

# Office of the Fire Commissioner



## A Fire Inspector's Guide Manitoba Building Code Requirements for Life Safety

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### When are exit signs required in a building?

#### **MBC 3.4.5.1.**

- Signs are required over or adjacent to an exit if it serves a building more than 2 stories in height
- A building having a design occupant load of more than 150
- A room or floor area that has a fire escape as part of a required means of egress

### When are emergency lights required in a building?

#### **MBC 3.2.7.3.**

- Emergency lights are required in:
  - Exits
  - Principal routes providing access to exits
  - Corridors used by the public
  - Corridors serving sleeping rooms in a care or treatment occupancy
  - Corridors serving classrooms
  - Underground walkways
  - Public corridors
  - Public floor areas of A 1 occupancies or A 2 or 3 occupancies with an occupant load of 60 or more
  - Daycare centers
  - Food preparation areas of commercial kitchens

### Where do exit doors require quick release (panic) hardware?

#### **MBC 3.4.6.16.**

- Every exit door from an A occupancy with an occupant load of more than 100
- Every door leading to an exit lobby from an exit stair shaft, and every exterior door leading from an exit stair shaft if the building has an occupant load of more than 100
- Every exit door for a floor area containing an F1 occupancy

### Can exit doors have conventional door knobs on them, or do they have to be lever action?

#### **MBC 3.4.6.16.**

- All principal entrance doors and every exit door that is not listed above may have some other latching mechanism

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Website: [www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca)

**Manitoba** 

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## A Fire Inspector's Guide Manitoba Building Code Requirements for Life Safety Continued....

### When does a building need a fire alarm system?

#### **MBC 3.2.4.1.**

- If the building is sprinklered
- If the building contains a contained use area (jail cell)
- Has an impeded egress zone (locked ward)
- More than three stories including below ground stories
- Has an occupant load of more than 150 above or below the first storey
- A school, college, or child care facility with an occupant load of more than 40
- Beverage room or licensed restaurant with an occupant load of more than 150
- F2 or F3 occupancy with an occupant load of more than 75 above or below the first storey
- C occupancy with sleeping accommodation for more than 10 persons (2 people per sleeping room)
- F1 occupancy with an occupant load of more than 25
- An occupant load of more than 300 below an open seating area
- If a building contains more than 4 dwelling units
- A farm building of more than 600<sup>2</sup>m

### What is the difference between a fire wall and a fire separation?

#### **MBC 3.1.10.**

- A fire wall is either a 2 hr or 4 hr wall that can be used to divide a building into two or more separate buildings by definition of the code.
- A fire separation may or may not have a rating, can be vertical or horizontal, must have any penetrations the code allows sealed with fire stopping
- Openings (doors, etc.) in a fire separation must be sealed with a closure that has a Fire Protection Rating

### What is a Flame Spread Rating and what does it apply to?

#### **MBC 3.1.13.**

- A flame spread rating is a rating given to interior surface finishes.
- We want the rating to be low so that flame does not quickly travel across burning surfaces
- Also, there is as little smoke obscuration as possible produced by burning walls, floors, and ceiling finishes