s. Comm 51.23 may be of type 7, wood frame protected construction or better as specified in Table 51.03-A.

(b) *Nursing homes.* One story nursing homes shall be of type 7 wood frame protected construction or better as specified in Table 51.03-A.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (a) 2., Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) (a), r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (intro.) and cr. (1) (d), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.02 Occupancy separations and hazard enclosures. Occupancies within the scope of this chapter shall be separated from other occupancies or uses in accordance with s. Comm 51.08. Hazards shall be enclosed in accordance with s. Comm 51.08.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (4), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; cr. (5), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86; r. and recr., Register, March, 1991, No. 423, eff. 4-1-91; r. and recr., Register, December, 1995, No. 480, eff. 4-1-96; r. and recr. Register, March, 1997, No. 495, eff. 4-1-97.

Comm 58.03 Windows. (1) **OUTSIDE WINDOWS.** Every habitable room shall be provided with outside windows having a total glazed area of at least 8% of the floor area of the room. The bottom of the window opening in sleeping rooms shall be not more than 36 inches above the floor.

(2) **VENTILATION.** (a) *Where required.* Every patient sleeping room and every habitable room shall have an outside window or outside door located so it can be opened from the inside to permit the venting of products of combustion and to permit any occupant to have direct access to outside air in case of an emergency. Where windows require the use of tools or keys for operation, written approval from the department shall be obtained. The keys or tools shall be accessible to staff and located on each floor having such windows.

(b) *Openable area of outside windows.* The openable area of outside windows shall be equal to at least 4% of the floor area served, except as follows:

1. Rooms intended for occupancy for less than 24 hours, such as those housing obstetrical labor beds, recovery beds, observation beds in emergency department and newborn nurseries;

2. Rooms where persons are forcibly confined, such as psychiatric wards, alcohol and drug abuse areas or other similar areas of protective placement; or

3. Buildings designed with an engineered smoke control system as specified in NFPA 90A, Standard for the Installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilating Systems.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Part 3 - Means of Egress Requirements

Comm 58.04 Required means of egress. (1) **GENERAL.** All required means of egress shall comply with the requirements as specified in s. Comm 51.15, except as modified in this section.

(2) **EXIT DOORS.** (a) *Width.* All exit doors shall be not less than 44 inches and not more than 48 inches in width, except that doors serving enclosed stairways may be a minimum of 36 inches in width.

(b) *Door swing.* A door which is used by 25 persons or less shall not be required to open in the direction of egress.

(c) *Force to open door.* The force required to fully open doors shall not exceed 37 pounds applied to the latch side.

(d) *Door platforms.* The floor on both sides of an exit door, except as specified in s. Comm 51.16 (4) (c), shall be at the same elevation and be level for a distance at least the width of the door, or as specified in s. Comm 52.04.

(3) **EXIT ACCESS DOORS.** (a) *Width.* 1. All exit access doors from hospital and nursing home sleeping rooms; patient or resident use areas; diagnostic and treatment areas, such as x-ray, surgery, or physical therapy; and all doors between these spaces and the required exits shall be at least 44 inches wide.

2. Exit access doors not subject to use by patients, shall be at least 36 inches wide.

(b) *Door swing.* A door which is used by not more than 25 persons shall not be required to open in the direction of egress.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (b), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82.

Comm 58.05 Number and type of exits. (1) **NUMBER.** At least 2 exits, located remote from each other, shall be provided from each floor and fire section of the building.

(2) **TYPE OF EXITS.** (a) At least one exit from each floor or smoke compartment shall be by a door leading directly to a stairway, smokeproof tower, ramp, horizontal exit, exit passageway, or to the outside of the building as specified in this subchapter.

(b) No more than one-half of the required exits shall be horizontal exits.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Comm 58.06 Stairs. (1) **STAIR DETAILS.** All stairs shall comply with the requirements specified in ss. Comm 51.16 and 51.164, except as modified in this section.

(a) All stairways and steps shall conform to the requirements of ss. Comm 51.16 to 51.166, except that steps shall have a rise of not less than 4 inches measured from tread to tread, and treads shall be solid.

(b) Every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the stairway, measured at right angles to the direction of travel. The length of every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the stairway. The length of the landing or platform need not exceed 48 inches.

(c) The aggregate width for stairways shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 58.12.

(2) **ENCLOSURE.** (a) All stairways shall be enclosed as specified in s. Comm 51.18.

(b) Stairways in addition to those required by these rules, need not lead to the outside, but shall comply with the enclosure requirements.

(c) Nonrequired stairways and ramps connecting different levels within the same floor as defined in s. Comm 51.01 (56a) are not required to be enclosed.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (a) and (2) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; r. and recr. (1) (a), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; cr. (2) (c), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1) (a) and (2) (c), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Comm 58.07 Handrails. Handrails shall be provided as specified in s. Comm 51.161, except that handrails protecting the open sides of stairways and ramps shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern designed to prevent the passage of an object with a diameter larger than 6 inches.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.08 Guardrails. Guardrails shall be provided as specified in s. Comm 51.162, except that guardrails shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern designed to prevent the passage of an object with a diameter larger than 6 inches.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.09 Smokeproof towers. Smokeproof stair towers shall comply with the requirements specified in ss. Comm 51.17, 58.04 and 58.06.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.10 Horizontal exits. (1) GENERAL. Horizontal exits shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.19, except as modified in this section.

(2) AREA. At least 30 net square feet per occupant in a facility shall be provided within areas such as corridors, patient rooms, treatment rooms, lounge or dining areas on each side of the horizontal exit for the total number of people in the adjoining compartment.

(3) DOORS. (a) A single door used as a horizontal exit shall serve one direction only, be at least 44 inches wide, swing in the direction of egress and comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 58.21.

(b) A horizontal exit in a corridor 8 feet or more in width serving as a means of egress from both sides of the doorway shall have the opening protected by a pair of swinging doors, arranged to swing in the opposite direction from the other, with each door being at least 44 inches wide.

(c) Center mullions are prohibited.

(d) A vision panel, complying with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.048 and not exceeding 100 square inches, shall be provided in each horizontal exit door. Vision panels shall be set in steel frames and shall be tested as part of the entire rated door assembly.

(4) RESTRICTIONS. If a horizontal exit is used as a smoke barrier it shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 58.30.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.11 Ramps. (1) MINIMUM WIDTH. (a) Interior ramps. Interior ramps shall be a minimum of 44 inches wide, of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail.

(b) Exterior ramps. Exterior ramps shall be a minimum of 48 inches wide of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail.

(2) SLOPE. Ramps shall have a slope of not more than 1 foot of rise in 12 feet of run.

(3) ENCLOSURE. Ramps used as a required means of egress and that connect different floors shall comply with the enclosure requirements for stairways specified in s. Comm 58.06 (2).

(4) LANDINGS AND PLATFORMS. (a) If a door is provided at the top or bottom or both of a ramp, a landing or platform shall be placed between the door and the ramp regardless of the direction of swing of the door.

(b) Every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the ramp, measured at right angles to the direction of travel. The length of every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the ramp, but need not exceed 48 inches.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. (4), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (3), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.12 Capacity of means of egress.

(1) OCCUPANT LOAD. (a) Capacity. The occupant load for which means of egress shall be provided for any floor shall be the maximum number of persons to occupy that floor, but not less than one person for each 120 square feet gross floor area.

(b) Exits serving more than one floor. Where exits serve more than one floor, only the occupant load of each floor considered individually need to be used in computing the capacity of the exits at that floor, provided the exit capacity is not decreased in the direction of exit travel.

(2) REQUIRED EXIT WIDTH. (a) Units of exit width. The required exit width shall be measured in units of exit width of 22 inches. Fractions of a unit less than 12 inches shall not be counted. Fractions of a unit 12 inches or more, added to one or more full units, shall be counted as $1/2$ unit of exit width.

(b) Clear width. The clear width of the means of egress shall be measured at the narrowest point of the exit component under consideration, except as provided below:

1. The exit width for doorways shall be the measured width of each door leaf;

2. A handrail may project inside the measured width on each side not more than 4 inches; or

3. A stringer may project inside the measured width on each side not more than $1 1/2$ inches.

(3) CAPACITY PER UNIT OF EXIT WIDTH. (a) Stairways. The capacity of means of egress providing travel by means of stairs shall be 22 persons per exit unit, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the capacity shall not exceed 35 persons per exit unit.

(b) Horizontal travel. The capacity of means of egress providing horizontal travel, such as doors, ramps, or horizontal exits shall be 30 persons per exit unit, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the capacity shall not exceed 45 persons per exit unit.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.13 Arrangement of means of egress.

(1) PATIENT SLEEPING. Every patient sleeping room shall have an exit access door leading directly to an exit access corridor, except as provided below:

(a) If there is an exit door opening directly to the outside from the room at ground level; or

(b) One adjacent room, such as a sitting room or anteroom, may intervene, if all doors along the means of egress are equipped with nonlockable hardware, except as specified in s. Comm 51.15 (3), and if the intervening room is not used to serve as an exit access for more than 8 patient sleeping beds.

(2) CORRIDORS. Every aisle, corridor and hallway shall provide access to at least 2 exits complying with the requirements specified in s. Comm 58.05.

(a) Dead end corridor. Every exit or exit access shall be so arranged that no corridor, aisle or passageway has a pocket or dead end exceeding 30 feet.

(b) Exit access corridors. 1. Every aisle, corridor and hallway used for exit access shall be at least 8 feet in clear and unobstructed width of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail.

2. Where doors are placed in the exit access corridor, they shall be a pair of doors, each at least 44 inches in width. Where the exit access corridor serves as a means of egress from both sides of the doorway, the doors shall be arranged to swing in the opposite direction from the other.

(c) *Areas not intended for patient use.* Aisles, corridors and hallways in areas not intended for the housing, treatment or use of patients shall be at least 44 inches in clear and unobstructed width.

(3) **SUITE EXITING.** Any room, suite of rooms, space or area more than 1,000 square feet in area, shall have at least 2 exit access doors remote from each other.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; renum. (2) (a) and (b) to be (2) (b) and (c), cr. (2) (a), r. (3), renum. (4) to be (3), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.14 Measurement of travel distance to exits. All exits of health care facilities shall be located to provide remote means of egress.

(1) **EXIT ACCESS TO AN EXIT.** Travel distance measured along passageways between any room door required as an exit access and an exit shall not exceed 100 feet, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the distance shall not exceed 150 feet.

(2) **ROOM TO AN EXIT.** Travel distance measured along passageways between any point in a room and an exit shall not exceed 150 feet, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the distance shall not exceed 200 feet.

(3) **SLEEPING ROOM TO AN EXIT ACCESS.** Travel distance measured along passageways between any point in a health care sleeping room or suite and an exit access door to that room or suite shall not exceed 50 feet.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.15 Discharge from exits. All required ramps or stairs serving as exits shall discharge directly to the outside at grade or be arranged to travel through an exit passageway discharging to the outside at grade. Unenclosed exterior ramps or stairways may not be used as required exits as specified in s. Comm 58.04.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.16 Illumination of means of egress.

(1) **ILLUMINATION.** Artificial lighting shall be provided at all exits and for such period of times as required to maintain safe exiting.

(2) **ILLUMINATION LEVEL.** The floors of means of egress shall be illuminated at all points including angles and intersections of corridors and passageways, stairways, landings of stairs and exit doors to the values specified in ch. Comm 73.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; correction in (2) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1995, No. 480.

Comm 58.17 Emergency lighting. Emergency lighting shall comply with the requirements specified in ch. Comm 16.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.18 Marking of means of egress. (1) **EXIT SIGNS.** Every required exit shall be identified with an internal illuminated, red or green exit sign bearing the word "EXIT" or "OUT" in plain letters not less than 6 inches high, with the principal strokes of letters not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

(2) **DIRECTIONAL SIGNS.** An illuminated sign, not less than 6 inches high, reading "EXIT" or similar designation, with an arrow indicating the direction, shall be placed in every location where the direction of travel to reach the nearest exit is not immediately apparent.

(3) **OBSTRUCTIONS.** (a) Decorations, furnishings or equipment which impair visibility of an exit sign shall not be permitted. Displays, objects in or near the line of vision to the required exit sign or brightly illuminated signs used for purposes other than exits shall not be permitted so as to detract attention from the exit sign.

(b) Hangings or draperies shall not be placed over exit doors or be located as to conceal or obscure any exit. Mirrors shall not be placed on exit doors. Mirrors shall not be placed in or adjacent to any exit in such a manner as to confuse the direction of exit.

(4) **SPECIAL SIGNS.** Any door, passage, or stairway which is neither an exit nor a way of exit access, and which is located or arranged that it may be mistaken for an exit, shall be identified by a sign indicating it is not an exit.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), Register, December, 1995, No. 480, eff. 4-1-96; r. and recr. (1), Register, March, 1997, No. 495, eff. 4-1-97.

Comm 58.19 Headroom. Every means of egress shall be provided with a ceiling clearance of not less than 7 feet 6 inches.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.20 Key locking hardware. Key locking hardware on exit doors and exit access doors is prohibited except in areas accommodating residents who must be detained for their protection and the protection of the general public and the building complies with the requirements of ch. Comm 58, subchs. I and II. Where the requirements of the 2 subchapters differ, the additional or more stringent requirement shall govern.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr. Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Part 4 -- Protection

Comm 58.21 Protection of openings. (1) **DOORS.** Doors protecting openings in occupancy separations, smoke barriers, or horizontal exits shall be fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. Comm 51.047.

(2) **CLOSING DEVICE.** Doors protecting such openings shall be equipped with a closing device and shall normally be kept closed, except the doors may be held open by a hold open device actuated by products of combustion other than heat. The closing device shall be arranged such that the activation of any one or all of the following systems will initiate the self-closing action of all such doors:

- (a) Manual fire alarm system;
- (b) Automatic smoke detection system or a local device designed to detect smoke on either side of the opening; and
- (c) Automatic sprinkler system or fire detection system, if provided.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), (2) (intro.) and (c), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.22 Elevator lobby enclosures. (1) **GENERAL.** All elevator lobbies shall be enclosed with at least one-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Comm 51.04, to limit the spread of smoke and fire. All openings shall be protected with fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. Comm 58.21.

(2) **OPENINGS IN THE ENCLOSURE.** Openings in the elevator lobby enclosure shall be limited to exit access doors serving public passageways or corridors and openings into elevator shaft enclosures. The elevator lobby shall not be used as a portion of the exit access passageway.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; r. and recr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.23 Protection of vertical openings. (1) **INTERIOR SHAFTS.** Every elevator shaft, dumbwaiter shaft, pipe shaft and other similar vertical shaft in buildings, shall be enclosed as specified in Table 51.03-A, except as provided in pars. (a) and (b):

- (a) One-hour rated enclosures are permitted in hospitals of type 3 construction; or
- (b) Duct penetrations of floor assemblies which are protected as specified in NFPA 90A.

(2) ESCALATORS. All escalators shall be enclosed as specified in s. Comm 58.06 (2).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (intro.), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) (b), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Comm 58.24 Protection from hazards. (1) SEPARATIONS. All hazards listed in Table 58.24 shall be vertically separated from other areas of the building with fire-resistive rated construction as specified in Table 58.24. All openings shall be protected with fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. Comm 51.047.

TABLE 58.24

HAZARDS	FIRE-RESISTIVE RATING IN HOURS
†Soiled Linen Rooms	1
Kitchens ¹	1
Handicraft Shops ¹	1
†Carpenter Shops	1
Repair Shops ¹	1
†Paint Shops	1
†Trash Collection Rooms	1
†Storage Rooms (containing quantities of flammable or combustible material exceeding 1 lb. of material per square foot of floor area)	1
Gift Shops ¹	1
†Laboratories (containing quantities of flammable or combustible material exceeding 1 lb. of material per square foot of floor area)	1
— All other laboratories ¹	1
Employee Locker Rooms ¹	1

†These areas are required to be protected with an automatic sprinkler system in addition to the fire-resistive enclosure requirements specified in the table.

¹The minimum hourly ratings specified may be reduced to a smoke separation with a self-closing door in buildings protected by a complete automatic sprinkler system.

(2) FIREPLACES. Fireplaces shall be permitted in health care facilities provided:

(a) The fireplace is installed and used in areas other than patient sleeping areas which are separated from the patient sleeping areas by construction having at least a one-hour fire-resistive rating;

(b) The fireplace is equipped with safety screens and a heat tempered glass fireplace enclosure capable of withstanding temperatures of 650°F; and

(c) Combustion air for the fireplace is taken directly from outside the building.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Table 58.24-B, Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) and (2), cr. (3), r. and recr. Table 58.24-A, am. Table 58-24-B, Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; r. (1), Table 58.24-A, renun. (2) to (1) and am., Table 58.24-B to Table 58.24, (3) to (2), Register, December, 1995, no. 480, eff. 4-1-96; r. and recr. Register, March, 1997, No. 495, eff. 4-1-97.

Comm 58.25 Rubbish chutes and laundry chutes.

(1) VERTICAL PROTECTION. Any rubbish chute or laundry chute shall be enclosed with walls or partitions of at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction specified in s. Comm 51.043, except that horizontal portions of pneumatic rubbish and laundry chute systems need not be enclosed. All openings shall be protected with fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in ss. Comm 51.047 and 58.21 (2), and shall include the opening from the chute into the collection room.

(a) All rubbish chutes may discharge into trash collecting rooms, which are used for no other purpose and are enclosed as

specified in Table 58.24. The incinerator shall not be directly flue-fed nor shall any floor discharging chute directly connect with the combustion chamber.

(b) All laundry chutes shall discharge into laundry rooms or laundry collecting rooms, which are used for no other purpose and are enclosed as specified in Tables 51.08-2 and 58.24.

(2) SPRINKLER PROTECTION. All rubbish chutes or laundry chutes, including pneumatic rubbish and laundry systems, shall be provided with automatic sprinkler protection specified in s. Comm 51.23.

(3) FIRE DAMPERS. Fire dampers are required where chutes penetrate 2-hour or better fire-rated floor or wall systems in a horizontal run.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (a) and (b), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) (intro.), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (a), (b), Register, December, 1995, No. 480, eff. 4-1-96; r. and recr. (1) (a) and (b), Register, March, 1997, No. 495, eff. 4-1-97.

Comm 58.26 Interior finish. (1) SCOPE. The requirements of this section apply to the interior finishes and surfaces of a building.

Note: See s. Comm 51.06 for specific requirements pertaining to foam plastics.

(2) WALLS AND CEILINGS. (a) *Materials.* Except as provided in par. (b), all walls and ceilings shall be Class A as specified in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

Note: See ch. Comm 18 for interior finish for elevator cabs.

(b) *Exceptions.* 1. Walls and ceilings of individual rooms having a capacity of not more than 4 persons may have a Class B interior finish as specified in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

2. Interior finish not in excess of 10% of the aggregate wall and ceiling areas of any room or space may be Class C materials in occupancies where interior finish of Class A or Class B is required.

(c) *Napped, tufted and looped materials.* Materials such as carpeting having a napped, tufted, looped, or similar surface, when applied on walls or ceilings, shall meet the requirements of Class A interior finish.

(3) FLOORS. All interior finishes of floor materials shall be Class I or better as specified in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

(a) *Tongue and groove wood flooring.* Tongue and groove wood flooring, one-half inch thick or greater, shall be permitted.

(b) *Floor material.* Floor material, such as carpeting, shall be fire tested with the underlayment used and shall comply with the requirements as specified in ASTM E648-78, Test for Criteria Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Source.

(4) FIRE RETARDANT PAINTS OR SOLUTIONS. Fire retardant paints or surface applied solutions shall not be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.27 Detection, alarm and communication systems. (1) GENERAL. All required detection and signaling devices and systems shall comply with the requirements of this section.

(a) All such systems shall be tested at least once a week and a record of such tests shall be kept. All system components or equipment shall be restored to normal condition promptly after each test or alarm and shall be maintained in an operable condition.

(b) The system shall be so arranged that the operation of any one station will actuate all devices connected to the system.

(c) A signaling system may be arranged to automatically perform local, incidental control functions to make the premises safer in the event of fire or to make it possible to hear alarm signals. The performance of incidental control functions, such as the release of self-opening or self-closing doors, shutting off supplies of gas,

fuel oil, or electrical power, switching on emergency lights, switching off air supply ventilating fans, and other similar functions, shall not in any way impair the effective response of all required alarm indicating devices. The performance of incidental control functions shall not interfere with the power for lighting or for operating elevators.

(2) **FIRE ALARMS.** Every building shall have a manually operated fire alarm system as specified in s. Comm 51.24 and shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) The operation of any fire alarm activating device shall automatically, without delay, accomplish general alarm indication and control functions as specified in sub. (1). Zoned, coded systems may be used.

(b) The fire alarm system shall be arranged to transmit an alarm automatically to the fire department required to serve the area in which the health care facility is located, by the most direct and reliable method approved by local regulations.

(3) **AUTOMATIC SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM.** (a) Except as provided in par. (b), an approved automatic smoke detection system shall be installed in all corridors in nursing homes. Such systems shall be installed and maintained as specified in NFPA 72 but in no case shall smoke detectors be spaced more than 30 feet apart on center or more than 15 feet from any wall. All automatic smoke detection systems required by this section shall be electrically interconnected to the fire alarm system.

(b) Corridor smoke detection systems are not required on the patient sleeping room floors, where each patient sleeping room is protected by an approved smoke detection system.

(4) **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. Comm 51.22.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3) (a), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (3) (a), Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99.

Comm 58.28 Standpipes. (1) **FIRST-AID STANDPIPES.** First-aid standpipes shall be provided as specified in s. Comm 51.21 for all health care facilities, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed.

(2) **FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDPIPES.** Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all buildings exceeding 60 feet in height and shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.21.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.29 Automatic sprinkler and other suppression systems. Automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.23, except as modified in this section.

(1) **WHERE REQUIRED.** (a) *Hospitals.* Automatic sprinkler systems shall be provided as specified in ss. Comm 52.01 and 58.24.

(b) *Nursing homes.* 1. A complete automatic fire sprinkler system shall be provided in all nursing homes constructed after the effective date of this rule.

2. Additions to existing nursing homes shall be provided with a complete automatic fire sprinkler system. The sprinkler protection shall be provided throughout unless the addition is separated from the existing building by at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction in which case only the addition shall be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

(2) **SPRINKLER CONTROL VALVES.** (a) The main sprinkler control valves shall be electrically supervised so that at least a local alarm will sound at a constantly supervised location when the valve is closed.

(b) All valves other than the main sprinkler control valve shall be electrically supervised or secured with a key locking device.

(3) **WATER FLOW SWITCH.** The water flow alarm switch for the automatic sprinkler system shall be electrically interconnected with the fire alarm system.

(4) **PARTIAL AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM.** The sprinkler piping serving no more than 6 sprinklers for any isolated hazardous area, may be connected directly to a domestic water supply system having a capacity sufficient to provide 0.15 gallons per minute per square foot of floor area throughout the entire enclosed area.

(a) *Indicating shut-off valve.* An indicating shut-off valve shall be installed in an accessible location between the sprinklers and the connection to the domestic water supply.

(b) *Water flow detection.* Where more than 2 sprinklers are installed in a single area, water flow detection shall be provided to sound the building fire alarm system in the event of sprinkler operation.

(5) **OTHER AUTOMATIC SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS.** (a) *Types.* Other automatic suppression systems such as, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, foam and Halon 1301, may be installed in lieu of an automatic water sprinkler system in any occupancy where the extinguishment or control of fire may be more effectively accomplished by this type of automatic suppression system.

(b) *Activation.* These suppression systems shall be installed such that the fire alarm system will sound when the suppression system is activated.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.30 Smoke barrier. (1) **DEFINITION.** A smoke barrier is a separation wall which is continuous from outside wall to outside wall and from floor slab to the underside of the floor slab or roof slab above, including all concealed spaces such as those found above a ceiling including interstitial spaces.

(2) **FIRE-RESISTIVE RATING.** Smoke barriers shall have a one-hour fire-resistive rating specified in s. Comm 51.043.

(3) **WHERE REQUIRED.** Smoke barriers are required to:

(a) Limit the area on any story to a length and width of not more than 150 feet;

(b) Divide every story into at least 2 compartments; and

(c) Enclose elevator lobbies on each floor.

(4) **DOORS.** (a) Corridor openings in smoke barriers shall be protected by a pair of swinging doors, each door to swing in a direction opposite from the other. Each door shall have a minimum width of 44 inches, except corridor openings in areas not intended for the housing, treatment, or use of patients may be protected by a single door having a minimum width of 36 inches.

(b) Doors in smoke barriers shall be self-closing and have at least a 20 minute fire-resistive rating, except doors may be held open as specified in s. Comm 58.21.

(c) Door louvers and grills are prohibited. Doors may be undercut to a maximum of $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

(d) A vision panel complying with the requirements of s. Comm 51.048 and not exceeding 1,296 square inches in area, shall be provided in each door in a smoke barrier and shall be set in steel frames. The bottom of the vision panel shall be located not more than 40 inches off the floor.

(e) Rabbits, bevets, or astragals are required at the meeting edges, and stops are required on the head and sides of door frames. Positive latching hardware is not required.

(f) Center mullions are prohibited.

(5) **DAMPERS.** An approved damper designed to resist the passage of smoke shall be provided at each point a duct penetrates a

smoke barrier. The damper shall close upon detection of smoke by an approved smoke detector, located within the duct except that:

(a) The approved damper, if located above a smoke barrier door, may be arranged to close upon detection of smoke by the local device designed to detect smoke on either side of the smoke barrier door opening.

(b) Buildings designed with an engineered smoke control system as specified in NFPA 90A, Standard for the Installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilating Systems, need not comply with this requirement.

(6) **VISION PANELS.** (a) Except as provided in par. (b), fixed wire glass vision panels shall be permitted in smoke barrier walls, provided the vision panels do not exceed 1,296 square inches in area. The vision panels shall have bolted steel frames and the glazing material shall be listed by an approved testing laboratory.

(b) Vision panels shall not be restricted in area and in fire resistance of glass or frames in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic extinguishing system.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.31 Construction of corridor walls.

(1) **FIRE-RESISTIVE RATING.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, corridors shall be separated from all other areas by partitions which are continuous from the floor slab to the underside of the roof or floor slab above, through any concealed spaces such as those above suspended ceilings, and through interstitial structural and mechanical spaces, and shall have at least a one-hour fire-resistive rating as specified in s. Comm 51.043.

(a) In health care facilities equipped throughout with an approved automatic extinguishing system, a corridor may be separated from all other areas by nonfire-rated partitions, and where suspended ceilings are provided, the partitions may be terminated at the suspended ceiling.

(b) Corridor partitions may terminate at ceilings which are not an integral part of a floor construction if there is at least 5 feet of space between the top of the ceiling subsystem and the bottom of the floor or roof above provided:

1. The ceiling is of membrane type with a finish rating of 15 minutes;
2. Corridor partitions form smoke-tight joints with the ceilings (joint filler, if used, must be noncombustible);
3. Each compartment of interstitial space which constitutes a separate smoke area is vented, in case of smoke emergency, to the outside by mechanical means having a capacity to provide at least 2 air changes per hour, but in no case having a capacity less than 5,000 cfm;
4. The interstitial space shall not be used for storage; and
5. The space shall not be used as a plenum for supply, exhaust or return air except as provided in subd. 3.

(c) Waiting areas on a patient sleeping floors may be open to the corridor, provided:

1. The area does not exceed 250 square feet;
2. The area is located to permit direct supervision by the facility staff;
3. The area is equipped with an electrically supervised automatic smoke detection system installed as specified in s. Comm 58.27; and
4. Not more than one such waiting area is permitted in each smoke compartment.

(d) Waiting areas on floors other than institutional sleeping floors may be open to the corridor, provided:

1. Each area does not exceed 600 square feet;
2. The area is located to permit direct supervision by the facility staff;

3. The area is arranged not to obstruct any access to required exits;

4. The area is equipped with an electrically supervised, automatic smoke detection system installed as specified in s. Comm 58.27.

(e) Buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system may have spaces open to the corridor which are unlimited in size provided:

1. The spaces are not used for patient sleeping rooms, treatment rooms or hazardous areas;
2. Each space is located to permit direct supervision by the facility staff;
3. The space and corridors which the space opens onto in the same smoke compartment are protected by an electrically supervised automatic smoke detection system installed as specified in s. Comm 58.27; and
4. The space is arranged not to obstruct access to required exits.

(f) Space for doctors' and nurses' charting, communications, and related clerical areas may be open to the corridor.

(2) **VISION PANELS.** (a) Fixed wire glass vision panels shall be permitted in corridor walls provided they do not exceed 1,296 square inches in area and comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.048.

(b) Vision panels shall not be restricted in area and in fire resistance of glass or frames in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic extinguishing system.

(3) **DOORS.** Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, doors protecting corridor openings, other than required enclosures of exits or hazardous areas, shall have a 20-minute fire-resistive rating and be provided with latches. Fixed wire glass vision panels installed in these doors shall not exceed 720 square inches in area and shall be mounted in approved steel frames.

(a) In buildings equipped with a complete approved automatic sprinkler system:

1. Such doors and frames are not required to have a fire-resistive rating, but shall be constructed to resist the passage of smoke;
2. Such doors are provided with latches of a type suitable for keeping the door tightly closed; and
3. There is no restriction on the area of vision panels in these doors, the vision panels do not need to be wired, and there is no restriction in the type of frames.

(b) Door closing devices are not required on doors in corridor wall openings, other than those exits or required enclosures of hazardous areas.

(c) Labeled door frames are not required on openings other than those serving exits or required enclosures of hazardous areas, providing the door frames and stops are of steel construction.

(d) Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces which do not contain flammable or combustible materials need not comply with this section.

(4) **TRANSFER GRILLS.** Transfer grills shall not be used in these walls or doors, except doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets and similar auxiliary spaces which do not contain hazardous quantities of flammable or combustible materials may have ventilating louvers or may be undercut.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Part 5 -- Sanitary Facilities

Comm 58.32 Sanitary facilities. (1) **TOILET ROOMS.** Every building included under the scope of this subchapter shall be provided with separate toilet rooms for each sex, and shall comply with the requirements as specified in this section and:

- (a) Sections Comm 52.50 (2) (b) to 52.62; and
- (b) Sections Comm 52.04, 52.041 and 52.042.
- (2) **SANITARY FIXTURES.** (a) *Patients.* The number of fixtures required for each sex shall comply with the ratios as specified in Table 58.32.
- (b) *Employees.* The number of fixtures for employees shall com-

ply with the requirements as specified in Table 54.12-B.

(c) *General public.* The number of fixtures for the general public shall comply with the requirements as specified in Table 54.12-A and s. Comm 52.04.

Note: See ch. HFS 124—Hospitals and ch. HFS 132—Nursing Homes, for special requirements and locations for water closets, lavatories and bathing facilities.

TABLE 58.32
NUMBER OF SANITARY FIXTURES REQUIRED FOR
RESIDENTS OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES^{1,2}

Type of Occupancy	Type of Fixture			
	Water Closets (WC)	Lavatories (L)	Bathtubs or Showers	Drinking Facilities (DF)
Nursing Homes	One (WC) per every 2 patient rooms and not more than 4 beds	One (L) per every 2 patient rooms and not more than 4 persons per each (L)	One per each 20 patients or fraction	One (DF) for each 100 persons
Hospitals	One (WC) per every 2 patient rooms and not more than 4 beds	One (L) per every 2 patient rooms and not more than 4 persons per each (L)	One per each 15 patients or fraction	One (DF) for each 100 persons

¹ For structures with additions or alterations, the required number of sanitary fixtures shall be the sum of the fixtures required for the existing portion at the time it was constructed plus the fixtures required by this table for the new addition or altered area. At such time as the summation of the addition and alteration area is equal to or greater than 51% of the building area calculated as specified in s. Comm 50.03 (4) (d), fixtures shall be provided in conformance to this table utilizing the capacity of the entire building.

² Where a single toilet room designated as UNISEX is provided, it shall be considered as accommodating no more than 10 employees and 25 occupants.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr. Register, August, 1993, No. 452, eff. 3-1-94.

Subchapter II — Detention and Correctional Facilities

Part 1 — Scope

Comm 58.40 Scope. The requirements of this subchapter shall apply to all detention and correctional facilities, constructed on or after January 1, 1982.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.41 Definitions. For the purpose of this subchapter, the following terms are defined:

- (1) "Borrowed light" means an opening in an interior partition which provides natural light to an interior space.
- (2) "Dayroom" means any room used as a group activity space and located contiguous to the sleeping rooms.
- (3) "Detention and correctional facilities" means any building or part of a building used for purposes such as jails, detention centers, correctional institutions, reformatories, houses of correction, pre-release centers, and other residential care facilities where occupants are forcibly confined.
- (4) "Holding room" means any room used for confining persons for a maximum of 72 hours for the purpose of booking, court appearances and similar type functions.
- (5) "Program support facility" means any detention or correctional facility, other than sleeping areas, containing only those facilities such as schools, theaters, assembly halls, shops, gyms, offices, medical facilities, food service and dining facilities, laundries, gatehouses and other similar facilities, where the occupancy of these areas is primarily residents or detention staff or both.
- (6) "Smoke barrier" means a separation wall which extends continuously from outside wall to outside wall and from the floor to the underside of the floor slab or roof slab above, including all concealed spaces such as those found above a ceiling including interstitial spaces.

(7) "Smoke compartment" means a space within a building enclosed by smoke barriers on all sides.

(8) "Security vestibule" means a compartment provided with 2 or more doors with the intended purpose to prevent the continuous and unlimited passage by allowing the release of only one door at a time.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (4), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Part 2 — General Requirements

Comm 58.42 Class of construction. (1) BUILDINGS OR PORTIONS OF BUILDINGS WITH SLEEPING ROOMS. All detention and correctional facilities containing sleeping facilities or holding rooms or both shall be at least type 2 construction as specified in s. Comm 51.03.

(2) PROGRAM SUPPORT FACILITIES. All program support facilities shall be constructed in accordance with the following:

(a) *One-story building.* All buildings one-story in height shall be at least type 6, totally non-combustible construction as specified in s. Comm 51.03.

(b) *Two-stories or more in height.* All buildings 2-stories or more in height shall be at least type 2 construction as specified in s. Comm 51.03.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.43 Program support facilities. All program support facilities shall comply with the specific occupancy chapter requirements as specified in chs. Comm 54 to 62, except as modified in ss. Comm 58.59 and 58.64.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.44 Separation from other occupancies and hazard enclosures. (1) OCCUPANCY SEPARATION. Occupancies not within the scope of this subchapter, built in connection with any detention or correctional facility shall be separated from any such detention or correctional facility in accordance with s. Comm 51.08. Auditoriums, chapels, dining rooms, residential facilities and other similar areas provided for the residents need

not be separated with rated construction. Class of construction separations shall comply with s. Comm 51.02 (20).

(2) **GARAGES.** (a) Storage garages and repair garages shall be separated from detention and correctional facilities as specified in s. Comm 59.22.

(b) Areas accommodating vehicles for the purpose of loading or unloading persons or material need not be separated from detention and correctional facilities. Storage or repair of the vehicles is prohibited in the loading and unloading areas, unless the type of construction meets the requirements for a garage.

(3) **HAZARD ENCLOSURES.** Hazards shall be enclosed in accordance with s. Comm 51.08

(4) **EXITING FROM MIXED OCCUPANCIES.** Required means of egress from all detention and correctional occupancies may exit through non-detention and non-correctional occupancies provided the means of egress complies with the requirements specified in this subchapter.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (3), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; cr. (4), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1), (3), Register, December, 1995, No. 480, eff. 4-1-96; r. and recr., Register, March, 1997, No. 495, eff. 4-1-97.

Comm 58.45 Windows. (1) **NATURAL LIGHTING.** Every sleeping room, except holding rooms where residents are detained for a time period not to exceed 72 hours, shall be provided with natural light. The natural light may be provided directly to the sleeping room by windows or sky lights or may be transferred indirectly to the space through the use of borrowed lights. The natural light shall be provided through either clear or translucent glazing with the area of the sash being at least 8% of the floor area served.

(2) **VENTILATION.** Every sleeping room shall be provided with ventilation in accordance with one of the following:

(a) Windows or skylights with an openable area not less than 4% of the floor area served and located within the sleeping room; or

(b) Mechanical ventilation as specified in s. Comm 64.58 (2) and provided with an emergency source of power.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82.

Comm 58.46 Size of sleeping rooms. Every sleeping room shall provide at least 400 cubic feet of space for each occupant. In places of detention, day rooms may be used to satisfy the 400-cubic-foot-per-person volume requirement provided the following criteria are met:

(1) The shared day room space shall be immediately adjacent to the sleeping room and the combined volume of the day room and the sleeping room shall be a minimum of 400 cubic feet per occupant; and

(2) Ventilation shall be provided by one of the following methods:

(a) Natural ventilation shall be based on the ratio of 2 square feet per person of openable windows or skylights. The natural ventilation may be drawn from any openable windows or skylights located accessible to the sleeping room. A minimum of 50% of the vertical plane separating the sleeping room from the day room shall be open, such as may be provided with bars or security grilles.

(b) Mechanical ventilation shall be provided in accord with s. Comm 58.45 (2) (b) if a minimum of 50% of the vertical plane separating the sleeping room from the day room is not open. The sleeping room shall have a minimum of 35 square feet of floor area per person. The floor area shall include all area within the walls

of the sleeping room, including the space taken up by beds, lavatories, water closets and furniture.

Note: Section DOC 350.05 requires a ceiling height of at least 8 feet in sleeping rooms, and a floor area of at least 54 square feet in single occupancy cells.

Note: Section DOC 350.07 requires the floor area in double occupancy cells to be at least 70 square feet for jails constructed or substantially remodeled on or after March 1, 1990, and at least 54 square feet for jails constructed before March 1, 1990.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr. Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Comm 58.47 Sleeping rooms below grade. All buildings having sleeping rooms below grade shall be designed and constructed to prevent penetration or collection of moisture within occupied spaces.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Part 3 – Means of Egress Requirements

Comm 58.48 Required means of egress.

(1) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.** All required means of egress doors shall comply with s. Comm 51.15, except as modified in this section and s. Comm 58.59.

(2) **DOORS IN MEANS OF EGRESS.** (a) Doors in a means of egress may be of the horizontal sliding type, providing the force to slide the door to its fully open position does not exceed 37 pounds.

(b) A door which serves an area with a capacity not more than 25 persons is not required to open in the direction of egress.

(3) **EXIT DISCHARGE.** Exit discharge may terminate at one of the following:

(a) Directly at the exterior of the building;

(b) At a horizontal exit; or

(c) Into a fenced or walled court, provided that not more than 2 walls of the court are the walls of the building from which exit is being made. Enclosed yards or courts shall be sized to accommodate all occupants, a minimum of 30 feet from the building with a net area of 15 square feet per person. Access from the fenced or walled court to the public thoroughfare may be fenced and locked.

(4) **EXIT ACCESS.** A dayroom may serve as a portion of the exit access from a sleeping room.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.49 Exit doors, number and type of exits.

(1) **NUMBER.** At least 2 exits shall be accessible from each floor of the building and shall be located such that in case any exit is blocked, some other exit will still be accessible.

(2) **EXIT DOORS.** All exit doors shall be at least 36 inches in width.

(3) **EXIT ACCESS DOORS.** All exit access doors shall be at least 36 inches in width, except for the following modifications:

(a) Doors to sleeping rooms shall be at least 28 inches in width;

(b) Doors to sleeping rooms designated for use by the physically disabled shall be at least 32 inches in width; or

(c) Doors to dayrooms shall be at least 32 inches in width.

(4) **TYPE OF EXITS.** (a) Required exits shall be by a door leading directly to a stairway, smokeproof tower, ramp, horizontal exit, exit passageway or outside the building as specified in this subchapter. No more than one-half of the required exits may be horizontal exits.

(b) Where a detention or correctional facility, other than a hospital or nursing home, is located on the upper floors of a building having a different occupancy, at least one of the exits from the detention or correctional facility shall be a separate smokeproof tower as specified in s. Comm 51.17. The smokeproof tower shall serve only the detention or correctional facility and there shall be

no doors opening into the smokeproof tower from any other occupancy of the building.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.50 Stairways. (1) GENERAL. (a) All required exit stairways shall comply with the requirements specified in s. Comm 51.16 and shall be enclosed as specified in s. Comm 51.18.

(b) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., stairways in addition to those required by this chapter need not lead to the outside but shall be enclosed as required in par. (a).

2. Nonrequired stairways serving open mezzanines need not be enclosed.

(2) STAIRWAY TERMINATION. Stairways provided in addition to those required by this subchapter shall be enclosed as specified in s. Comm 51.18 but need not lead to the outside. A sign or label shall be posted on the doors of the stair enclosures and shall bear the following: "Not an Exit".

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (a) and cr. (1) (b), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.51 Smokeproof towers. Smokeproof stair towers shall comply with the requirements specified in ss. Comm 51.17 and 58.48.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.52 Horizontal exits. (1) GENERAL. Horizontal exits shall comply with the requirements in s. Comm 51.19, except as modified in this section.

(2) AREA. At least 6 net square feet of accessible space per occupant shall be provided on each side of the horizontal exit for the total number of people in the adjoining compartment.

(3) DOORS. (a) A single door used as a horizontal exit shall serve one direction only, be at least 36 inches wide and swing in the direction of egress.

(b) Horizontal exit doors may be locked as specified in s. Comm 58.59.

(4) RESTRICTIONS. If a horizontal exit is used as a smoke barrier, it shall comply with s. Comm 58.67.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.53 Ramps. (1) MINIMUM WIDTH. (a) *Interior ramps.* Interior ramps shall be a minimum of 44 inches wide, of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail.

(b) *Exterior ramps.* Exterior ramps shall be a minimum of 48 inches wide, of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail.

(2) SLOPE. Ramps shall have a slope of not more than one foot of rise in 8 feet of run, except ramps providing access for the disabled shall comply with s. Comm 52.04.

(3) ENCLOSURE. Ramps used as a required means of egress shall comply with the enclosure requirements for stairways in s. Comm 51.18.

(4) LANDINGS AND PLATFORMS. (a) If a door is provided at the top or bottom or both of a ramp, a landing or platform shall be placed between the door and the ramp regardless of the direction of swing of the door.

(b) Every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the ramp, measured at right angles to the direction of travel. The length of every landing or platform shall be at least as wide as the ramp, but need not exceed 48 inches.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. (4), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.54 Required exit width. (1) OCCUPANT LOAD. The occupant load for which means of egress shall be pro-

vided shall be the maximum number of persons occupying that floor, but not less than one person for each 120 sq. ft. gross floor area.

(2) REQUIRED EXIT WIDTH. The required exit width shall comply with s. Comm 51.15 (6).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.55 Arrangement of means of egress.

(1) SLEEPING ROOM. Every sleeping room shall have a door leading directly to an exit access, except where an exit door opens directly to the outside from the room at the ground level.

(2) CORRIDOR ACCESS. (a) Every aisle, corridor and hallway shall provide access to at least 2 exits complying with s. Comm 58.48.

(b) Every aisle, corridor and hallway used for exit access shall be at least 44 inches in clear and unobstructed width.

(3) EXIT PASSAGEWAYS. Every exit passageway shall be at least 44 inches in width.

(4) AREA EXITING. Any room, suite of rooms, space or area accommodating 25 persons or more, shall have at least 2 exit access doors distributed to provide the best possible means of egress from the room.

(5) SECURITY VESTIBULE EXITING. A security vestibule may be permitted in a means of egress where there are provisions for continuous and unobstructed passage through the security vestibule during an emergency exit condition.

(6) DEAD END CORRIDOR. Every exit or exit access shall be so arranged that no corridor, aisle or passageway has a pocket or dead end exceeding 30 feet.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. (6), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Comm 58.56 Measurement of travel distance to exits. All exits in detention and correctional facilities shall be located to provide means of egress remote from one another.

(1) EXIT ACCESS TO AN EXIT. Travel distance shall be measured along passageways. The distance between any room door required as an exit access and an exit shall not exceed 100 feet, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the distance shall not exceed 150 feet.

(2) ROOM TO AN EXIT. Travel distance shall be measured along passageways. The distance between any point in a room and an exit shall not exceed 150 feet, except that in buildings protected with a complete automatic sprinkler system the distance shall not exceed 200 feet.

(3) SLEEPING ROOM TO AN EXIT ACCESS. Travel distance shall be measured along passageways. The distance between any point in a sleeping room or suite and an exit access door to that room or suite shall not exceed 50 feet.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.57 Illumination of means of egress.

(1) ILLUMINATION. Artificial lighting shall be provided at all exits and for such period of times as required to maintain safe exiting.

(2) ILLUMINATION LEVEL. The floors of means of egress shall be illuminated at all points including angles and intersections of corridors and passageways, stairs, landings of stairs and exit doors to values specified in ch. Comm 73.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, no. 312, eff. 1-1-82; correction in (2) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1995, No. 480.

Comm 58.575 Emergency lighting. Emergency lighting complying with the requirements specified in ch. Comm 16 shall be required when 20 or more resident beds are provided.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.58 Marking of means of egress. (1) **EXIT SIGNS.** Every required exit shall be identified with an internal illuminated, red exit sign bearing the word "EXIT" or "OUT" in plain letters not less than 6 inches high, with the principal strokes of the letter not less than 3/4 inches.

(2) **DIRECTIONAL SIGNS.** An illuminated sign, not less than 6 inches high, reading "EXIT" or similar designation, with an arrow indicating the direction, shall be placed in every location where the direction of travel to reach the nearest exit is not immediately apparent.

(3) **OBSTRUCTIONS.** (a) Decorations, furnishings or equipment which impair visibility of an exit sign shall not be permitted. Displays, objects in or near the line of vision to the required exit sign, or brightly illuminated signs used for purposes other than exits shall not be permitted so as to detract attention from the exit sign.

(b) Hangings or draperies shall not be placed over exit doors or be located as to conceal or obscure any exit. Mirrors shall not be placed on exit doors. Mirrors shall not be placed in or adjacent to any exit in such a manner as to confuse the direction of exit.

(4) **SPECIAL SIGNS.** Any door, passage, or stairway which is neither an exit nor a way of exit access, and which is located or arranged that it may be mistaken for an exit, shall be identified by a sign indicating it is not an exit.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.59 Door locks. All doors in detention and correctional facilities having locking devices shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) **LOCKING OF MEANS OF EGRESS DOORS.** All doors in detention and correctional facilities may be locked in accordance with this section, providing that staff is on duty 24 hours a day.

(a) *Locks at sleeping rooms.* 1. Single sleeping room. A single sleeping room may be key locked.

2. Two or more sleeping rooms. Where 2 or more sleeping rooms within a smoke compartment are locked, a remote locking and unlocking device shall be provided. The remote locking and unlocking device shall be located outside of the sleeping room areas.

(b) *Locks at exterior doors, stairways and horizontal exits.* Doors from the secured areas to the exterior of the building, into stairway enclosures or at horizontal exits may be locked with a key lock. The keys to unlock such doors shall be maintained and available at the facility at all times and the locks shall be operable from the outside.

(2) **REMOTE RELEASE.** All remote release operated doors shall be provided with a back-up means of operation as follows:

(a) Power-operated sliding doors or power operated locks shall be so constructed that in the event of power failure a manual mechanical means to release and open the doors is provided at each door and either emergency power in accordance with ch. Comm 16 is provided for the power operation or a remote manual mechanical release is provided.

(b) Mechanically operated sliding doors or mechanically operated locks shall be provided with a manual mechanical means to release and open the door at the door.

(3) **REMOTE UNLOCKING.** Doors remotely unlocked under emergency conditions shall not automatically relock when closed unless specific action is taken at the remote location to enable doors to relock.

(4) **STANDBY EMERGENCY POWER.** Standby emergency power shall be provided for all electrically power-operated doors and power-operated locks. Power shall be arranged to automatically

operate upon failure of normal power within 10 seconds and to maintain the necessary power source for at least 1 1/2 hours.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (b), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; r. and recr. (2), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86.

Part 4 - Protection

Comm 58.60 Protection of openings. (1) **DOORS.** Doors protecting openings in occupancy separations, smoke barriers, or horizontal exits shall be self-closing fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. Comm 51.047.

(2) **CLOSING DEVICE.** Doors protecting such openings shall be equipped with a closing device and shall normally be kept closed, except the doors may be held open by a hold open device actuated by products of combustion other than heat. The closing device shall be arranged such that the activation of any of the following systems will initiate the self-closing action of all such doors:

- (a) Manual fire alarm systems;
- (b) Automatic smoke detection systems;
- (c) Fire detection systems; or
- (d) Automatic sprinkler systems.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2) (intro.), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Comm 58.61 Protection of vertical openings. (1) Every elevator shaft, dumbwaiter shaft, laundry chute, waste-paper chute, pipe shaft, rubbish chute and other similar vertical shafts in buildings shall be enclosed with at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Comm 51.043. All openings shall be protected with fire-resistive door assemblies as specified in s. Comm 51.047.

(2) (a) Vertical open shafts serving tiered multilevel residential housing areas shall be enclosed in accordance with s. Comm 51.02 (11), unless:

1. The entire normally occupied area, including all communicating floor levels, is sufficiently open and unobstructed so that it may be assumed that a fire or other dangerous condition in any part will be readily obvious to the occupants or supervisory personnel in the area;

2. Exit capacity is sufficient to provide simultaneously for all the occupants of all communicating levels and areas, with all communicating levels in the same fire area being considered as a single floor area for purposes of determination of required exit capacity; and

3. The height between the highest and lowest finished floor levels does not exceed 13 feet and the number of levels is not restricted.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; 58.61 renum. to 58.61 (1), cr. (2), Register, March, 1991, No. 423, eff. 4-1-91.

Comm 58.63 Fire protection systems. (1) **SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.** Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be provided as outlined in ss. Comm 52.01, 52.011, 52.012 and 52.013.

(2) **STANDPIPE SYSTEMS.** (a) *First-aid standpipes.* First-aid standpipes shall be provided as specified in s. Comm 51.21 for all detention and correctional facilities 60 feet or less in height, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed.

(b) *Fire department standpipes.* Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all detention and correctional facilities exceeding 60 feet in height and shall comply with s. Comm 51.21.

(3) **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. Comm 51.22.

Note: The department will accept placing portable fire extinguishers in a manner as indicated in s. Comm 58.64 (1) or (2) to minimize their potential for being used as weapons.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr., Register, March, 1991, No. 423, eff. 4-1-91; cr. (3), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

Comm 58.64 Fire alarms. All detention and correctional facilities shall have a manually operated fire alarm system as specified in s. Comm 51.24, except as modified in this section.

(1) **MANUAL FIRE ALARM BOXES.** Manual fire alarm boxes may be locked, providing all staff carry the key which will unlock the fire alarm box.

(2) **LOCATION OF MANUAL FIRE ALARM BOXES.** Manual fire alarm boxes may be located at staff locations in lieu of being located at exits and stairways.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.65 Automatic smoke detection system.

(1) **LOCATION.** An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be installed in all sleeping rooms, holding rooms and in all corridors in connection with the sleeping room areas. Such systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72 but in no case shall smoke detectors be spaced more than 30 feet apart on center or more than 15 feet from any wall, except as provided in sub. (2). All automatic smoke detection systems required by this section shall be electrically interconnected to the fire alarm system.

(2) **EXCEPTION.** Other arrangements and positioning of smoke detectors may be used to prevent damage or tampering or for other purposes provided the function of detecting any fire is fulfilled. This may include the location of detectors in exhaust ducts from sleeping rooms, behind grills, or in other locations.

Note: See s. Comm 52.015 for requirements pertaining to automatic fire sprinkler systems for detention and correctional facilities.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1), Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99.

Comm 58.66 Interior finishes. (1) WALLS AND CEILINGS. Interior finish of walls and ceilings in corridors, exits and any space not separated from exit access corridors and exits by a partition capable of retarding the passage of smoke shall be Class A. All other areas shall be Class A, B or C as defined in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

(2) **FLOORS.** Interior floor finish in corridors and exits and any space not separated from exit access corridors and exits by a partition capable of retarding the passage of smoke shall be Class I as defined in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

Comm 58.67 Smoke barrier. (1) FIRE-RESISTIVE RATING. Smoke barriers shall have a one-hour fire-resistive rating as specified in s. Comm 51.04.

(2) **WHERE REQUIRED.** Smoke barriers are required to:

(a) Divide every story used by residents for sleeping, and any other story having an occupant load of 50 or more persons, into at least 2 compartments;

(b) Limit the housing of a maximum of 175 residents in any smoke compartment; and

(c) Limit on any story the length and width of each smoke compartment to no more than 150 feet.

(3) **AREA.** At least 6 square feet of accessible area per occupant shall be provided on each side of the smoke barrier for the total number of occupants in adjoining compartments.

(4) **DOORS.** (a) Openings in smoke barriers shall be protected by doors at least 36 inches wide, and such doors shall swing in the direction of egress. Where egress may be in either direction, a pair of swinging doors shall be provided where each door swings in a direction opposite from the other, except doors in a means of egress may be of the horizontal sliding type providing the force to slide the door to its fully open position does not exceed 37 lbs.

(b) Doors in smoke barriers shall have at least a 20 minute fire-resistive rating, except that doors may be held open as specified in s. Comm 58.60.

(c) Louvers and grills in smoke barrier doors are prohibited. Doors may be undercut to a maximum of $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

(d) A vision panel, complying with s. Comm 51.048 for wired glass and not exceeding 1,296 square inches and set in steel frames, shall be provided in each door in a smoke barrier.

(e) Rabbits, bevels, or astragals are required at the meeting edges of doors, and stops are required on the head and sides of door frames.

(5) **DAMPERS.** An approved damper designed to resist the passage of smoke shall be provided at each point a duct penetrates a smoke barrier. The damper shall close upon detection of smoke by an approved smoke detector, located within the duct except that:

(a) The approved damper, if located above a smoke barrier door, may be arranged to close upon detection of smoke by the local device designed to detect smoke on either side of the smoke barrier door opening; or

(b) Buildings designed with an engineered smoke control system as specified in NFPA 90A, Standard for the Installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilating Systems, need not comply with this requirement.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (4) (b), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Part 5 - Sanitary Facilities

Comm 58.68 Sanitary facilities. (1) TOILET ROOMS. Every building included under the scope of this subchapter shall be provided with separate toilet rooms for each sex, and shall comply with the requirements specified in this section and ss. Comm 52.52 to 52.62.

(a) **Exceptions.** 1. Enclosure of fixtures as specified in s. Comm 52.59 shall be required only for fixtures used by the staff or visitors, or both.

2. Water closet seats as specified in s. Comm 52.60 (1) are not required on water closets used by residents in maximum security detention and correctional facilities.

(2) **SANITARY FIXTURES.** (a) **Residents.** The number of sanitary fixtures required for each sex shall be determined in accordance with the ratios as specified in Table 58.68.

(b) **Employees.** The number of sanitary fixtures for employees shall be provided in accordance with the requirements as specified in Table 54.12-B and s. Comm 52.04.

(c) **General public.** The number of sanitary fixtures for the general public shall be provided in accordance with the requirements as specified in Table 54.12-A and s. Comm 52.04.

TABLE 58.68
NUMBER OF SANITARY FIXTURES REQUIRED
FOR RESIDENTS OF DETENTION AND
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ^{1,2}

Type of Fixture				
Water Closets (WC)		Urinals (U)	Lavatories (L)	Bathtubs or Showers ³
Males (M)	Females (F)	Males (M)		
One (WC) for each 8 (M) or fraction	One (WC) for each 8 (F) or fraction	Urinals may be substituted for up to 2/3 of the required number of (WC) for (M)	One (L) for each 8 persons or fraction	One for each 10 persons or fraction

¹ For structures with additions or alterations, the required number of sanitary fixtures shall be the sum of the fixtures required for the existing portion at the time it was constructed plus the fixtures required by this table for the new addition or altered area. At such time as the summation of the addition and alteration area is equal to or greater than 51% of the building area calculated as specified in s. Comm 50.03 (4) (d), fixtures shall be provided in conformance to this table utilizing the capacity of the entire building.

² Where a single toilet room designated as UNISEX is provided, it shall be considered as accommodating no more than 10 employees and 25 occupants.

³ In places of detention, the number of shower heads as specified in this table may be reduced provided a written statement is submitted to the department from the sheriff or jail administrator confirming that the shower facilities will be operated under scheduled shower times. In this case, the number of shower heads may be based on the number of occupants using the shower facilities at one scheduled time period. A minimum of 2 shower heads shall be provided.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; r. and recr., Register, August, 1993, No. 452, eff. 3-1-94.

Part 6 -- Guard Towers

Comm 58.69 Guard towers and observation stations. (1) CLASS OF CONSTRUCTION. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), guard towers shall be of type 1, 2 or 3 construction as specified in s. Comm 51.03.

(b) Guard towers classified as Type 3 construction may have a non-combustible roof assembly with no fire-resistive rating. A Class A roof covering is acceptable.

(2) MEANS OF EGRESS. At least one exit stairway shall be provided from a guard tower or observation station and shall be a minimum of 28 inches in width. Spiral stairways are permitted to serve guard towers and observation stations not greater than 150 net square feet. Spiral stairways shall comply with s. Comm 51.16 (7).

(3) INTERIOR FINISH. The interior finish of guard towers and observation stations shall be of Class A or B as defined in s. Comm 51.01 (75a).

(4) HIGH HAZARD MATERIAL. Storage of high hazard material is prohibited in the guard tower, observation station, or immediate

vicinity, except for weapons, ammunition, and control chemicals in quantities required for use by the staff occupying the tower or observation station.

(5) PROTECTION OF VERTICAL OPENINGS. Every stairway, elevator shaft, dumbwaiter shaft, or other similar vertical openings shall be enclosed with at least 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Comm 51.043, except guard towers and observation stations where there is no occupancy below the top floor level, stairs may be unenclosed.

(6) SANITARY FACILITIES. (a) Toilet facilities are not required in guard towers or observation stations provided toilet facilities are available in adjacent buildings to accommodate the number of occupants in the guard towers or observation stations.

(b) Toilet fixtures which are provided in single employe guard towers need not be enclosed as specified in ss. Comm 52.50 and 52.59.

(7) DOOR LOCKS. Doors to guard towers may be locked in accordance with s. Comm 58.59.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 1-1-86; am. (6) (intro.), cr. (6) (b), Register, August, 1993, No. 452, eff. 3-1-94.

