



Floor Numbering and Identification of Stair Shafts

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

3.4.6.19. Floor Numbering and Identification of Stair Shafts

(1) Arabic numerals indicating the assigned floor number in both visual and tactile forms in accordance with Article 3.8.3.1. shall, be mounted permanently on the wall on the stair side and on the floor side at the latch side of doors to exit stair shafts.

(2) Upper case letters indicating the designation assigned to each exit stair shaft in both visual and tactile forms in accordance with Article 3.8.3.1. shall mounted permanently on the wall on the stair side and on the floor side at the latch side of doors to exist stair shafts.

3.2.4.8. Annunciator and Zone Indication

(2) Except as permitted by Sentence (6), the annunciator required by Sentence (1) shall have separate zone indication of the actuation of the alarm initiating devices in each,

(a) floor area so that the area of coverage for each zone in a building that is not sprinklered is not more than 2000 m²,

(b) floor area so that the area of coverage for each zone is neither

(i) more than, 1 storey, nor

(ii) more than the system area limits as specified in NFPA 13, “Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems”,

(c) shaft required to be equipped with fire detectors,

(d) air-handling system required to be equipped with smoke detectors,

(e) fire extinguishing system required by NFPA 96, “Standard for the Ventilation Control and Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations”,

(f) contained use area,



- (g) impeded egress zone, and
- (h) fire compartment required in sentence 3.3.3.5.(2) or Sentence 3.3.4.11.(2).

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Builders Tip is to have the floor, stair, fire alarm and elevator numbering system consistent with each other to avoid confusion.

Floor Number - Buildings incorporating an exit stair shaft require the floor number to be mounted on each side of the door. The Arabic number, i.e., 1, 2, 3, etc. must be raised to be identified by touch and be of contrasting colour to offer maximum colour contrast for the visually impaired. White on black or black on white is recommended. The use of Ground Floor designation must be replaced with the Arabic number 1.

Exit Stair Shaft Designation - Buildings incorporating an exit stair shaft require the exit stair to be designated on each side of the door. The upper-case letter, i.e. A, B, must be raised to be identified by touch and be of contrasting colour to offer maximum colour contrast for the visually impaired. White on black or black on white is recommended.

Fire Alarm Zone Indication - The zones for each floor must be identical to the floor numbering mounted on each side of the door. For example, fire alarm zone '5th floor' corresponds with the raised numeral (5) mounted on the door where the fire alarm detection device was initiated.

The zones for each exit stair shaft must be identical to the stair designation mounted on each side of the door. For example, fire alarm zone 'Stair B' corresponds with the raised upper-case letter mounted on the door for the smoke detector activated in the exit stair shaft. Fire alarm control panels not incorporating a graphic layout must include the compass point direction in brackets. For example, fire alarm zone 'Stair B' (North).

Elevator Floor Numbering - The floor numbering system for the buttons in the elevator cabs should correspond with the floor numbering of the exit stair shafts and the fire alarm zone indication but is not a Building Code requirement. For example, elevator button number 5 will stop at the floor with numeral 5 on the exit stair shaft door and when the pull station adjacent to the exit stair shaft door is activated zone '5th floor' is in an alarm condition on the fire alarm control panel.



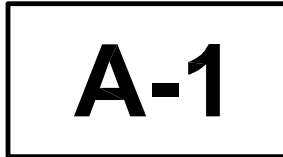
SIGN EXAMPLES



PARKING LEVELS



BASEMENT LEVELS



FIRST FLOOR



OTHER FLOORS