5. Review levels identified as mezzanines to make sure they meet the area and enclosure requirements that define a mezzanine.

6. Determine if any basements or attics are present.

7. For the purpose of allowable height and area limitations determine if the building will be (1) a single building, (2) a single structure divided into multiple buildings or (3) more than one structure on the same lot identified as a single building.

8. Tabulate the area of each story and the building area for the proposed building.
NOTES & REMINDERS

THE USE OF CLOSELY SPACED SPRINKLERS (A WATER CURTAIN) WITHIN A FEW INCHES OF THE OPENING (LOCATED ON THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING) IS OFTEN USED AS AN EQUIVALENCY TO PROTECTED OPENINGS PENDING APPROVAL BY THE AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE PERCENTAGES OF OPENINGS ARE CONSIDERED ON A ‘PER STORY’ BASIS RELATIVE TO WALLS THAT FACE THE PROPERTY LINE. WALLS THAT ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE PROPERTY LINE MAY HAVE UNLIMITED OPENINGS BECAUSE RADIATIVE HEAT TRANSFER IS GREATLY DIMINISHED OUTSIDE OF THE LINE OF SIGHT.

IN BUILDINGS WHERE THE EXTERIOR BEARING WALLS, EXTERIOR NONBEARING WALLS AND EXTERIOR PRIMARY STRUCTURAL FRAME ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE FIRE-RESISTANCE RATED, THE NUMBER AND QUANTITY OF UNPROTECTED OPENINGS IS NOT LIMITED.

IN BUILDINGS THAT ARE NOT GROUP H OCCUPANCIES, THE AREA OF UNPROTECTED OPENINGS IN AN EXTERIOR WALL THAT FACES AN UNOCCUPIED SPACE ON THE SAME LOT OR DEDICATED FOR PUBLIC USE THAT IS 30 FEET OR MORE IN WIDTH AND HAS ACCESS FROM THE STREET BY A FIRE LANE IS NOT LIMITED ON THE FIRST STORY ABOVE GRADE PLANE.

REFERENCES: 705.8; TABLE 705.8
DOORS IN SERIES MUST BE SEPARATED BY ADEQUATE SPACE FOR A WHEELCHAIR USER TO RESIDE WITHOUT BEING INTERSECTED BY THE DOOR SWING (I.E. AT LEAST 48 INCHES). FURTHERMORE, TURNING CIRCLES ARE REQUIRED TO ALLOW THE WHEELCHAIR USER TO COMPLETELY TURN AROUND WITHIN THE SPACE CREATED BY THE DOORS IN SERIES.

THE 60 INCH DIMENSION IS GENERALLY ALLOWED TO BE MEASURED FROM FACE OF DOOR TO FACE OF THE OPPOSING DOOR.

ACCESSIBILITY CODES GENERALLY PERMIT AN OVERLAP OF UP TO 12 INCHES BETWEEN THE TURNING CIRCLE AND A DOOR SWING.

THE MINIMUM DIMENSIONS DESCRIBED HERE ARE NOT APPLICABLE WHEN THE DOORS ARE RECESSED IN THICKER WALLS AS ADDITIONAL PUSH OR PULL SIDE CLEARANCE MAY BE NECESSARY.

REVIEW ALL DOORS IN SERIES USED AS EGRESS COMPONENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT REQUIREMENTS FOR DOOR SWING DIRECTION THAT MAY SUPERSEDE THESE PERMISSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MET.

REFERENCES: 1008.1.8; ICC A117.1 404.2.5
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Joseph Gentile and Nate Wittasek have spent years advising architects, engineers, building owners and authorities having jurisdiction on the correct application of the International Building Code. During the course of these efforts they have developed unique insight into the relationship between the design process and use of building codes. This checklist represents an effort to improve the built environment through education and encouraging a comprehensive approach to code compliance at an early stage of the design process. Additional technical review of this document has been undertaken by the International Code Council. The International Building Code has been adopted at the state or local level in many parts of the United States and the world.

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