NFPA 92A

Standard for Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences

2006 Edition

NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 92A

Standard for

Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences

2006 Edition

This edition of NFPA 92A, *Standard for Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Smoke Management Systems and acted on by NFPA at its June Association Technical Meeting held June 6–10, 2005, in Las Vegas, NV. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 29, 2005, with an effective date of August 18, 2005, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 92A was approved as an American National Standard on August 18, 2005.

Origin and Development of NFPA 92A

The NFPA Standards Council established the Technical Committee on Smoke Management Systems in October of 1985 and charged it with addressing the need for guidelines and materials on building fire smoke management. With help from a former subcommittee on smoke control of the Technical Committee on Air Conditioning, members were appointed to the Smoke Management Systems Committee in 1986. As a first attempt at addressing smoke management, a draft was prepared of a new document, NFPA 92A, that addressed smoke control utilizing barriers, airflows, and pressure differences so as to confine the smoke of a fire to the zone of fire origin and thus maintain a tenable environment in other zones.

The 1993 edition helped to refine the science and art of smoke control by incorporating the latest in technology. The 1996 edition added guidelines on control system supervision and instrumentation; it also provided substantial appendix material on testing for leakage of smoke-control enclosures.

The 2000 edition was a complete revision and added information based on research on the design and testing of smoke-control systems for areas of refuge, elevator lobbies and hoistways, and vestibules. A chapter addressing computer models was added, and the criteria for control systems and fire fighters' control stations was refined and clarified.

The 2006 edition is a major revision from the previous edition. The document has been rewritten as a standard with mandatory provisions regarding the design, installation, and testing of smoke-control systems provided. The document also has been reorganized to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Additionally, other editorial changes have been made to improve the application of the standard. Major technical changes address power supplies for smoke-control systems, openings, and leakage through smoke barriers, including egress doors in stairways, system wiring, design documentation, test procedures, and the zoning of elevator shafts and elevator lobbies.

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This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, installation, testing, operation, and maintenance of systems for the control, removal, or venting of heat or smoke from fires in buildings.

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NFPA 92A

Standard for

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2006 Edition

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A reference in brackets [ ] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex G. Editorial changes to extracted material consist of revising references to an appropriate division in this document or the inclusion of the document number with the division number when the reference is to the original document. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex G.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. This standard shall apply to the design, installation, acceptance testing, operation, and ongoing periodic testing of dedicated and nondedicated smoke-control systems.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard shall be to establish requirements for smoke-control systems that use pressure differences across barriers to accomplish one or more of the following:

(1) Inhibit smoke from entering stairwells, means of egress, smoke refuge areas, elevator shafts, or similar areas
(2) Maintain a tenable environment in smoke refuge areas and means of egress during the time required for evacuation
(3) Inhibit the migration of smoke from the smoke zone
(4) Provide conditions outside the smoke zone that enable emergency response personnel to conduct search and rescue operations and to locate and control the fire
(5) Contribute to the protection of life and to the reduction of property loss

1.2.2 The requirements specifying the conditions under which a smoke-control system shall be provided are addressed by other codes and standards.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 This standard shall apply to dedicated and nondedicated smoke-control systems using pressure differences to inhibit smoke movement.

1.3.2* This standard shall not apply to smoke-control systems using airflow to inhibit smoke movement, nor shall it apply to passive systems for smoke and heat venting.

1.3.3* The requirements for standby power are outside the scope of this document.

1.4 Retroactivity.

1.4.1 Unless otherwise noted, it is not intended that the provisions of this document be applied to facilities, equipment, structures, or installations that were existing or approved for construction or installation prior to the effective date of this document.

1.4.2 In those cases where it is determined by the authority having jurisdiction that the existing situation involves a distinct hazard to life or property, retroactive application of the provisions of this document shall be permitted.

1.4.3 Where a smoke-control system is being altered, extended, or renovated, the requirements of this standard shall apply only to the work being undertaken.

1.4.4 Verification is required to assure that new or modified systems do not adversely affect the performance of existing smoke-control systems.

1.5 Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.5.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.5.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.6 Units and Formulas. (Reserved)

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code®*, 2005 edition.
NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm Code®*, 2002 edition.
NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems,* 2002 edition.
NFPA *101®*, *Life Safety Code®*, 2006 edition.
NFPA 110, *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems,* 2005 edition.
NFPA 221, *Standard for High Challenge Fire Walls, Fire Walls, and Fire Barrier Walls,* 2006 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 UL Publication. Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-2096.

UL 555S, *Standard for Smoke Dampers,* 2002.

2.3.2 Other Publication.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

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2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 92B, *Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces,* 2005 edition.

NFPA 318, *Standard for the Protection of Semiconductor Fabrication Facilities,* 2006 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary,* 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.4 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.2.5 Standard. A document, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word "shall" to indicate requirements and which is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions shall be located in an appendix or annex, footnote, or fine-print note and are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Compensated System. A system that adjusts for changing conditions either by modulating supply airflows or by relieving excess pressure.

3.3.2* Design Pressure Difference. The desired pressure difference between the protected space and an adjacent space measured at the boundary of the protected space under a specified set of conditions with the smoke-control system operating.

3.3.3 End-to-End Verification. A self-testing method that provides positive confirmation that the desired result (e.g., airflow or damper position) has been achieved when a controlled device has been activated, such as during smoke control, testing, or manual override operations.

3.3.4* Fire Fighters' Smoke-Control Station (FSCS). A system that provides graphical monitoring and manual overriding capability over smoke-control systems and equipment at designated location(s) within the building for the use of the fire department.

3.3.5 Multiple-Injection Pressurization System. A type of smoke-control system that has pressurization air supplied from multiple locations.

3.3.6 Pressurized Stairwells. A type of smoke-control system in which stair shafts are mechanically pressurized, with respect to the fire area, with outdoor air to keep smoke from contaminating them during a fire incident.

3.3.7 Single-Injection Pressurization System. A type of smoke-control system that has pressurization air supplied from only one location.

3.3.8 Smoke. The airborne solid and liquid particulates and gases evolved when a material undergoes pyrolysis or combustion, together with the quantity of air that is entrained or otherwise mixed into the mass. [**318**, 2006]

3.3.9* Smoke Barrier. For the purposes of this standard, a continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall, floor, or ceiling assembly, that is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke in conjunction with a smoke-control system.

3.3.10 Smoke-Control Mode. A predefined operational configuration of a system or device for the purpose of smoke control.

3.3.11 Smoke-Control System. An engineered system that uses mechanical fans to produce pressure differences across smoke barriers to inhibit smoke movement.

3.3.11.1* *Dedicated Smoke-Control System.* Smoke-control systems and components that are installed for the sole purpose of providing smoke control, and upon activation these systems operate specifically to perform the smoke-control function.

3.3.11.2* *Nondedicated Smoke-Control Systems.* Smoke-control systems and components that share components with some other system(s), such as the building HVAC system, and upon activation cause the HVAC system to change its mode of operation in order to achieve the smoke-control objectives.

3.3.12 Smoke-Control Zone. A space within a building enclosed by smoke barriers, including the top and bottom, that is part of a zoned smoke-control system.

3.3.13* Smoke Exhaust System. A mechanical or gravity system intended to move smoke from the smoke zone to the exterior of the building, including smoke removal, purging, and venting systems, as well as the function of exhaust fans utilized to reduce the pressure in a smoke zone.

3.3.14 Smoke Refuge Area. An area of the building separated from other spaces by fire resistance rated smoke barriers in which a tenable environment is maintained for the period of time that such areas might need to be occupied at the time of fire.

3.3.15 Smoke Zone. The smoke-control zone in which the fire is located.

3.3.16 Stack Effect. The vertical airflow within buildings caused by the temperature-created density differences between the building interior and exterior or between two interior spaces. [**92B**, 2005]

3.3.17* Tenable Environment. An environment in which smoke and heat are limited or otherwise restricted to maintain the impact on occupants to a level that is not life threatening. [**92B**, 2005]

3.3.18 Zoned Smoke-Control System. A smoke-control system that includes smoke exhaust for the smoke zone and pressurization for all contiguous smoke-control zones.

Chapter 4 Fundamentals

4.1 Design Objectives.

4.1.1 The design objectives shall include establishment and maintenance of pressure differences across smoke zone boundaries.

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4.1.2* The design objectives to be achieved over the design interval time by a smoke-control system shall include one or more of the following:

(1) Containing the smoke to the zone of fire origin
(2) Maintaining a tenable environment within exit stairwells for the time necessary to allow occupants to exit the building
(3) Maintaining a tenable environment within all exit access and smoke refuge area access paths for the time necessary to allow occupants to reach an exit or smoke refuge area
(4) Other performance-based design objectives acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction

4.2 Design Basis.

4.2.1* The design pressure difference for the smoke-control system in a given building shall be based on the following parameters:

(1) Whether the smoke zone is sprinklered
(2) The height of the ceiling in the smoke zone

4.2.2 Temperature Ratings.

4.2.2.1 The temperature ratings for the equipment used for smoke control shall be based on the expected temperature experienced by the equipment while the equipment is intended to be operational.

4.2.2.2 Temperature ratings shall be based on the following:

(1) Proximity to the fire
(2) Effects of dilution of the smoke and hot gases by entrained air

4.3 Design Approaches. The design approach for smoke-control systems shall be one or a combination of the following:

(1) Stairwell pressurization
(2) Zoned smoke control
(3) Elevator smoke control
(4) Vestibules
(5) Smoke refuge areas

4.4* Tenability. For smoke-control systems designed to maintain tenability of a portion of space, the design shall be based on maintaining pressures in the protected space at the specified level with respect to adjacent contaminated spaces.

4.5* Egress Analysis. Where the design of the smoke-control system is based on occupants exiting a space before being exposed to smoke or before tenability thresholds are reached, there shall be sufficient time for the movement of the occupant as determined by a timed egress analysis.

4.6 Design Considerations.

4.6.1* Openings and Leakage Areas. Designs shall incorporate the effect of openings and leakage areas in smoke barriers on the performance of the smoke-control system.

4.6.2* Weather Data. Designs shall incorporate the effect of outdoor temperature and wind on the performance of the smoke-control system.

4.6.3 Pressure Differences. The maximum and minimum allowable pressure differences across the boundaries of smoke-control zones shall be established.

4.6.3.1 The maximum allowable pressure difference shall not result in door-opening forces exceeding the requirements of 5.2.2.

4.6.3.2 The minimum allowable pressure difference shall restrict smoke leakage during building evacuation to a level that maintains a tenable environment in areas outside the smoke zone.

4.6.3.3 The minimum pressure difference shall be established at a level that is high enough that it will not be overcome by the forces of wind, stack effect, or buoyancy of hot smoke.

4.6.4* Number of Doors Open. The calculations shall take into account the number of doors that could be opened simultaneously. *(For stairwell pressurization systems, see 5.3.6.2.)*

4.7* Gaseous Fire Suppression Systems. The operation of the smoke-control system shall not compromise the performance of gaseous agent fire protection systems.

Chapter 5 Smoke-Control Systems and Applicability

5.1* System Operation.

5.1.1 Smoke-control systems designed for tenability shall remain effective for the time period necessary for evacuation of the protected areas.

5.1.2 Smoke-control systems designed for other considerations shall remain effective for the time dictated by the application.

5.2 Pressure Differences.

5.2.1* Pressure Differences Across Barriers.

5.2.1.1 Except as specified by 5.2.1.2, the pressure differences in Table 5.2.1.1 shall be used for designs that are based on maintaining minimum pressure differences between specified spaces.

5.2.1.2 Where the system designer has determined that a higher minimum pressure difference is necessary to achieve the smoke-control objectives, the higher minimum pressure difference shall be used.

5.2.2* Pressure Differences Across Doors. The pressure differences across doors shall not cause the maximum force permitted to begin opening the door to exceed the value stipulated in NFPA *101*, *Life Safety Code*, or local codes and regulations.

Table 5.2.1.1 Minimum Design Pressure Differences Across Smoke Barriers

Building Type	Ceiling Height (ft)	Design Pressure Difference* (in. w.g.)
AS	Any	0.05
NS	9	0.10
NS	15	0.14
NS	21	0.18

For SI units, 1 ft = 0.305 m; 0.1 in. w.g. = 25 Pa.
AS: Sprinklered. NS: Nonsprinklered.
Notes:
(1) The table presents minimum design pressure differences developed for a gas temperature of 1700°F (927°C) next to the smoke barrier.
(2) For design purposes, a smoke-control system shall maintain these minimum pressure differences under specified design conditions of stack effect or wind.
*For zoned smoke-control systems, the pressure difference shall be measured between the smoke zone and adjacent spaces while the affected areas are in the smoke-control mode.

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5.3 Stairwell Pressurization Systems.

5.3.1* General. The pressure difference between the smoke zone and the stairwell shall be as follows:

(1) Not less than the minimum pressure difference specified in 5.2.1
(2) Not greater than the maximum pressure difference specified in 5.2.2 with the number of doors between zero and the design number of doors open

5.3.2 Location of Supply Air Source.

5.3.2.1 The stairwell pressurization system design shall limit smoke from entering the stairwell through the pressurization fan intake.

5.3.2.2* The supply air intake shall be separated from all building exhausts, outlets from smoke shafts and roof smoke and heat vents, open vents from elevator shafts, and other building openings that might expel smoke from the building in a fire.

5.3.3 Supply Air Fans.

5.3.3.1* Propeller Fans. Roof or exterior wall-mounted propeller fans shall be permitted to be used in single-injection systems, provided that wind shields are provided for the fan.

5.3.3.2 Other Types of Fans. Centrifugal or in-line axial fans shall be permitted to be used in single- or multiple-injection systems.

5.3.4* Single- and Multiple-Injection Systems.

5.3.4.1 Single-Injection Systems.

5.3.4.1.1* The air injection point for a single-injection system shall be permitted to be located at any location within the stairwell.

5.3.4.1.2* Design analysis shall be performed for all single-bottom-injection systems and for all other single-injection systems for stairwells in excess of 100 ft (30.5 m) in height.

5.3.4.2* Multiple-Injection Systems. For system designs with injection points more than three stories apart, a design analysis shall be performed to ensure that loss of pressurization air through open doors does not lead to stairwell pressurization below the minimum design pressure.

5.3.5 Vestibules.

5.3.5.1* Vestibules shall not be required but shall be permitted as part of the building smoke-control system.

5.3.5.2* Where vestibules are provided, either pressurized or nonpressurized vestibules shall be permitted.

5.3.6* Doors.

5.3.6.1 Doors located in smoke barriers shall be self-closing or shall be arranged to close automatically upon the activation of the smoke-control system.

5.3.6.2* Stairwell pressurization systems shall be designed to achieve the required pressure difference with a single door open to the interior of the building.

5.4* Elevator Smoke Control. Where elevator smoke control is required, a separate zone shall be established.

5.5* Zoned Smoke Control.

5.5.1 Smoke-Control Zones.

5.5.1.1 When zoned smoke control is to be used, the building shall be divided into smoke-control zones, with each zone separated from the others by smoke barriers.

5.5.1.1.1* A smoke-control zone shall be permitted to consist of one or more floors.

5.5.1.1.2 A floor shall be permitted to consist of one or more smoke-control zones.

5.5.1.2 The zoned smoke-control system shall be designed such that when zoned smoke control is active, the pressure differences between the adjacent non-smoke zones and the smoke zone meet or exceed the minimum design pressure differences given in 5.2.1, and at locations with doors, the pressure difference shall not exceed the values given in 5.2.2.

5.5.2 Smoke Zone Exhaust.

5.5.2.1 The smoke zone exhaust shall discharge to the outside of the building.

5.5.2.2 The smoke zone exhaust shall be permitted to be either mechanical or natural ventilation.

5.5.2.3 Design of the smoke zone exhaust system shall include an engineering analysis of the stack and wind effects.

5.6* Smoke Refuge Areas.

5.6.1 A non-smoke zone of a zoned smoke-control system shall be permitted to be used as an area intended to protect occupants for the period of time needed for evacuation or to provide a smoke refuge area.

5.6.2 For areas of refuge adjacent to stairwells or elevators, provisions shall be made to prevent the loss of pressure or excessive pressures due to the interaction between the smoke refuge area smoke control and the shaft smoke control.

5.7* Combination of Systems. Smoke-control systems shall be designed such that where multiple smoke-control systems operate simultaneously, each system will meet its individual design objectives.

Chapter 6 Building Equipment and Controls

6.1 General. Equipment and controls used for smoke-control purposes shall be in accordance with Chapter 6.

6.2* Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Equipment.

6.2.1 General. HVAC equipment used for smoke-control purposes shall be permitted to be located within the conditioned space, within adjacent spaces, or within remote mechanical equipment rooms.

6.2.2 Outside Air. HVAC systems used for smoke-control purposes shall be provided with outside air for pressurization.

6.2.3 Where supply and return air systems are interconnected as part of normal HVAC operation, smoke dampers shall be provided to separate the supply and exhaust during smoke-control operation.

6.3 Smoke Dampers. Smoke dampers used to protect openings in smoke barriers or used as safety-related dampers in engineered smoke-control systems shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 555S, *Standard for Smoke Dampers.*

6.4 Controls.

6.4.1 Coordination. A single control system shall coordinate the smoke-control functions provided by the fire alarm system,

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fire fighters' smoke-control system, and any other related systems with the operation of the building HVAC systems and dedicated smoke-control equipment.

6.4.2* HVAC System Controls. Operating controls of the HVAC system shall be designed or modified to provide the smoke-control mode with the highest priority over all other control modes.

6.4.3 Smoke-Control System Activation and Deactivation.

6.4.3.1 Smoke-control systems shall be activated automatically.

6.4.3.2 Where approved by the authority having jurisdiction, manual activation shall be permitted.

6.4.3.3 When operating under either automatic or manual activation, the smoke-control system shall be capable of being manually overridden and manually deactivated.

6.4.3.4* Smoke-control systems shall be automatically activated in response to signals received from a specific fire detection device or a combination of fire detection devices.

6.4.3.5 Manual Activation and Deactivation.

6.4.3.5.1* Manual activation and deactivation shall be permitted to be at a controlled device, at a local control panel, at the building's main control center, or at the fire command station.

6.4.3.5.2* Manual fire alarm pull stations shall not be used to activate smoke-control systems that require information on the location of the fire.

6.4.3.5.3* Stairwell pressurization systems or other smoke-control systems where the response of the system is identical for all zone alarms shall be permitted to be activated from a manual fire alarm pull station.

6.4.3.6 Response Time.

6.4.3.6.1 The smoke-control mode shall be initiated within 10 seconds after an automatic or manual activation command is received at the smoke-control system.

6.4.3.6.2* Smoke-control systems shall activate individual components (e.g., dampers, fans) in the sequence necessary to prevent physical damage to the fans, dampers, ducts, and other equipment.

6.4.3.6.3* The time necessary for individual components to achieve their desired state or operational mode from when the component receives the signal shall not exceed the following time periods:

(1) Fan operation at the desired state: 60 seconds
(2) Completion of damper travel: 75 seconds

6.4.3.7* Fire Fighters' Smoke-Control Station (FSCS).

6.4.3.7.1 A fire fighters' smoke-control station (FSCS) shall be provided for all smoke-control systems.

6.4.3.7.2 The FSCS shall be installed at a location acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

6.4.3.7.3* The FSCS shall provide status indication, fault condition indication, and manual control of all smoke-control system components.

6.4.3.7.4 Status indicators and controls shall be arranged and labeled to convey the intended system objectives.

6.4.3.7.5 Operator controls, status indication, and fault indication shall be provided for each smoke-control zone, each piece of equipment capable of activation for smoke control, or a combination of these approaches.

6.4.3.7.6 Positive status indication (on and off) shall be provided individually or by zone in accordance with 6.4.3.7.5 for the following:

(1) Dedicated smoke-control system fans
(2) Nondedicated fans used for smoke control having a capacity in excess of 2000 ft^3/min (57 m^3/min)

6.4.3.7.7* "On" status shall be sensed by a pressure difference, an airflow switch, or some other positive proof of airflow.

6.4.3.7.8 Positive status indication (fully open and fully closed) of damper position shall be provided if individual controls for the damper are provided on the FSCS.

6.4.3.7.9 Provision shall be included for testing the pilot lamps on the FSCS smoke-control panel(s) by means of one or more "LAMP TEST" momentary push buttons or other self-restoring means.

6.4.3.7.10 Diagrams and graphic representations of the system shall be used.

6.4.3.7.11 The FSCS shall have the highest priority control over all smoke-control systems and equipment.

6.4.3.7.12 Where manual controls for control of smoke-control systems are also provided at other building locations, the control mode selected from the FSCS shall prevail.

6.4.3.7.13 FSCS control shall override or bypass other building controls such as hand-off-auto and start/stop switches located on fan motor controllers, freeze detection devices, and duct smoke detectors except as provided by 6.4.3.7.13.1.

6.4.3.7.13.1 The FSCS fan control capability shall not be required to bypass hand-off-auto or start/stop switches located on motor controllers of nondedicated smoke-control system fans, where both of the following conditions exist:

(1) Such fan motor controllers are located in mechanical or electrical equipment rooms or in other areas accessible only to authorized personnel.
(2) The use of such a motor controller switch to turn a fan on or off will cause an off-normal indication at the building's main control center during normal HVAC or building control operations of the nondedicated fan.

6.4.3.7.14 FSCS control shall not take precedence over fire suppression, electrical protection, or personnel protection devices.

6.4.4 Controls for Stairwell Pressurization Systems. Stairwell pressurization systems shall be as activated as described in 6.4.4.1 through 6.4.4.3.

6.4.4.1* Automatic Activation. Operation of any zone of the building fire alarm system shall cause all stairwell pressurization fans to start except as indicated in 6.4.4.1.1.

6.4.4.1.1 Where an engineering analysis determines that operation of all stairwell pressurization fans is not required to achieve the design objective, only the stairwell pressurization fans identified during the analysis shall be required to be activated.

6.4.4.2 Smoke Detection.

6.4.4.2.1 A smoke detector shall be provided in the air supply to the pressurized stairwell.

6.4.4.2.2 On detection of smoke in the air supply, the supply fan(s) shall be stopped.

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6.4.4.3 Manual Activation. Manual activation and deactivation control of the stairwell pressurization systems shall be provided at the FSCS.

6.4.4.4 Manual Override. A manual override switch shall be permitted to be provided at the FSCS to restart the stairwell pressurization fan(s) after shutdown from the smoke detector.

6.4.5 Controls for Zoned Smoke-Control Systems.

6.4.5.1 General. When zoned smoke-control systems are provided, they shall be activated as described in 6.4.5.1.1 and 6.4.5.1.2.

6.4.5.1.1 Automatic Activation. Zoned smoke-control systems shall be automatically activated in response to signals received from a device or combination of devices that responds to products of combustion.

6.4.5.1.1.1* When signals from fire alarm systems are used to activate the zoned smoke-control system(s), the fire alarm zones shall be arranged to coincide with the smoke-control zones.

6.4.5.1.1.2 Where an automatic smoke detection system is used to automatically activate a zoned smoke-control system, the smoke detection system shall be permitted to be of limited coverage having spacing greater than 900 ft^2 (84 m^2) per detector.

6.4.5.1.1.3 Where an automatic smoke detection system is used to automatically activate a zoned smoke-control system, the location of smoke detectors and the zoning of the detectors shall be arranged to detect smoke before it leaves the smoke zone.

6.4.5.1.1.4 Where a waterflow switch or heat detector is used to activate a zoned smoke-control system, zoning of such systems shall coincide with the smoke-control zone.

6.4.5.1.2 Manual Activation.

6.4.5.1.2.1* Zoned smoke-control systems shall not be activated from manual fire alarm pull stations.

6.4.5.1.2.2 Fire alarm pull stations shall be permitted to cause doors in smoke barrier walls to close.

6.4.5.1.2.3 Key-operated manual switches located within a smoke zone that are clearly marked to identify their function shall be permitted to manually activate the zone's smoke-control system.

6.4.5.1.2.4 Zoned smoke-control systems shall be capable of being manually activated from the FSCS by switches clearly marked to identify the zone and function.

6.4.5.2* Sequence of Control and Priorities. Automatic activation, manual activation, and manual deactivation of zoned smoke-control systems shall be subject to the sequences of control and priorities given in 6.4.5.2.1, 6.4.5.2.2, and 6.4.5.2.3.

6.4.5.2.1 Automatic Activation. Automatic activation of systems and equipment for zoned smoke control shall have the highest priority over all other sources of automatic control within the building.

6.4.5.2.1.1* Except as provided for in 6.4.5.2.1.2, where equipment used for smoke control is also used for normal building operation, control of this equipment shall be preempted or overridden as required for smoke control.

6.4.5.2.1.2 The following controls shall not be automatically overridden:

(1) Static pressure high limits
(2) Duct smoke detectors on supply air systems

6.4.5.2.2 Manual Activation and Deactivation. Manual activation or deactivation of zoned smoke-control systems and equipment shall have priority over automatic activation of smoke-control systems and equipment, as well as over all other sources of automatic control within the building.

6.4.5.2.3 If equipment used for zoned smoke control is subject to automatic activation in response to an alarm from an automatic fire detector of a fire alarm system, or if such equipment is subject to automatic control according to building occupancy schedules, energy management strategies, or other nonemergency purposes, such automatic control shall be preempted or overridden by manual activation or deactivation of the smoke-control equipment.

6.4.5.2.4 Manual Controls.

6.4.5.2.4.1 Manual controls provided specifically for manual activation or deactivation for smoke-control purposes shall be clearly marked to indicate the zone and function served.

6.4.5.2.4.2 Manual controls that are shared for both smoke-control functions and other building control purposes, as in a building's main control center, shall fully cover the smoke-control functionality in operational documentation for the control center.

6.4.5.3* Schedule. The equipment to be operated for each automatically activated smoke-control system configuration shall be fully defined in the project documents.

6.4.5.4 Sequence. Equipment used for smoke control shall be activated in the specific sequence necessary to minimize damage or undesirable effects on ducts or equipment.

6.4.5.5* Automatic Response to Multiple Signals. In the event that signals are received from more than one smoke zone, the system shall continue automatic operation in the mode determined by the first signal received except as provided for in 6.4.5.5.1.

6.4.5.5.1* For systems designed for operation of multiple zones using only heat-activated detection devices, it shall be permitted to expand the control strategy to accommodate additional zones, up to the limits of the mechanical system design.

6.4.6* Control System Verification.

6.4.6.1 Every dedicated smoke-control system and each dedicated smoke-control subsystem in a nondedicated smoke-control system shall have a means of verifying correct operation when activated.

6.4.6.2 Verification shall include positive confirmation of actuation, testing, manual override, and the presence of operating power downstream of all circuit disconnects.

6.4.6.3 Failure to receive positive confirmation after activation or cessation of such positive confirmation while the system or subsystem remains activated shall result in an off-normal indication at the smoke-control system within 200 seconds.

6.4.6.4 Fire alarm signaling paths to the smoke-control system shall be monitored for integrity in accordance with 4.4.7.1 of *NFPA 72*, with trouble annunciation provided at the FSCS except as permitted by 6.4.6.4.1.

6.4.6.4.1 Monitoring for integrity shall not be required when the interconnecting wiring between the fire alarm system and the smoke-control system is located within 20 ft (6.1 m) of each other where the conductors are installed in conduit or equivalently protected against mechanical injury.

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6.5 Energy Management. Energy management systems, particularly those that cycle supply, return, and exhaust fans for energy conservation, shall be overridden when their control or operation is in conflict with a smoke-control mode.

6.6 Materials.

6.6.1 Materials used for systems providing smoke control shall conform to NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*, and other applicable NFPA documents.

6.6.2 Duct materials shall be selected and ducts shall be designed to convey smoke, withstand additional pressure (both positive and negative) by the supply and exhaust fans when operating in a smoke-control mode, and maintain their structural integrity during the period for which the system is designed to operate.

6.6.3* Equipment including, but not limited to, fans, ducts, and balance dampers shall be suitable for their intended use and the probable temperatures to which they are likely to be exposed.

6.7 Electric Services Installation.

6.7.1 All electrical installations shall meet the requirements of NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*.

6.7.2 The smoke-control system shall be designed so that loss of normal power for a period of up to 15 minutes will result in the components automatically performing their function upon restoration of power.

6.7.3 Where standby power is provided in accordance with NFPA 110, *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, the standby power source and related transfer switches shall be separated from transformers and switch gear for the primary power supply and enclosed in a room with a 1-hour fire resistance–rated fire barrier wall installed in accordance with NFPA 221, *Standard for High Challenge Fire Walls, Fire Walls, and Fire Barrier Walls*.

Chapter 7 Design Documentation

7.1* Documentation Required. The following documents shall be generated by the designer during the design process:

(1) Design report
(2) Operations and maintenance manual

7.1.1 Design Report.

7.1.1.1 The design report shall provide documentation of the smoke-control system as it is to be installed, as well as the design calculations.

7.1.1.2 The design report shall include the following elements, if applicable:

(1) System purpose
(2) System design objectives
(3) Design approach
(4) Design assumptions (building height, ambient conditions, reliance on other fire protection systems, leakage, etc.)
(5) Location of smoke zone(s)
(6) Design pressure differences
(7) Building use limitations that arise out of the system design
(8) Design calculations
(9) Fan and duct specifications
(10) Damper specifications
(11) Detailed inlet or exhaust inlets site information
(12) Detailed method of activation
(13) Smoke-control system operation logic
(14) System commissioning procedures

7.1.2* Operations and Maintenance Manual. The operations and maintenance manual shall provide the requirements to ensure the proper operation of the system over the life of the building.

7.1.2.1 The operations and maintenance manual shall include the following:

(1) The procedures used in the initial commissioning of the system as well as the measured performance of the system at the time of commissioning
(2) The testing and inspection requirements for the system and system components and the required frequency of testing *(see Chapter 8)*
(3) The critical design assumptions used in the design and limitations on the building and its use that arise out of the design assumptions and limitations

7.1.2.2 Copies of the operations and maintenance manual shall be provided to the owner and the authorities having jurisdiction.

7.1.2.3 The building owner shall be responsible for all system testing and shall maintain records of all periodic testing and maintenance in accordance with the operations and maintenance manual.

7.1.2.4 The building owner shall be responsible for limiting the use of the space in a manner consistent with the limitations provided in the operations and maintenance manual.

Chapter 8 Testing

8.1* General.

8.1.1 Each smoke-control system shall be tested against its specific design criteria.

8.1.2 Testing shall confirm that the design objectives described in Section 4.1 are achieved.

8.2* Preliminary Building Inspections.

8.2.1 Prior to operational and acceptance testing, completeness of building construction shall be verified.

8.2.2 The following architectural features, where applicable, shall be inspected:

(1) Shaft integrity
(2) Firestopping
(3) Doors/closers
(4) Glazing
(5) Partitions and ceilings

8.3* Operational Testing.

8.3.1 An operational test of each smoke control system component and subsystem shall be performed prior to the acceptance test.

8.3.2 Operational tests shall be performed prior to interconnection of individual components and subsystems to the smoke-control system.

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8.3.3 Smoke-control systems operational testing shall include the following subsystems to the extent that they affect the operation of the smoke-control system:

(1) Fire alarm system
(2) Energy management system
(3) Building management system
(4) HVAC equipment
(5) Electrical equipment
(6) Temperature control system
(7) Normal power
(8) Standby power
(9) Automatic suppression systems
(10) Automatic operating doors and closers
(11) Dedicated smoke-control systems
(12) Nondedicated smoke-control systems
(13) Emergency elevator operation

8.4 Acceptance Testing.

8.4.1* General. Acceptance testing shall demonstrate that the final integrated system installation complies with the specified design objectives and is functioning properly.

8.4.2* Test Equipment. Equipment for acceptance testing shall be provided.

8.4.3* General Testing Procedures. Acceptance testing shall include the procedures described in 8.4.3.1 through 8.4.3.8.

8.4.3.1 Prior to acceptance testing, all building equipment shall be placed in the normal operating mode, including equipment that is not used to implement smoke control, such as ventilation for commercial cooking operations, toilet exhaust, elevator shaft vents, elevator machine room fans, and similar systems.

8.4.3.2 Wind speed, direction, and outside temperature shall be recorded during each test.

8.4.3.3 If standby power has been provided for the operation of the smoke-control system, the acceptance testing shall be conducted on both normal and standby power.

8.4.3.4 When testing operation under standby power, the normal building power shall be interrupted at the main service disconnect to simulate true operating conditions in this mode.

8.4.3.5 Acceptance testing shall demonstrate that the correct outputs are produced for a given input for each control sequence specified.

8.4.3.6 Except as modified by 8.4.3.6.1 and 8.4.3.6.2, the complete smoke-control sequence shall be tested to include the following:

(1) Normal mode
(2) Automatic smoke-control mode for first alarm
(3) Manual override of normal and automatic smoke-control modes
(4) Return to normal

8.4.3.6.1 Testing of the automatic smoke-control mode as indicated in 8.4.3.6(2) shall not be required when this mode is not included in the system design.

8.4.3.6.2 Testing of the manual override mode as indicated in 8.4.3.6(3) shall not be required when this mode is not included in the system design.

8.4.3.7* Acceptance tests for the fire alarm system shall be permitted to be performed in conjunction with the smoke-control system tests.

8.4.3.8 The test methods described in 8.4.4 through 8.4.8 shall be used to test the smoke-control subsystems.

8.4.4 Stairwell Pressurization Systems.

8.4.4.1 General.

8.4.4.1.1 The requirements in 8.4.4 shall apply where stairwell pressurization is the only smoke-control system in the building.

8.4.4.1.2 Where stairwell pressurization is used in combination with zoned smoke control, the requirements of 8.4.8.1 shall apply.

8.4.4.1.3 Pressurized stairwell vestibules shall be treated as a zone in a zoned smoke-control system. *(See 8.4.5.)*

8.4.4.2 Test Procedures.

8.4.4.2.1* HVAC System Testing Under Non-Smoke-Control Conditions.

8.4.4.2.1.1 With all building HVAC systems in normal operation, the pressure difference across each stairwell door shall be measured and recorded while the door is closed.

8.4.4.2.1.2 With all building HVAC systems in normal operation, the force necessary to open each door shall also be measured and recorded using a spring-type scale.

8.4.4.2.2 HVAC System Testing Under Smoke-Control Conditions.

8.4.4.2.2.1 Activation of the stairwell pressurization system(s), as specified in the design report and operations and maintenance manual as specified in Chapter 7, shall be verified in response to all means of activation, both automatic and manual.

8.4.4.2.2.2 Where automatic activation is required in response to alarm signals received from the building's fire alarm system, each separate alarm signal shall be initiated to ensure that proper automatic activation occurs.

8.4.4.2.3* Pressure Testing.

8.4.4.2.3.1 With the stairwell pressurization system activated, the pressure difference across each stairwell door shall be measured and recorded with all interior doors closed.

8.4.4.2.3.2 If the exterior door would normally be open during evacuation, it shall be open during testing.

8.4.4.2.3.3 The HVAC system shall be off unless the normal mode is to leave the HVAC system on during smoke-control operations.

8.4.4.2.3.4* With the stairwell pressurization system activated, and the number of doors used in the system design open, the pressure difference across each remaining closed door shall be measured and recorded.

8.4.4.2.3.5 No pressure difference shall be less than the minimum design pressure differences in Table 5.2.1.1 or the pressures specified in the design documents.

8.4.4.2.4* Force Testing.

8.4.4.2.4.1 With the stairwell pressurization system activated, the force necessary to open each stairwell door shall be measured and recorded, using a spring-type scale.

8.4.4.2.4.2 All other stairwell doors shall be closed when the measurements specified in 8.4.4.2.4.1 are made.

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8.4.4.2.4.3 With the stairwell pressurization system activated, and the number of doors used in the system design open, the force necessary to open each door shall be measured using a spring-type scale and recorded.

8.4.4.2.4.4 Door-opening forces shall not exceed those allowed by the building code.

8.4.5* Zoned Smoke-Control System.

8.4.5.1 Normal HVAC Mode.

8.4.5.1.1 The pressure difference across all smoke-control zones that divide a building floor shall be measured and recorded while the HVAC systems serving the floor's smoke zones are operating in their normal (non-smoke-control) mode and while all smoke barrier doors that separate the floor zones are closed.

8.4.5.1.2 One measurement shall be made across each smoke barrier door or set of doors, and the data shall clearly indicate the higher and lower pressure sides of the doors.

8.4.5.2 Smoke-Control Mode, General.

8.4.5.2.1 Activation of each zoned smoke-control system in response to all means of activation, both automatic and manual, as specified in the design report and operations and maintenance manual as specified in Chapter 7, shall be verified and recorded.

8.4.5.2.2 Where automatic activation is required in response to alarm signals received from the building's fire alarm system, each separate alarm signal shall be initiated to ensure that proper automatic activation of the correct zoned smoke-control system occurs.

8.4.5.2.3 The proper operation of all fans, dampers, and related equipment for each separate zoned smoke-control system, as outlined by the project documents referenced in 6.4.5.3, shall be verified and recorded.

8.4.5.3 Smoke-Control Mode for Each Smoke-Control Zone.

8.4.5.3.1 Each separate smoke-control zone shall be activated by a simulated fire alarm input.

8.4.5.3.2 The pressure difference across all smoke barriers that separate the smoke zone from adjacent zones shall be measured and recorded.

8.4.5.3.3 The measurements shall be made while all smoke barrier doors that separate the smoke zone from the other zones are fully closed.

8.4.5.3.4 One measurement shall be made across each smoke barrier or set of doors, and the data shall clearly indicate the higher and lower pressure sides of the doors or barriers.

8.4.5.3.5 Doors that have a tendency to open slightly due to the pressure difference shall have one pressure measurement made while held closed and another made while not held closed.

8.4.5.3.6* Testing, as described in 8.4.5.3.1, shall continue until all fire alarm inputs have been activated.

8.4.5.3.7 Pressure Differences.

8.4.5.3.7.1 All pressure differences shall be documented.

8.4.5.3.7.2 No pressure difference shall be less than the minimum design pressure differences in Table 5.2.1.1 or the pressures specified in the design documents.

8.4.5.3.8 Door-opening forces shall be documented.

8.4.6 Elevator Smoke-Control Systems.

8.4.6.1 Elevator Hoistway Pressurization Systems.

8.4.6.1.1 General.

8.4.6.1.1.1 The requirements in 8.4.6.1 shall apply where elevator hoistway pressurization is the only smoke-control system in the building.

8.4.6.1.1.2 Where elevator hoistway pressurization is used in combination with zoned smoke control, the requirements of 8.4.8.3 shall apply.

8.4.6.1.2 Test Procedures.

8.4.6.1.2.1 Activation of the elevator pressurization system(s), as described in the design documents, shall be verified in response to all means of activation, both automatic and manual.

8.4.6.1.2.2 Where automatic activation is required in response to alarm signals received from the building's fire alarm system, each separate alarm signal shall be initiated to ensure that proper automatic activation occurs.

8.4.6.1.2.3* Pressure Testing.

(A) With the elevator pressurization system activated, the pressure difference across each elevator door with all elevator doors closed shall be measured and recorded.

(B) If the elevator door on the recall floor would normally be open during system pressurization, it shall be open during testing.

8.4.6.1.2.4 The HVAC system shall be off unless the normal mode is to leave the HVAC system on during smoke-control operations.

8.4.6.1.2.5 If the elevator pressurization system has been designed to operate during elevator movement, the tests in 8.4.6.1.2.1 through 8.4.6.1.2.4 shall be repeated under these conditions.

8.4.6.2 Lobby Pressurization Systems.

8.4.6.2.1 General.

8.4.6.2.1.1 The requirements in 8.4.6.2 shall apply where enclosed elevator lobby pressurization is the only smoke-control system in the building.

8.4.6.2.1.2 Where elevator lobby pressurization is used in combination with zoned smoke control, the requirements of 8.4.8.3 shall apply.

8.4.6.2.1.3* Where enclosed elevator lobbies are pressurized by an elevator lobby pressurization system, or where enclosed enclosed elevator lobbies receive secondary pressurization from the elevator hoistway, the requirements of 8.4.5 shall apply.

8.4.6.2.2 Test Procedures.

8.4.6.2.2.1 Measurement Equipment. With the elevator lobby pressurization system activated, the force necessary to open each lobby door shall be measured using a spring-type scale and recorded.

8.4.6.2.2.2 Pressure Differences.

(A) All pressure differences shall be documented.

(B) No pressure difference shall be less than the minimum design pressure differences in Table 5.2.1.1 or the pressures specified in the design documents.

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8.4.6.2.2.3 Door-Opening Forces.

(A) Elevator lobby door-opening forces shall be documented.

(B) Elevator lobby door-opening forces shall not exceed those indicated in 5.2.2.

8.4.7 Smoke Refuge Area.

8.4.7.1 A smoke refuge area shall be treated as a zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

8.4.7.2 The tests outlined in 8.4.5 shall be conducted.

8.4.8 Combination of Smoke-Control Systems.

8.4.8.1* Stairwell and Zoned Smoke-Control System.

8.4.8.1.1 The stairwell pressurization system shall be considered as one zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

8.4.8.1.2 The tests outlined in 8.4.5, 8.4.4.2.3, and 8.4.4.2.4 shall be conducted.

8.4.8.1.3 All tests shall be conducted with both systems operating in response to a simulated fire alarm input.

8.4.8.2 Smoke Refuge Area and Zoned Smoke-Control System.

8.4.8.2.1 A smoke refuge area shall be treated as a separate zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

8.4.8.2.2 The tests outlined in 8.4.5 shall be conducted.

8.4.8.3 Elevator Pressurization and Zoned Smoke-Control System.

8.4.8.3.1 The elevator pressurization system shall be considered as one zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

8.4.8.3.2 Each elevator lobby in an enclosed elevator lobby pressurization system shall be considered as one zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

8.4.8.3.3 The tests outlined in 8.4.5 shall be conducted.

8.4.8.3.4 The tests outlined in 8.4.6.1 shall be conducted if a hoistway pressurization system is present.

8.4.8.3.5 The tests outlined in 8.4.6.2 shall be conducted if a lobby pressurization system is present.

8.4.8.3.6 The tests outlined in both 8.4.6.1 and 8.4.6.2 shall be conducted if both systems are present.

8.5 Modifications.

8.5.1* All operational and acceptance testing shall be performed on the applicable part of the system whenever the system is changed or modified.

8.5.2 If the smoke-control system or the zone boundaries have been modified since the last test, acceptance testing shall be conducted on the portion modified.

8.6* Periodic Testing.

8.6.1 The tests in Section 8.6 shall be performed on a periodic basis to determine that the installed systems continue to operate in accordance with the approved design.

8.6.2 The system shall be tested in accordance with 8.6.4 and 8.6.5 by persons who are thoroughly knowledgeable in the operation, testing, and maintenance of the smoke-control systems.

8.6.3 The results of the tests shall be documented and made available for inspection.

8.6.4 Dedicated Systems.

8.6.4.1 Dedicated systems shall be tested at least semiannually.

8.6.4.2 The smoke-control system shall be operated for each control sequence in the current design criteria.

8.6.4.3 Operation of the correct outputs for each given input shall be verified.

8.6.4.4 Where standby power is provided, tests shall also be conducted under standby power.

8.6.5 Nondedicated Systems.

8.6.5.1 Nondedicated systems shall be tested at least annually.

8.6.5.2 The smoke-control system shall be operated for each control sequence in the current design criteria.

8.6.5.3 Operation of the correct outputs for each given input shall be verified.

8.6.5.4 If standby power is provided, tests shall also be conducted under standby power.

Annex A Explanatory Material

Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A.1.3.2 Airflow at sufficient velocity can also be used to restrict smoke movement. This principle is most commonly used to control smoke movement through openings. The flow of air through the opening into the smoke zone must be of sufficient velocity to limit migration of smoke from that zone through such openings.

Although airflow can be used to inhibit smoke movement through a space, the flow rates needed to prevent smoke backflow are so large that there is concern about the amount of combustion air that is supplied to the fire. When airflow is used to manage smoke movement, the flow of air through the opening into the smoke zone must be of sufficient velocity to prevent smoke from leaving that zone through such openings. The air velocity necessary to inhibit smoke movement through large openings results in air quantities that are sufficient to support fire growth to approximately 10 times the size of fire growth without this additional airflow. More information on fire growth can be found in the SFPE *Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering*.

Refer to NFPA 92B, *Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces*, for systems using airflow to maintain tenable conditions within large zones of fire origin, such as atria and shopping malls. Refer to NFPA 204, *Standard for Smoke and Heat Venting*, for passive systems for smoke and heat venting.

A.1.3.3 Standby power should be considered for smoke-control systems and their control systems. Normal electrical power serving air-conditioning systems generally has sufficient reliability for nondedicated zoned smoke-control systems.

A.3.2.1 Approved. The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to

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the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

A.3.2.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The phrase "authority having jurisdiction," or its acronym AHJ, is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

A.3.3.2 Design Pressure Difference. Protected spaces include the non-smoke zones in a zoned smoke-control system, the stairwells in a stairwell pressurization system, a smoke refuge area, and the elevator shaft in an elevator hoistway system.

A.3.3.4 Fire Fighters' Smoke-Control Station (FSCS). Other fire fighters' systems (such as voice alarm, public address, fire department communication, and elevator status and controls) are not covered in this document.

A.3.3.9 Smoke Barrier. A smoke barrier might or might not have a fire resistance rating. Such barriers might have protected openings. Smoke barriers as used with smoke-control systems described in this standard could have openings protected either by physical opening protectives or by pressure differences created by the smoke-control system. Smoke barriers described in some other codes and standards might require that the openings be protected by physical opening protectives.

A.3.3.11.1 Dedicated Smoke-Control System. Dedicated smoke-control systems are separate systems of air-moving and distribution equipment that do not function under normal building operating conditions.

Advantages of dedicated systems include the following:

(1) Modification of system controls after installation is less likely.
(2) Operation and control of the system is generally simpler.
(3) Reliance on or impact by other building systems is limited.

Disadvantages of dedicated systems include the following:

(1) System impairments might go undiscovered between periodic tests or maintenance activities.
(2) Systems can require more physical space.

A.3.3.11.2 Nondedicated Smoke-Control Systems. Advantages of nondedicated systems include the following:

(1) Impairments to shared equipment required for normal building operation are likely to be corrected promptly.
(2) Limited additional space for smoke-control equipment is necessary.

Disadvantages of nondedicated systems include the following:

(1) System control might become elaborate.
(2) Modification of shared equipment or controls can impair smoke-control functionality.

A.3.3.13 Smoke Exhaust System. Maintenance of a tenable environment in the smoke zone is not within the capability of these systems.

A.3.3.17 Tenable Environment. It is not expected that a tenable environment will be completely free of smoke.

A.4.1.2 In addition to the design objectives listed, smoke-control systems can also be used for the following objectives:

(1) Allowing fire department personnel sufficient visibility to approach, locate, and extinguish a fire
(2) Limiting the spread of toxic gases that can affect building occupants
(3) Limiting the spread of products of combustion to provide protection for building contents

A.4.2.1 The performance objective of automatic sprinklers installed in accordance with NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, is to provide *fire control*, which is defined as follows: limiting the size of a fire by distribution of water so as to decrease the heat release rate and pre-wet adjacent combustibles, while controlling ceiling gas temperatures to avoid structural damage. A limited number of investigations have been undertaken in which full-scale fire tests were conducted in which the sprinkler system was challenged but provided the expected level of performance (Madrzykowski and Vettori, 1992; Lougheed, Mawhinney, and O'Neill, 1994). These investigations indicate that, for a fire control situation, the heat release rate is limited but smoke can continue to be produced. However, the temperature of the smoke is reduced and the pressure differences provided in this document for smoke-control systems in fully sprinklered buildings are conservative. In addition, with the reduced smoke temperatures, the temperature requirement for smoke-control components in contact with exhaust gases can be limited.

A.4.4 Tenability can be achieved through methods other than pressurization. See NFPA 92B, *Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces*, for other types of active smoke-control systems or NFPA *101*, *Life Safety Code*, for passive systems and other fire safety approaches.

A.4.5 Timed egress analysis is outside the scope of this document. However, other references are available that present analytical methods for use in egress analysis. (See *Principles of Smoke Management* by Klote and Milke.)

A.4.6.1 In the design of smoke-control systems, airflow paths must be identified and evaluated. Some leakage paths are obvious, such as gaps around closed doors, open doors, elevator doors, windows, and air transfer grilles. Construction cracks in building walls and floors are less obvious but no less important. The flow area of most large openings can be calculated easily. The flow area of construction cracks is dependent on workmanship — for example, how well a door is fitted or how well weather stripping is installed. Typical leakage areas of construction cracks in walls and floors of commercial buildings are listed in Table A.4.6.1. Doors open for short periods of time result in a transition condition that is necessary in order to provide egress from or access to the smoke zone.

A.4.6.2 The temperature differences between the exterior and interior of the building cause stack effect and determine the stack effect's direction and magnitude. The stack effect must be considered when selecting exhaust fans. The effect of

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Table A.4.6.1 Typical Leakage Areas for Walls and Floors of Commercial Buildings

Construction Element	Tightness	Area Ratio[a]
Exterior building walls (includes construction cracks and cracks around windows and doors)	Tight[b]	0.50×10^{-4}
	Average[b]	0.17×10^{-3}
	Loose[b]	0.35×10^{-3}
	Very loose[b]	0.12×10^{-2}
Stairwell walls (includes construction cracks, but not cracks around windows and doors)	Tight[c]	0.14×10^{-4}
	Average[c]	0.11×10^{-3}
	Loose[c]	0.35×10^{-3}
Elevator shaft walls (includes construction cracks, but not cracks and gaps around doors)	Tight[c]	0.18×10^{-3}
	Average[c]	0.84×10^{-3}
	Loose[c]	0.18×10^{-2}
Floors (includes construction cracks and gaps around penetrations)	Tight[d]	0.66×10^{-5}
	Average[e]	0.52×10^{-4}
	Loose[d]	0.17×10^{-3}

[a] For a wall, the area ratio is the area of the leakage through the wall divided by the total wall area. For a floor, the area ratio is the area of the leakage through the floor divided by the total area of the floor.
[b] Values based on measurements of Tamura and Shaw (1976); Tamura and Wilson (1966); and Shaw, Reardon, and Cheung (1993).
[c] Values based on measurements of Tamura and Wilson (1966); and Tamura and Shaw (1976b).
[d] Values extrapolated from average floor tightness based on range of tightness of other construction elements.
[e] Values based on measurements of Tamura and Shaw (1978).

temperature and wind velocity varies with building height, configuration, leakage, and openings in wall and floor construction. One source of weather data is the ASHRAE *Handbook of Fundamentals*, Chapter 26, Climatic Design Information. It is suggested that the 99.6 percent heating dry bulb (DB) temperature and the 0.4 percent cooling DB temperature be used as the winter and summer design conditions, respectively. It is also suggested that the 1 percent extreme wind velocity be used as the design condition. Where available, more site-specific wind data should be consulted.

A.4.6.4 This number depends largely on the building occupancy and the type of smoke-control system. In some systems, doors most likely are open for only short periods of time and smoke leakage is negligible. In other systems, frequent egress from the smoke zone could cause at least one door to be open most of the time.

A.4.7 In the event that the smoke control and the suppression systems are activated concurrently, the smoke-control system might dilute the gaseous agent in the space. Because gaseous suppression systems commonly provide only one application of the agent, the potential arises for renewed growth of the fire.

A.5.1 The following factors should be considered in determining the ability of the system to remain effective for the time period necessary:

(1) Reliability of power source(s)
(2) Arrangement of power distribution
(3) Method and protection of controls and system monitoring
(4) Equipment materials and construction
(5) Building occupancy

A.5.2.1 A smoke-control system should be designed to maintain the minimum design pressure differences under likely conditions of stack effect or wind. Pressure differences produced by smoke-control systems tend to fluctuate due to the wind, fan pulsations, doors opening, doors closing, and other factors. Short-term deviations from the suggested minimum design pressure difference might not have a serious effect on the protection provided by a smoke-control system. There is no clear-cut allowable value of this deviation. It depends on tightness of doors, tightness of construction, toxicity of smoke, airflow rates, and the volumes of spaces. Intermittent deviations up to 50 percent of the suggested minimum design pressure difference are considered tolerable in most cases.

The minimum design pressure differences of Table 5.2.1.1 for nonsprinklered spaces are values that will not be overcome by buoyancy forces of hot gases. The method used to obtain the values of Table 5.2.1.1 for nonsprinklered spaces follows. This method can be used if it is desired to calculate pressure differences for gas temperatures other than 1700°F (927°C).

The pressure difference due to buoyancy of hot gases is calculated by the following equation:

$$\Delta P = 7.64\left[\frac{1}{T_o} - \frac{1}{T_F}\right]h$$

where:
ΔP = pressure difference due to buoyancy of hot gases (in. w.g.)
T_o = absolute temperature of surroundings (R)
T_F = absolute temperature of hot gases (R)
h = distance above neutral plane (ft)

$$\Delta P = 3460\left[\frac{1}{T_o} - \frac{1}{T_F}\right]h$$

where:
ΔP = pressure difference due to buoyancy of hot gases (Pa)
T_o = absolute temperature of surroundings (K)
T_F = absolute temperature of hot gases (K)
h = distance above neutral plane (m)

The neutral plane is a horizontal plane between the fire space and a surrounding space at which the pressure difference between the fire space and the surrounding space is zero. For Table 5.2.1.1, h was conservatively selected at two-thirds of the floor to ceiling height, the temperature of the surroundings was selected at 70°F (20°C), the temperature of the hot gases was selected at 1700°F (927°C), and a safety factor of 0.03 in. w.g. (7.5 Pa) was used.

For example, calculate the minimum design pressure difference for a ceiling height of 12 ft as follows:

$$T_o = 70 + 460 = 530\text{R}$$
$$T_F = 1700 + 460 = 2160\text{R}$$
$$h = (12)\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = 8 \text{ ft}$$

From the above equation, ΔP = 0.087 in. w.g. Adding the safety factor and rounding off, the minimum design pressure difference is 0.12 in. w.g.

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A.5.2.2 The forces on a door in a smoke control system are illustrated in Figure A.5.2.2. The force required to open a door in a smoke control system is as follows:

$$F = F_r + \frac{5.2(WA)\Delta P}{2(W-d)}$$

where:

F = total door opening force (lb)
F_r = force to overcome the door closer and other friction (lb)
W = door width (ft)
A = door area (ft^2)
ΔP = pressure difference across the door (in. w.g.)
d = distance from the doorknob to the knob side of the door (ft)

When the maximum door-opening force is specified at 30 lbf, Table A.5.2.2 can be used to determine the maximum pressure difference across the door.

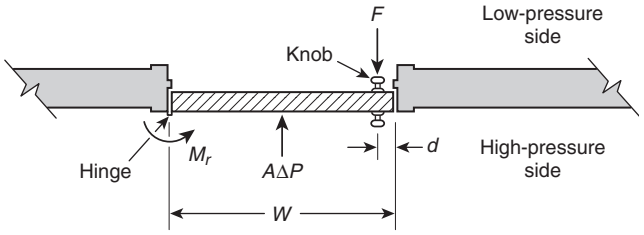

FIGURE A.5.2.2 Forces on a Door in a Smoke-Control System.

Table A.5.2.2 Maximum Pressure Differences Across Doors

Door-Closer Force* (lbf)	Door Width (in. w.g.)†				
	32	36	40	44	48
6	0.45	0.40	0.37	0.34	0.31
8	0.41	0.37	0.34	0.31	0.28
10	0.37	0.34	0.30	0.28	0.26
12	0.34	0.30	0.27	0.25	0.23
14	0.30	0.27	0.24	0.22	0.21

For SI units, 1 lbf = 4.4 N; 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 0.1 in. w.g. = 25 Pa.

Notes:

(1) Total door-opening force is 30 lbf.

(2) Door height is 7 ft.

(3) The distance from the doorknob to the knob side of the door is 3 in.

(4) For other door-opening forces, other door sizes, or hardware other than a knob — for example, panic hardware — use the calculation procedure provided in ASHRAE/SFPE publication, *Principles of Smoke Management*.

*Many door closers require less force in the initial portion of the opening cycle than that required to bring the door to the fully open position. The combined impact of the door closer and the imposed pressure combine only until the door is opened enough to allow air to pass freely through the opening. The force imposed by a closing device to close the door is often different from that imposed on opening.

†Door widths apply only if the door is hinged at one end; otherwise, use the calculation procedure provided in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*.

A.5.3.1 See Annex B for information on types of stairwell pressurization systems.

A.5.3.2.2 This separation should be as great as is practicable. Because hot smoke rises, consideration should be given to locating supply air intakes below such critical openings. However, outdoor smoke movement that might result in smoke feedback depends on the location of the fire, the location of points of smoke leakage from the building, the wind speed and direction, and the temperature difference between the smoke and the outside air.

A.5.3.3.1 Simple single-point injection systems such as that illustrated in Figure A.5.3.3.1 can use roof or exterior wall-mounted propeller fans. The use of propeller fans without windshields is not permitted because of the extreme effect wind can have on the performance of such fans.

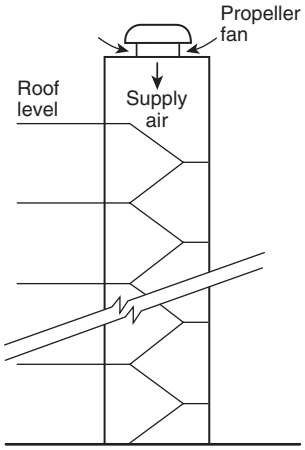

FIGURE A.5.3.3.1 Stairwell Pressurization by Roof-Mounted Propeller Fan.

One major advantage of using propeller fans for stairwell pressurization is that they have a relatively flat pressure response curve with respect to varying flow. Therefore, as doors are opened and closed, propeller fans quickly respond to airflow changes in the stairwell without major pressure fluctuations. A second advantage of using propeller fans is that they are less costly than other types of fans and can provide adequate smoke control with lower installed costs.

A disadvantage of using propeller fans is that they often require windshields at the intake because they operate at low pressures and are readily affected by wind pressure on the building. This is less critical on roofs where the fans are often protected by parapets and where the direction of the wind is at right angles to the axis of the fan.

Propeller fans mounted on walls pose the greatest susceptibility to the adverse effects of wind pressures. The adverse effect is at a maximum when wind direction is in direct opposition to the fan airflow, resulting in a lower intake pressure and thus significantly reducing fan effectiveness. Winds that are variable in intensity and direction also pose a threat to the ability of the system to maintain control over the stairwell static pressure.

A.5.3.4 Figure A.5.3.4(a) and Figure A.5.3.4(b) are two examples of the many possible multiple-injection systems that can be used to overcome the limitations of single-injection systems. The pressurization fans can be located at ground level, roof level, or at any location in between.

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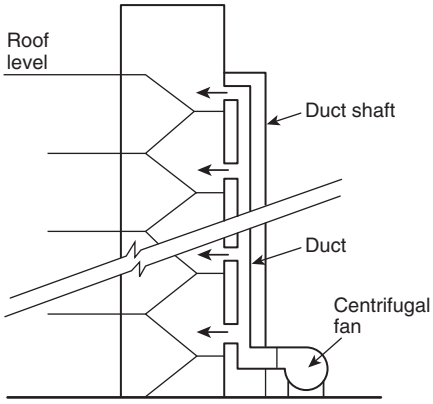

FIGURE A.5.3.4(a) Stairwell Pressurization by Multiple Injection with the Fan Located at Ground Level.

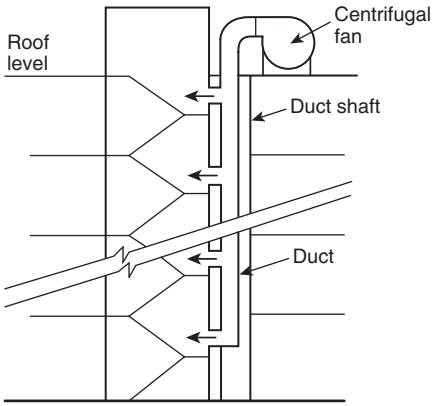

FIGURE A.5.3.4(b) Stairwell Pressurization by Multiple Injection with Roof-Mounted Fan.

In Figure A.5.3.4(a) and Figure A.5.3.4(b), the supply duct is shown in a separate shaft. However, systems have been built that have eliminated the expense of a separate duct shaft by locating the supply duct in the stair enclosure itself. Care should be taken so that the duct does not reduce the required exit width or become an obstruction to orderly building evacuation.

A.5.3.4.1.1 The most common injection point is at the top of the stairwell, as illustrated in Figure A.5.3.4.1.1.

A.5.3.4.1.2 Single-injection systems can fail when a few doors are open near the air supply injection point. All the pressurization air can be lost through these open doors, at which time the system will fail to maintain positive pressures across doors farther from the injection point.

Because a ground-level stairwell door is likely to be in the open position much of the time, a single-bottom-injection system is especially prone to failure. Careful design analysis is needed for all single-bottom-injection systems and for all other single-injection systems for stairwells in excess of 100 ft (30.5 m) in height to ensure proper pressurization throughout the stairwell.

A.5.3.4.2 Many multiple-injection systems have been built with supply air injection points on each floor. These systems represent the ultimate in preventing loss of pressurization air through a few open doors; however, that many injection points might not be necessary. For system designs with injection points more than three stories apart, the designer should use a computer analysis such as the one in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*. The purpose of this analysis is to ensure that loss of pressurization air through a few open doors does not lead to substantial loss of stairwell pressurization.

A.5.3.5.1 Stairwells that do not have vestibules can be pressurized using systems currently available. Some buildings are constructed with vestibules because of building code requirements.

A.5.3.5.2 *Nonpressurized Vestibules.* Stairwells that have nonpressurized vestibules can have applications in existing buildings. With both vestibule doors open, the two doors in series provide an increased resistance to airflow compared to a single door. This increased resistance will reduce the required airflow so as to produce a given pressure in the stairwell. This subject is discussed in detail in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*.

In buildings with low occupant loads, it is possible that one of the two vestibule doors might be closed, or at least partially closed, during the evacuation period. This will further reduce the required airflow to produce a given pressure.

Pressurized Vestibules. Closing both doors to a vestibule can limit the smoke entering a vestibule and provide a tenable environment as a smoke refuge area. The adjacent stairwell is indirectly pressurized by airflow from the pressurized vestibule. However, this pressurization can be lost if the exterior door is open. Also, smoke can flow into the stairwell through any leakage openings in the stairwell walls adjacent to the floor space. Such walls should be constructed to minimize leakages for a stairwell protected by a pressurized vestibule system.

Pressurized Vestibules and Stairwells. To minimize the amount of smoke entering a vestibule and stairwell, both the vestibule and stairwell can be pressurized. The combined system will enhance the effectiveness of the stairwell pressurization system. Also, the pressurized vestibule can provide a temporary smoke refuge area.

Purged or Vented Vestibules. Purged or vented vestibule systems fall outside the scope of this document. A hazard analysis would be required using the procedures provided in the SFPE *Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering*. An engineering analysis should be performed to determine the benefits, if any, of pressurizing, purging, or exhausting vestibules on the stairwell.

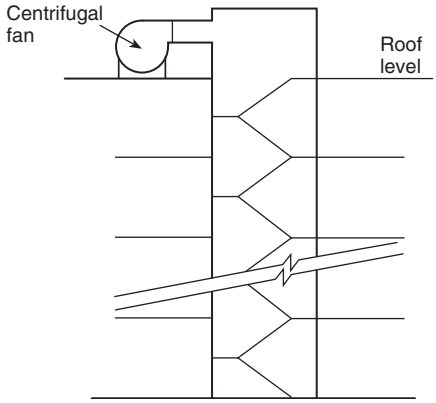

FIGURE A.5.3.4.1.1 Stairwell Pressurization by Top Injection.

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A.5.3.6 For a stairwell pressurization system that has not been designed to accommodate the opening of doors, pressurization will drop when any doors open, and smoke can infiltrate the stairwell. For a building of low occupant density, the opening and closing of a few doors during evacuation has little effect on the system. For a building with a high occupant density and total building evacuation, it can be expected that most of the doors will be open at some time during evacuation. The methods provided in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*, can be used to design systems to accommodate anywhere from a few open doors to almost all the doors being open.

During the time that occupants of the smoke zone are exiting the area, the conditions in the smoke zone are still tenable. Although opening the stairwell door on the fire floor during this time might release some smoke into the stairwell, it will not create untenable conditions there. Once conditions in the smoke zone become untenable, it is unlikely that the door to the fire floor would be opened by occupants of that floor. For this reason, designing for an open stairwell door on the fire floor is normally not required. Doors blocked open in violation of applicable codes are beyond the capability of the system.

A.5.3.6.2 Where the building egress strategy anticipates multiple floors to be evacuated simultaneously or the design for the stairwell pressurization system assumes the exit door is open, the stairwell pressurization system should be designed to accommodate more than one door open, at least one of which should be the discharge door from the stair.

The effect of opening a door to the outside is usually much greater than that of opening interior doors. The importance of the exterior stairwell door can be explained by considering the conservation of mass of the pressurization air. This air comes from the outside and must eventually flow back to the outside. For an open interior door, the rest of the building on that floor acts as flow resistance to the air flowing out the open doorway. When the exterior door is open, there is no other flow resistance, and the flow can be 10 to 30 times more than through an open interior door.

A.5.4 If elevators are intended to be used for evacuation during a fire, the elevator system should be protected against heat, flame, smoke, loss of electrical power, loss of elevator machine room cooling, water intrusion, and inadvertent activation of controls.

Historically, elevator hoistways have proved to be a readily available conduit for the movement of smoke throughout buildings. The reason is that elevator doors have not been tight-fitting and elevator hoistways have been provided with openings in their tops. The building stack effect has provided the driving force that has readily moved smoke into and out of the loosely constructed elevator hoistways. Several methods of correcting this problem have been proposed and investigated. These methods include the following:

(1) Exhaust of the fire floor
(2) Pressurization of enclosed elevator lobbies
(3) Construction of smoke-tight elevator lobbies
(4) Pressurization of the elevator hoistway
(5) Closing of elevator doors after automatic recall

(Note: Rule 211.3a, Phase I Emergency Recall Operations, of ASME/ANSI A17.1, *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators*, requires that elevator doors open and remain open after the elevators are recalled. This results in large openings into the elevator hoistways, which can greatly increase the airflow required for pressurization. NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows*, permits closing of elevator doors after a predetermined time when required by the authority having jurisdiction. Local requirements on operation of elevator doors should be determined and incorporated into the system design.)

The methods listed in A.5.4(1) through A.5.4(5) have been employed either singly or in combination. However, their application to a particular project, including the effect of any vents in the elevator hoistway, should be closely evaluated. The open vent at the top of the elevator hoistway could have an undesirable effect on elevator smoke-control systems.

The following references discuss research concerning elevator use during fire situations: Klote and Braun (1996); Klote (1995); Klote, Levin, and Groner (1995); Klote, Levin, and Groner (1994); Klote (1993); Klote, Deal, Donoghue, Levin, and Groner (1993); and Klote, Alvord, Levin, and Groner (1992).

A.5.5 The pressurized stairwells discussed in Section 5.3 are intended to control smoke to the extent that they inhibit smoke infiltration into the stairwell. However, in a building with a pressurized stairwell as the sole means of smoke control, smoke can flow through cracks in floors and partitions and through other shafts to threaten life and to damage property at locations remote from the fire. The concept of zoned smoke control discussed in this section is intended to limit this type of smoke movement within a building.

Limiting fire size (mass burning rate) increases the reliability and viability of smoke-control systems. Fire size can be limited by fuel control, compartmentation, or automatic sprinklers. It is possible to provide smoke control in buildings not having fire-limiting features, but in those instances, careful consideration must be given to fire pressure, high temperatures, mass burning rates, accumulation of unburned fuels, and other outputs resulting from uncontrolled fires.

A.5.5.1.1.1 Arrangements of some smoke-control zones are illustrated in Figure A.5.5.1.1.1.

In Figure A.5.5.1.1.1, the smoke zone is indicated by a minus sign and pressurized spaces are indicated by a plus sign. Each floor can be a smoke-control zone, as in (a) and (b), or a smoke zone can consist of more than one floor, as in (c) and (d). A smoke zone can also be limited to a part of a floor, as in (e).

When a fire occurs, all of the non-smoke zones in the building can be pressurized as shown in Figure A.5.5.1.1.1, parts (a), (c), and (e). This system requires large quantities of outside air. The comments concerning location of supply air inlets of pressurized stairwells also apply to the supply air inlets for non-smoke zones.

In cold climates, the introduction of large quantities of outside air can cause serious damage to building systems. Therefore, serious consideration should be given to emergency preheat systems that temper the incoming air and help to avoid or limit damage. Alternatively, pressurizing only those zones immediately adjacent to the smoke zones could limit the quantity of outside air required, as in Figure A.5.5.1.1.1, parts (b) and (d). However, the disadvantage of this limited approach is that it is possible to have smoke flow through shafts past the pressurized zone and into unpressurized spaces. When this alternative is considered, a careful examination of the potential smoke flows involved should be accomplished and a determination of acceptability made.

Smoke zones should be kept as small as practicable so that evacuation from these zones can be readily achieved and so that the quantity of air required to pressurize the surrounding spaces can be kept to a manageable level. However, these zones should be large enough so that heat buildup from the

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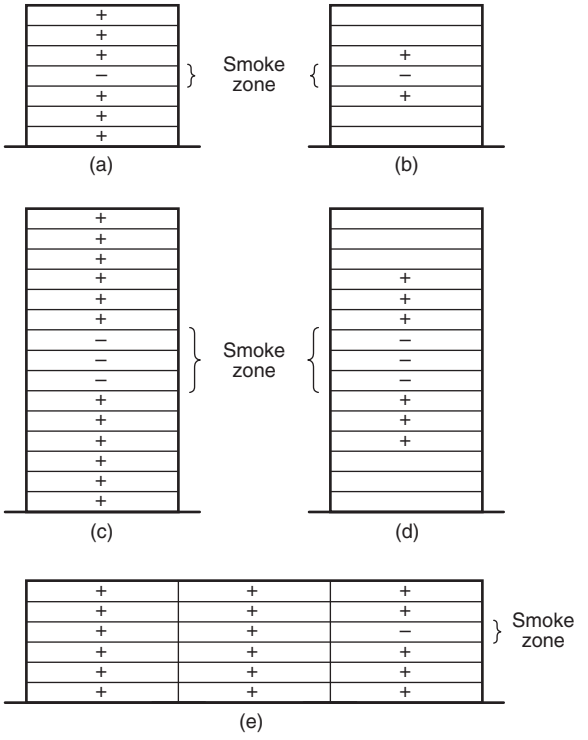

FIGURE A.5.5.1.1.1 Arrangements of Smoke-Control Zones.

fire will become sufficiently diluted with surrounding air so as to prevent failure of major components of the smoke control system. Design guidance on dilution temperature is provided in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management.*

A.5.6 Methods of design for smoke refuge areas are presented in the ASHRAE Transactions paper, "Design of Smoke Control Systems for Areas of Refuge" (Klote, 1993).

A.5.7 Examples of smoke control systems that can interact when operating simultaneously include the following:

(1) Pressurized stairwells that connect to floor areas that are part of a zoned smoke-control system
(2) Elevator hoistways that are part of an elevator smoke-control system that connects to floor areas that are part of a zoned smoke-control system
(3) Elevator smoke-control systems that are connected to areas of refuge that are in turn connected with floor areas that are part of a zoned smoke-control system
(4) Pressurized stairwells that are also connected to a smoke refuge area

Often smoke control systems are designed independently to operate under the dynamic forces they are expected to encounter (e.g., buoyancy, stack effect, wind). Once the design is completed, it is necessary to study the impact the smoke-control system(s) will have on one another. For example, an exhausted smoke zone operating in conjunction with a stairwell pressurization system can tend to improve the performance of the stairwell pressurization system. At the same time, it could increase the pressure difference across the door, causing difficulty in opening the door into the stairwell. For complex systems, it is recommended that a computer network model be used for the analysis.

Unless venting or exhaust is provided in the fire zones, the required pressure differences might not be developed. Eventually pressure equalization between the fire zone and the unaffected zones will become established and there will be nothing to inhibit smoke spread into all other zones.

A.6.2 See Annex C for information on types of HVAC air-handling systems.

A.6.4.2 Various types of control systems are commonly used for HVAC systems. These control systems utilize pneumatic, electric, electronic, and programmable logic-based control units. All these control systems can be adapted to provide the necessary logic and control sequences to configure HVAC systems for smoke control. Programmable electronic logic-based (i.e., microprocessor-based) control units, which control and monitor HVAC systems as well as provide other building control and monitoring functions, are readily applicable for providing the necessary logic and control sequences for an HVAC system's smoke-control mode of operation.

The control system should be designed as simply as possible to attain the required functionality. Complex controls, if not properly designed and tested, can have a low level of reliability and can be difficult to maintain.

A.6.4.3.4 For purposes of automatic activation, fire detection devices include automatic devices such as smoke detectors, waterflow switches, and heat detectors.

A.6.4.3.5.1 Manual controls exclusively for other building-control purposes, such as hand-off-auto switches located on a thermostat, are not considered to be manual controls in the context of smoke control. Manual activation and deactivation for smoke-control purposes should override manual controls for other purposes.

A.6.4.3.5.2 Manual pull stations are not used to activate smoke-control strategies that require information on the location of the fire because of the likelihood of a person signaling an alarm from a station outside the zone of fire origin.

A.6.4.3.5.3 Generally, stairwell pressurization systems can be activated from a manual pull station, provided the response is common for all zones. Other systems that respond identically for all zone alarms can also be activated from a manual pull station. An active-tracking stairwell pressurization system that provides control based on the pressure measured at the fire floor should not be activated from a manual pull station.

A.6.4.3.6.2 To prevent damage to equipment, it might be necessary to delay activation of certain equipment until other equipment has achieved a prerequisite state (i.e., delay starting a fan until its associated damper is partially or fully open).

A.6.4.3.6.3 The times given for components to achieve their desired state are measured from the time each component is activated.

A.6.4.3.7 See Annex D for additional considerations for a fire fighters' smoke-control station.

A.6.4.3.7.3 For complex smoke-control system designs, status indication, fault indication, or manual control can be provided for groups of components or by smoke-control zone.

A.6.4.3.7.7 Indirect indication of fan status is not positive proof of airflow.

A.6.4.4.1 In limited instances, it can be desirable to pressurize only some stairwells due to particular building configurations and conditions.

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A.6.4.5.1.1.1 If fire alarm zones and smoke-control zones do not coincide, there is a possibility that the wrong smoke-control system(s) can be activated.

A.6.4.5.1.2.1 Manual pull stations are not used to activate zoned smoke-control strategies because these types of system require information on the location of the fire, and there is no assurance that the pull station that was activated is located in the smoke zone.

A.6.4.5.2 Manual controls used exclusively for other building-control purposes, such as hand-off-auto switches located on a thermostat, are not considered to be manual controls in the context of smoke control. Manual activation and deactivation for smoke-control purposes should override manual controls for other purposes.

A.6.4.5.2.1.1 This equipment includes air supply/return fans and dampers subject to automatic control according to building occupancy schedules, energy management, or other purposes.

A.6.4.5.3 Documentation of the equipment to be operated for each automatically activated smoke-control system configuration includes, but is not limited to, the following parameters:

(1) Fire zone in which a smoke-control system automatically activates.
(2) Type of signal that activates a smoke-control system, such as sprinkler waterflow or smoke detector.
(3) Smoke zone(s) where maximum mechanical exhaust to the outside is implemented and no supply air is provided.
(4) Positive pressure smoke-control zone(s) where maximum air supply is implemented and no exhaust to the outside is provided.
(5) Fan(s) ON as required to implement the smoke-control system. Multiple-speed fans should be further noted as FAST or MAX. VOLUME to ensure that the intended control configuration is achieved.
(6) Fan(s) OFF as required to implement the smoke-control system.
(7) Damper(s) OPEN where maximum airflow must be achieved.
(8) Damper(s) CLOSED where no airflow should take place.
(9) Auxiliary functions might be required to achieve the smoke-control system configuration or might be desirable in addition to smoke control. Changes or override of normal operation static pressure control set points should also be indicated if applicable.
(10) Damper position at fan failure.

Examples of auxiliary functions that can be useful, but are not required, are the opening and closing of terminal boxes while pressurizing or exhausting a smoke zone. These functions are considered auxiliary if the desired state is achieved without these functions. These functions can, however, help to achieve the desired state more readily.

A.6.4.5.5 During a fire, it is likely that enough smoke to activate a smoke detector might travel to other zones and subsequently cause alarm inputs for other zones. Systems activated by smoke detectors should continue to operate according to the first alarm input received, rather than diverting controls to respond to any subsequent alarm input(s).

A.6.4.5.5.1 Systems initiated by heat-activated devices, and designed with sufficient capacity to exhaust multiple zones, can expand the number of zones being exhausted to include the original zone and subsequent additional zones, up to the limit of the mechanical system's ability to maintain the design pressure difference. Exceeding the design capacity will likely result in the system's failing to adequately exhaust the fire zone or to achieve the desired pressure differences. If the number of zones that can be exhausted while still maintaining the design pressure is not known, this number should be assumed to be 1.

A.6.4.6 The means and frequency of verification methods will vary according to the complexity and importance of the system as follows:

(1) Positive confirmation of fan activation should be by means of duct pressure, airflow, or equivalent sensors that respond to loss of operating power, problems in the power or control circuit wiring, airflow restrictions, and failure of the belt, shaft coupling, or motor itself.
(2) Positive confirmation of damper operation should be by contact, proximity, or equivalent sensors that respond to loss of operating power or compressed air; problems in the power, control circuit, or pneumatic lines; and failure of the damper actuator, linkage, or damper itself.
(3) Other devices, methods, or combinations of methods as approved by the authority having jurisdiction might also be used.

Items A.6.4.6(1) through A.6.4.6(3) describe multiple methods that can be used, either singly or in combination, to verify that all portions of the controls and equipment are operational. For example, conventional (electrical) supervision might be used to verify the integrity of the conductors used to send an activation signal from a fire alarm system control unit to the relay contact within 3 ft (1 m) of the smoke-control system input (see *NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code*, Section 6.15), and end-to-end verification might be used to verify operation from the smoke-control system input to the desired end result. If different systems are used to verify different portions of the control circuit, controlled equipment, or both, then each system would be responsible for indicating off-normal conditions on its respective segment.

End-to-end verification, as defined in 3.3.3, monitors both the electrical and mechanical components of a smoke-control system. End-to-end verification provides positive confirmation that the desired result has been achieved during the time that a controlled device is activated. The intent of end-to-end verification goes beyond determining whether a circuit fault exists, but instead ascertains whether the desired end result (i.e., airflow or damper position) is achieved. True end-to-end verification, therefore, requires a comparison of the desired operation to the actual end result.

An open control circuit, failure of a fan belt, disconnection of a shaft coupling, blockage of an air filter, failure of a motor, or other abnormal condition that could prevent proper operation is not expected to result in an off-normal indication when the controlled device is not activated, since the measured result at that time matches the expected result. If a condition that prevents proper operation persists during the next attempted activation of the device, an off-normal indication should be displayed.

A.6.6.3 Temperatures within the smoke layer and the fire plume can be determined using methods outlined in NFPA 92B, *Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces*. Where flashover in the room of fire origin is a concern, the design temperature should be 1700°F (927°C).

A.7.1 Design documentation is critical to the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of smoke-control systems. It forms the basis for evaluating the system's adequacy to perform as intended if the building or its use is modified.

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A.7.1.2 The building owner can pass on the owner responsibilities identified in 7.1.2.3 and 7.1.2.4 to the occupant, management firm, or managing individual through specific provisions in the lease, written use agreement, or management contract. Where this is done, the building owner should provide a copy of the operations and maintenance manual, including testing results, to all responsible parties.

A.8.1 The smoke-control systems discussed in this document are designed to limit smoke migration at the boundaries of a smoke-control area using pressure differences. A stairwell pressurization system is used to limit smoke movement from the floor area into the stairwell and thus provide a tenable environment during egress. For zoned smoke control, pressure differences are used to contain smoke within the smoke zone and limit the migration of smoke and fire gases to other parts of the building. Testing appropriate to the objective of the system consists of measuring the pressure difference between the smoke zone and the adjacent zones. The testing procedures provided in Section 8.4 are based on the measurement of pressure differences and door-opening forces under the design conditions agreed on with the authority having jurisdiction.

An understanding with the authority having jurisdiction of the expected performance of the system and the acceptance test procedures should be established early in the design. (Detailed engineering design information is contained in ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*, and the NFPA publication *Smoke Movement and Control in High-Rise Buildings*.)

Absence of a consensus agreement for a testing procedure and acceptance criteria historically has created numerous problems at the time of system acceptance, including delays in obtaining a certificate of occupancy.

It is recommended that the building owner and building designer share their objectives and design criteria for smoke control with the authority having jurisdiction at the planning stage of the project. The design criteria should include a procedure for acceptance testing.

Contract documents should include operational and acceptance testing procedures so that all parties — designers, installers, owners, and authorities having jurisdiction — have a clear understanding of the system objectives and the testing procedure.

A.8.2 See Annex E for information on testing for leakage between smoke zones.

A.8.3 The intent of operational testing is to establish that the final installation complies with the specified design, is functioning properly, and is ready for acceptance testing. Responsibility for testing should be clearly defined prior to operational testing.

These operational tests are normally performed by various trades before interconnection is made to integrate the overall smoke-control system. It should be certified in writing that each individual system component's installation is complete and the component is functional. Each component test should be individually documented, including such items as speed, voltage, and amperage.

A.8.4.1 See Annex F for advisory information on acceptance testing.

A.8.4.2 Testing equipment should include the following:

(1) Calibrated instruments to read pressure difference [differential pressure gauges, inclined water manometers, or electronic manometers; instrument ranges 0–0.25 in. w.g. (0–62.5 Pa) and 0–0.50 in. w.g. (0–125 Pa) with 50 ft (15.2 m) of tubing]
(2) Spring scale
(3) Anemometer
(4) Flow-measuring hood (optional)
(5) Door wedges
(6) Signs indicating that a test of the smoke-control system is in progress and that doors must not be opened (or closed)
(7) Walkie-talkie radios to coordinate equipment operation and data recording

A.8.4.3 Guidance on test procedures can be found in the publications of organizations such as the Associated Air Balance Council (AABC); National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB); the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA).

A.8.4.3.7 One or more device circuits on the fire alarm system can initiate a single input signal to the smoke-control system. Therefore, consideration should be given to establishing the appropriate number of initiating devices and initiating device circuits to be operated to demonstrate the smoke-control system operation.

A.8.4.4.2.1 Establish a consistent procedure for recording data throughout the entire test, such that the stairwell side of the doors will always be considered as the reference point [0 in. w.g. (0 Pa)] and the floor side of the doors will always have the pressure difference value (positive if higher than the stairwell and negative when less than the stairwell). Because the stairwell pressurization system is intended to produce a positive pressure within the stairwell, all negative pressure values recorded on the floor side of the doors are indicative of a potential airflow from the stairwell to the floor.

A.8.4.4.2.3 Use the same procedure established in 8.4.4.2.1 to record data throughout the entire test.

A.8.4.4.2.3.4 Use the same procedure established in 8.4.4.2.1 to record data throughout the entire test. The local code and contract documents' requirements should be followed regarding the number and location of all doors that need to be opened for this test.

In lieu of specific direction in the local code or contract documents, choose the doors to be opened as follows in order to produce the most severe conditions:

(1) For the differential pressure test, the open doors should include those for which the highest pressure difference was measured in the tests with all doors closed (see *8.4.4.2.3*). When measured with the stairwell as the reference, as described in A.8.4.4.2.1, these doors have the greatest negative values.
(2) When systems are designed for open stairwell doors and total building evacuation, the number of open doors should include the exterior stairwell door.
(3) Because the pressure in the stairwell must be greater than the pressure in the occupied areas, it is not necessary to repeat the door-opening force tests with open doors. Opening any door would decrease the pressure in the stairwell and thereby decrease the door-opening force on the remaining doors.

A.8.4.4.2.4 Door-opening forces include frictional forces, the forces produced by the door hardware, and the forces produced by the smoke-control system. In cases where frictional forces are excessive, the door should be repaired.

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A.8.4.5 Verify the exact location of each smoke-control zone and the door openings in the perimeter of each zone. If the plans do not specifically identify these zones and doors, the fire alarm system in those zones might have to be activated so that any doors magnetically held open will close and identify the zone boundaries.

A.8.4.5.3.6 Ensure that after testing a smoke zone's smoke-control systems, the systems are properly deactivated and the HVAC systems involved are returned to their normal operating modes prior to activating another zone's smoke-control system. Also ensure that all controls necessary to prevent excessive pressure differences are functional so as to prevent damage to ducts and related building equipment.

A.8.4.6.1.2.3 Establish a consistent procedure for recording data throughout the entire test, such that the shaft side of the doors is always considered as the reference point [0 in. w.g. (0 Pa)] and the floor side of the doors always has the pressure difference value (positive if higher than the shaft and negative if less than the shaft).

Because the hoistway pressurization system is intended to produce a positive pressure within the hoistway, all negative pressure values recorded on the floor side of the doors are indicative of a potential airflow from the shaft to the floor.

A.8.4.6.2.1.3 Where enclosed elevator lobbies are pressurized by an elevator lobby pressurization system, or where enclosed elevator lobbies receive secondary pressurization from the elevator hoistway, they should be treated as a zone in a zoned smoke-control system.

A.8.4.8.1 When testing the combination of zoned smoke-control systems and stairwell pressurization systems, the tests applicable to each stand-alone system should be conducted. Differential pressure tests are specified in both 8.4.4 and 8.4.5. When the two systems are used in combination, the stairwell should be treated as a zone in a zoned smoke-control system. The minimum design pressures specified in Table 5.2.1.1 apply only to the differential pressure tests specified in 8.4.5.

Differential pressure tests conducted as directed in 8.4.4.2.3 are used to determine the doors that should be opened during the tests specified in 8.4.4.2.4. It is not expected that these values will comply with the minimum design pressures specified in Table 5.2.1.1, except at the fire floor.

In lieu of specific direction in the local code or contract documents, choose the doors to be opened as follows in order to produce the most severe conditions:

(1) For the differential pressure test, the open doors should include those for which the highest pressure difference was measured in the tests with all doors closed (see *8.4.4.2.4*), excluding the door on the fire floor. When measured with the stairwell as the reference, as described in 8.4.4.2.1, these doors have the greatest negative values.
(2) When systems are designed for open stairwell doors and total building evacuation, the number of open doors should include the exterior stairwell door.
(3) For the door-opening force test, the open doors should include any doors (up to the specified number) found in the tests with all doors closed (see *8.4.4.2.4*) to have pressure in the occupied area greater than the pressure in the stairwell. Opening these doors adds pressure to the stairwell, thereby increasing door-opening forces on the remaining doors. When measured with the stairwell as the reference, as described in A.8.4.4.2.1, these doors have the greatest positive values. If no doors meet these criteria, it is not necessary to repeat the door-opening force tests with open doors, since opening any door would decrease the pressure in the stairwell and thereby decrease the door-opening force on the remaining doors.

A.8.5.1 Documentation should be updated to reflect these changes or modifications.

A.8.6 During the life of the building, maintenance is essential to ensure that the smoke-control system will perform its intended function under fire conditions. Proper maintenance of the system should, as a minimum, include the periodic testing of all equipment such as initiating devices, fans, dampers, controls, doors, and windows. The equipment should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. (See NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*, for suggested maintenance practices.)

Special arrangements might have to be made for the introduction of large quantities of outside air into occupied areas or computer centers when outside temperature and humidity conditions are extreme. Because smoke-control systems override limit controls, such as freezestats, tests should be conducted when outside air conditions will not cause damage to equipment and systems.

Annex B Types of Stairwell Pressurization Systems

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

B.1 Noncompensated Systems. In a noncompensated system, supply air is injected into the stairwell by actuating a single-speed fan, thus providing one pressure difference with all doors closed, another difference with one door open, and so on.

B.2 Compensated Systems. Compensated systems adjust to various combinations of doors that are open and closed, while maintaining positive pressure differences across such openings. Systems compensate for changing conditions either by modulating supply airflows or by relieving excess pressure from the stairwell. The response time of the control system should be closely evaluated to ensure that pressures do not fall below the values given in Table 5.2.1.1. The location of the exhaust inlet(s) from the stairwell relative to the supply outlet(s) into the stairwell should be such that short-circuiting will not occur.

B.3 Compensated Systems — Modulating Supply Airflow. In a modulating supply airflow system, the capacity of the supply fan shall be sized to provide at least the minimum air velocity when the design number of doors are open. Figure B.3 illustrates such a system. The flow rate of air into the stairwell is varied by modulating bypass dampers, which are controlled by one or more static pressure sensors that sense the pressure difference between the stairwell and the building. When all the stairwell doors are closed, the pressure difference increases and the bypass damper opens to increase the bypass air and decrease the flow of supply air to the stairwell. In this manner, excessive pressure differences between the stairwell and the building are prevented. The same effect can be achieved by the use of relief dampers on the supply duct when the fan is located outside the building. Supply airflow modulation can also be accomplished by varying fan speed, inlet vanes, variable pitch fan blades, or the number of fans operating. Response times of the controls with any system should be considered.

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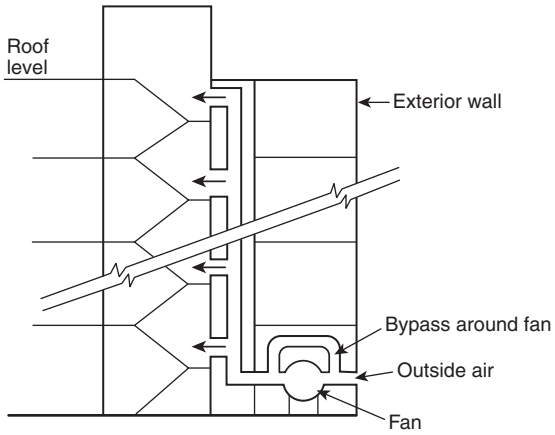


Notes:
1. Fan bypass controlled by one or more static pressure sensors located between the stairwell and the building interior.
2. A ground-level supply fan is shown; however, fan(s) could be located at any level.

FIGURE B.3 Stairwell Pressurization with Bypass Around Supply Fan.

B.4 Compensated Systems — Overpressure Relief. Compensated system operation can also be accomplished by overpressure relief. In this instance, pressure buildup in the stairwell as doors close is relieved directly from the stairwell to the outside. The amount of air relieved varies with the number of doors open, thus attempting to achieve an essentially constant pressure in the stairwell. Where exterior relief openings are subject to adverse effects from the wind, windbreaks or windshields are recommended.

If overpressure relief is to be discharged into the building, the effects on the integrity of the stairwells and the interaction with other building HVAC systems should be closely studied. Systems using this principle should have combination fire/smoke dampers in the stairwell wall penetrations.

Overpressure relief can be accomplished by one of the following four methods.

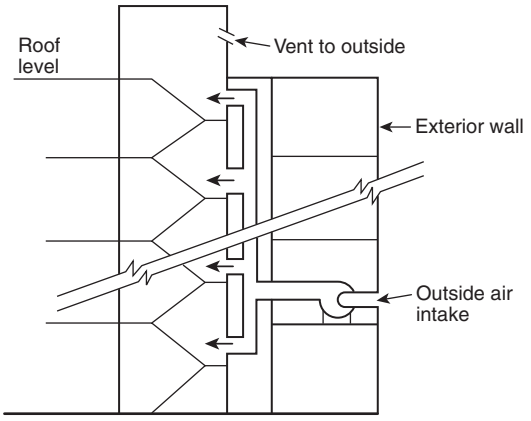
(1) Barometric dampers with adjustable counterweights can be used to allow the damper to open when the maximum interior pressure is reached. This represents the simplest, least expensive method of overpressure relief because there is no physical interconnection between the dampers and the fan. The location of the dampers should be chosen carefully because dampers located too close to the supply openings can operate too quickly and not allow the system to meet the pressure requirements throughout the stairwell. The dampers can be subject to chattering during operation. Figure B.4 illustrates overpressure relief using barometric dampers.

(2) Motor-operated dampers with pneumatic or electric motor operators are another option for overpressure relief. These dampers are to be controlled by differential pressure controls located in the stairwell. This method provides more positive control over the stairwell pressures than barometric dampers. It requires more control than the barometric dampers and therefore is more complicated and costly.

(3) An alternative method of venting a stairwell is through an automatic-opening stairwell door or vent to the outside at ground level. Under normal conditions this door would be closed and, in most cases, locked for security reasons. Provisions should be made to ensure that this lock does not conflict with the automatic operation of the system.

Possible adverse wind effects are also a concern with a system that uses an opening to the exterior at ground level as a vent. Occasionally, high local wind velocities develop near the exterior stairwell door. Such local winds are difficult to estimate in the vicinity of new buildings without expensive modeling. Adjacent objects can act as windbreaks or windshields. Systems utilizing vents to the outside at ground level are more effective under cold conditions, with the stack effect assisting the stair pressurization system for stairwells primarily above grade.

(4) An exhaust fan can be used to prevent excessive pressure when all stairwell doors are closed. The fan should be controlled by a differential pressure sensor configured so that the fan will not operate when the pressure difference between the stairwell and the building falls below a specified level. This should prevent the fan from pulling smoke into the stairwell when a number of open doors have reduced stairwell pressurization. Such an exhaust fan should be specifically sized so that the pressurization system will perform within design limits. To achieve the desired performance, it is believed that the exhaust fan control should be of a modulating type as opposed to an on–off type. If the exhaust fan will be adversely affected by the wind, a windshield is recommended.



Note: Supply fan could be located at any level.

FIGURE B.4 Stairwell Pressurization with Vent to the Outside.

Annex C HVAC Air-Handling System Types

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

C.1 HVAC Air-Handling System Types. Various types and arrangements of air-handling systems are commonly used in different types of buildings. Some types are more readily adaptable for smoke-control applications than others. Examples of typical air-handling systems are described below.

C.2 Individual Floor Systems. The use of individual air-handling units serving one floor or part of a floor is a common design approach. These HVAC units might or might not have separate return/exhaust fans. Where these fans are not separate,

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a means for providing relief of the fire floor pressures, either through relief dampers on the duct system or by other means, should be investigated. Outdoor air can be supplied to each air-handling unit by one of the following means:

(1) Exterior louvers and dampers
(2) A common duct system sized to handle the required quantities of air
(3) A common duct system having a variable-speed supply fan
(4) Individual variable-speed supply fans

Air-handling units can be used for smoke control if sufficient outside air and exhaust air capability is available.

C.3 Centralized Multifloor Systems. Some buildings utilize centralized HVAC equipment in main mechanical areas that serve multiple floors within the building. HVAC systems of this type might require fire and smoke shaft dampering in order to provide exhaust of the fire floor and pressurization of the adjacent floors with outside air. Because these central fans can be of large capacity, care must be taken in designing systems to include a means of avoiding excessive pressures within the duct system to prevent rupture, collapse, or other damage. Means should be provided to control pressures within exits and corridors that could inhibit doors from being opened or closed.

C.4 Fan/Coil Units and Water Source Heat Pump Units. Fan/coil and water source heat pump types of air-handling units are often located around the perimeter of a building floor to condition the perimeter zones. They can also be located throughout the entire floor area to provide air conditioning for the entire space. Because the fan/coil and water source heat pump units are comparatively small in outside air capacity, and are typically difficult to reconfigure for smoke-control purposes, they are generally not suitable for performing smoke-control functions. If these units have outside air-intake provisions, such units within the smoke zone should be shut down when the zone is to be negatively pressurized. The fan/coil and water source heat pump units are typically used in combination with larger central HVAC equipment or individual interior zone air-handling units. The zone smoke-control functionality should be provided by the larger central or interior zone air-handling units.

C.5 Induction Systems. Induction-type air-handling units located around the perimeter of a building are primarily used to condition the perimeter zone of older multistory structures. A central HVAC system supplies high-pressure heated or cooled air to each perimeter induction unit. Room air is then induced into the induction unit, mixed with the primary air from the central HVAC system, and discharged into the room. Induction units within the smoke zone should be shut down or should have the primary air closed off on initiation of smoke control in smoke zones.

C.6 Dual Duct and Multizone Systems. HVAC units used in dual duct and multizone systems contain cooling and heating coils, each in a separate compartment or deck within the unit. Dual-duct systems have separate hot and cold ducts connected between the decks and mixing boxes that mix the air supplied to the space served. For high-pressure systems, the mixing boxes also reduce the system pressure.

Multizone systems mix heated and cooled air at the unit and supply the mixture through low-pressure ducts to each space.

Smoke control can be achieved by supplying maximum air to areas adjacent to the smoke zone. This should be accomplished using the cold deck because it is usually sized to handle larger air quantities. For the smoke zone, supply fans should be shut off.

C.7 Variable Air Volume (VAV) Systems. Variable air volume (VAV) systems are either individual floor systems or centralized multifloor systems that are provided with terminal devices that typically supply cooling only. Individual areas served by the system usually have other sources of heating (e.g., baseboard or cabinet heaters). VAV systems vary the quantity of cold air supplied to the occupied space based on actual space demands. Some VAV systems bypass supply air to the return air inlet of the fan, reducing supply air volumes and resultant pressure to avoid fan or ductwork damage. In the smoke-control mode, such bypasses must be closed. For smoke control, the speed of the VAV system supply fan(s) should be increased, and VAV terminal unit controls should be configured to open the terminals in the non-smoke zone to supply maximum volume of outside air to pressurize spaces if sufficient air is available. Bypass dampers on systems using this method must be closed. It is possible to achieve smoke control with the VAV system supplying minimal air, but care must be taken to ensure that adequate pressure is developed in the space.

C.8 Fan-Powered Terminal Systems. A fan-powered terminal unit receives variable air volumes of primary cooled air and return air that blend in the terminal unit to provide a constant volume of variable temperature supply air to the occupied spaces. The terminal unit consists of a constant air volume fan for supplying the blended air to the occupied space, a damper-controlled primary air connection, and a return air opening. Terminal units serving perimeter zones can have a heating coil to provide additional heat for the perimeter zone. In the smoke-control mode, terminal unit fans located in the smoke zone should be shut off and the primary air damper closed. Terminal units serving zones adjacent to the smoke zone can continue to operate.

C.9 Mixed Systems. When combinations of the examples described above are used, care must be exercised in the application of different types of variable volume terminal units to determine their effect on zoned smoke control. Designs must be based on the capability of system configurations to achieve positive or negative pressures as needed for smoke control.

C.10 Ventilation Systems with No Outside Air. In certain instances, specialized systems with no outside air are used for primary cooling and heating. These systems include self-contained air conditioners, radiant panel systems, and computer room units. Because these systems provide no outside air, they are not suitable for smoke-control application. Because building codes require ventilation for all occupied locations, a separate system for providing outside air is needed. The system supplying outside air can be used for smoke control, although the quantity of air provided might not be adequate for full pressurization.

C.11 Special-Use Systems. Laboratories, animal facilities, hospital facilities, and other unusual occupancies sometimes use once-through outdoor air systems to avoid contamination and could have special filtration and pressurization requirements. These special-use systems can be suitable for a smoke-control application. Care should be exercised to avoid contamination of bacteria-free areas, experiments, processes, and similar areas.

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Annex D Fire Fighters' Smoke-Control Station Considerations

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

D.1 Considerations for a fire fighters' smoke-control station should include the following:

(1) *Location and Access.* The FSCS should be located as close in proximity to other fire fighters' systems as can be provided within the building. Means should be provided to ensure only authorized access to the FSCS. Where acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction, the FSCS should be provided within a specific location or room, separated from public areas by a suitably marked and locked door. If the FSCS is located in a separate room, the room location, size, access means, and other physical design considerations should be acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

(2) *Physical Arrangement.* The FSCS should be designed to graphically depict the physical building arrangement, smoke-control systems and equipment, and the areas of the building served by the equipment. Following is a summary of the status indicators and smoke-control capability applicable to the FSCS smoke-control graphic(s). Status indicators should be provided for all smoke-control equipment by pilot lamp-type indicators as follows:

(a) Smoke-control fans and other critical operating equipment in the operating state: green.
(b) Smoke-control equipment and other critical equipment that can have two or more states or positions, such as dampers: green (i.e., open), yellow (i.e., closed). The position of each piece of equipment should be indicated by lamps and appropriate legends. Intermediate positions (e.g., modulating dampers that are not fully open or fully closed) can be indicated by not illuminating either of their pilot lamps.
(c) Smoke-control system or equipment faults: amber/orange.

The positions of multiposition control switches should not be used to indicate the status of a controlled device in lieu of pilot lamp-type status indicators as described above.

(3) *Smoke-Control Capability.* The FSCS should provide control capability over all smoke-control system equipment or zones within the building.

Wherever practical, it is recommended that control be provided by zone, rather than by individual equipment. This approach will aid fire fighters in readily understanding the operation of the system and will help to avoid problems caused by manually activating equipment in the wrong sequence or by neglecting to control a critical component. Control by zone should be accomplished as follows:

PRESSURE-AUTO-EXHAUST control over each zone that can be controlled as a single entity relies on system programming to properly sequence all devices in the zone to produce the desired effect. In systems utilizing common supply or return ducts, or both, inclusion of an ISOLATE mode is desirable. To enable use of the system to flush smoke out of a zone after the fire has been extinguished, a PURGE (equal supply and exhaust) mode can also be desirable.

If control over individual pieces of equipment is deemed necessary, the following control options should be provided:

(a) ON-AUTO-OFF control over each individual piece of operating smoke-control equipment that can also be controlled from other sources within the building. Controlled components include all stairway pressurization fans; smoke exhaust fans; HVAC supply, return, and exhaust fans in excess of 2000 ft^3/min (57 m^3/min); elevator shaft fans; atrium supply and exhaust fans; and any other operating equipment used or intended for smoke-control purposes.
(b) ON-OFF or OPEN-CLOSE control over all smoke-control and other critical equipment associated with a fire or smoke emergency and that can be controlled only from the FSCS.
(c) OPEN-AUTO-CLOSE control over all individual dampers relating to smoke control and that are also controlled from other sources within the building.

HVAC terminal units, such as VAV mixing boxes that are all located within and serve one designated smoke-control zone, can be controlled collectively in lieu of individually. HVAC unit coil face bypass dampers that are arranged so as not to restrict overall airflow within the system can be exempted.

Additional controls might be required by the authority having jurisdiction.

(4) *Control Action and Priorities.* The FSCS control action should be as follows:

(a) *ON-OFF, OPEN-CLOSE.* These control actions should have the highest priority of any control point within the building. Once issued from the FSCS, no automatic or manual control from any other control point within the building should contradict the FSCS control action.

If automatic means are provided to interrupt normal nonemergency equipment operation or produce a specific result to safeguard the building or equipment (e.g., duct freezestats, duct smoke detectors, high-temperature cutouts, temperature-actuated linkage, and similar devices), such means should be capable of being overridden or reset to levels not exceeding levels of imminent system failure, by the FSCS control action, and the last control action as indicated by each FSCS switch position should prevail.

Control actions issued from the FSCS should not override or bypass devices and controls intended to protect against electrical overloads, provide for personnel safety, and prevent major system damage. These devices include overcurrent protection devices and electrical disconnect switches, high-limit static pressure switches, and combination fire/smoke dampers beyond their degradation temperature classifications meeting UL 555, *Standard for Fire Dampers*, or UL 555S, *Standard for Smoke Dampers.*

(b) *AUTO.* Only the AUTO position of each three-position FSCS control should allow automatic or manual control action from other control points within the building. The AUTO position should be the normal, nonemergency, building, control position. When an FSCS control is in the AUTO position, the actual status of the device (on, off, open, closed) should continue to be indicated by the status indicator(s).
(c) *FSCS Response Time.* For purposes of smoke control, the FSCS response time should be the same as for automatic or manual smoke-control action initiated from any other building control point. FSCS pilot lamp indication of the actual status of each piece of equipment should not exceed 15 seconds after operation of the respective feedback device.

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(5) *Graphic Depiction.* The location of smoke-control systems and equipment within the building should be indicated by symbols within the overall FSCS graphic panel. Where zoned smoke control is used, a sufficient number of smoke-control components to convey the intended operation of the smoke-control systems and equipment should be shown. These components would normally include major ducts, fans, and dampers that are part of the smoke-control system. Where control is provided over individual fans and dampers used for smoke control, these components should be shown on the FSCS graphic panel and, where appropriate, should be shown connected to their respective ducts, with a clear indication of the direction of airflow. In either case, the building areas served by the smoke-control systems should be shown on the FSCS graphic panel.

Status indications for damper positions should be shown where their inclusion would aid in understanding the operation of the system, and can be omitted where their inclusion would hinder understanding of the system, such as on an already densely populated panel. Damper position indication can also be omitted where no separate control over damper position is provided.

Annex E Information on Testing for Leakage Between Smoke Zones

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

E.1 Although not part of the formal testing procedure, the testing of buildings to determine the amount of leakage between smoke zones can be of value in developing the initial system. Testing for this purpose can often use airflow measuring equipment existing in the systems. This section describes the normal arrangement of a variety of systems and testing methods that can be used for determining the leakage of enclosures. Leakage in buildings comes from a variety of sources, such as the following:

(1) Curtain wall construction where leakage paths can be formed between the outer surface and the floor slab
(2) Drywall partitions where gaps in the drywall behind cover moldings can form leakage paths
(3) Electric switches and outlets in drywall partitions that form leakage paths through the partitions
(4) Installation of doors with undercuts, latching mechanisms, and other gaps forming leakage paths
(5) Interface of drywall partitions at fluted metal deck requiring seals in the flute
(6) Electric outlets in floor slabs within the space or above the space and providing leakage to other floors of the building
(7) Duct penetrations through walls where there can be leakage around the duct behind angles that hold fire dampers in place
(8) Perimeter induction systems that often have gaps around ducts through floor slabs that are hidden behind air distribution enclosures
(9) Pipe, conduit, and wireway penetrations through walls and floors requiring listed through-penetration seals

E.2 Building HVAC Systems Suitable for Enclosure Tightness Testing. Many building HVAC systems can be used to measure the leakage through enclosures. These systems typically contain a central fan that can draw large quantities of outside air into the building for pressurizing. Because all these systems contain openings, ductwork, and sometimes fans to return the air from the enclosure to the central air handler, it is important that these systems be shut off during the test. The use of smoke dampers at the points where the ducts leave the enclosure will give more assurance that leakage from the space through this source will be minimized.

E.2.1 Single-Floor VAV Systems. Many modern office buildings are provided with a separate air handler on each floor of the building to supply conditioned air to the space. These systems are arranged as variable volume systems, whereby the thermostats vary the amount of air delivered to the space rather than the temperature of that air. This arrangement requires a variable frequency controller on the fan that responds to pressure in the duct system. As the variable volume control device is closed, the pressure builds up in the duct and the fan speed is slowed in response to that pressure. Normally these systems contain air-measuring devices in the supply and return ducts that are used to synchronize the return fan operation with the supply fan, so a constant quantity of outside air can be introduced into the space to maintain indoor air quality. These airflow measuring devices can be used to measure the airflow introduced into the space, and the speed of the fan can be adjusted to control the pressure across the enclosure barriers.

E.2.2 Central Fan VAV Systems. Central fan VAV systems are a variation of the single-floor VAV system. A single fan will supply 10 or more floors, each of which has a number of variable volume boxes. As in the case of the single-floor system, the fan responds to a pressure sensor in the duct. A flow-measuring station at the fan is used to track the return fan with the supply fan in order to maintain constant outside air, as in the case of the single-floor VAV system. Generally, these systems are provided with a motor-operated shut-off damper at each floor, since the system can be economically used to supply only a portion of the floors when other floors are vacant.

These systems can be used for testing of spaces by commanding that all of the supply dampers to the floors be closed except on the floor being tested. In this manner, the airflow onto the floor can be measured as the pressure across the barriers is adjusted.

The leakage characteristics of the main duct system as well as those of the dampers that are to be shut must be known so the corrections for duct and damper leakage in the system of the floor under test can be determined ahead of time. This can be accomplished by shutting all the dampers on the system, pressurizing the duct system to various pressures using the supply fans, and measuring the airflow at the air-measuring station in the supply duct.

One variation of a multifloor VAV system has air-measuring stations on each floor of the building. The purpose of these stations is to verify that a particular tenant is not creating so much load on the floor that more airflow is used than is designed into the system. When overload is encountered, the airflow can be measured directly on the floor so that adjustments for main duct leakage are unnecessary.

E.2.3 Constant Volume Multizone Systems. Constant volume multizone systems mix hot and cold air at a central air-handling unit and have a separate duct system that goes out to various spaces. Typically, they are not provided with air-measuring stations that would have to be retrofitted to the ducts delivering air to the spaces. The spaces need to coincide with the enclosures being tested. Typically, there is also no means of varying the flow to each space. Varying the flow requires the addition of either manual or motorized dampers in the duct system that are adjusted to achieve the test pressure or pressures.

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E.2.4 Constant Volume Terminal Reheat System. Constant volume terminal reheat systems are the most difficult to use for testing for enclosure tightness. Typically, these systems contain central fans that deliver air to a duct system at a set temperature. The duct system is distributed throughout the building, and reheated coils are placed at various locations to temper the air to maintain space conditions. There are typically no measuring stations or any automatic dampers in the system. To use this system for testing, it is first necessary to retrofit it with air-measuring stations and dampers to coincide with the enclosures being tested.

E.3 Building HVAC Systems Not Suitable for Enclosure Tightness Testing. A number of HVAC systems have little or no value in testing the tightness of an enclosure, because they introduce a limited amount of airflow into the space or are arranged so that there are multiple duct entrances into the space. Therefore, making airflow measurement in such systems is impractical. A summary of these systems follows.

E.3.1 Unitary Heat Pump/Fan Coil Systems. Unitary heat pump/fan coil systems come in a number of configurations. These systems are similar, in that the space is provided with a number of separate units, each with limited airflow capacity. Outside air to the space is introduced in one of the following three manners:

(1) Units are located on the perimeter with a separate outside air duct for each unit. This arrangement typically has a small penetration through the outside wall of the building with no ductwork attached. The amount of outside air introduced is so small and the capacity of the systems to pressurize the space is so limited that the systems cannot be used for testing the integrity of the space. In these instances, the units will be detrimental to the operation of any system in the space designed to pressurize it unless each outside air duct is fitted with a tight-closing automatic damper.
(2) Units are located only on the perimeter, and outside air is introduced through a separate duct system. In this instance, the units are used in conjunction with an interior duct system. The outside air duct for the perimeter is of limited capacity and should be fitted with tight-closing automatic dampers to maintain the integrity of the enclosure. Testing of the space should be done through the interior duct system.
(3) Units are distributed throughout both the perimeter and interior. In this instance, outside air is introduced into the space through a separate duct system that distributes throughout the entire floor area. This duct system is sized to handle the minimum outside air quantities needed in the space and might or might not have sufficient flow to provide pressure in the space. Whether this system can be used for the pressure testing must be decided on a case-by-case basis. It will be necessary to provide the system with air-measuring stations and possibly shut-off dampers if the system serves multiple floors.

E.3.2 Perimeter Induction Systems. Perimeter induction systems are typically arranged to handle only the perimeter of the building. These systems are arranged with a terminal unit along the perimeter under the windows, each provided with a duct to a central air distribution system. The ducts typically are small [under 20 in.^{2} (129 cm^2) per unit] and either penetrate the floor to a distribution system on the floor below or connect to a vertical riser that extends up through the building and supplies four to six units per floor. These systems do not lend themselves to testing of spaces because of the multiple duct connections on each floor. The duct connections should be provided with tight-closing automatic dampers so that pressurization of the space will be possible.

Generally an interior system is provided, which is one of the types previously described, that can be used for the testing and pressurization.

Annex F Advisory Information on Acceptance Testing

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

F.1 One or more of the following persons should be present to grant acceptance:

(1) Authority having jurisdiction
(2) Owner
(3) Designer

All documentation from operational testing should be available for inspection.

F.2 Testing Documentation. On completion of acceptance testing, a copy of all operational testing documentation should be provided to the owner. This documentation should be available for reference for periodic testing and maintenance.

F.3 Owner's Manuals and Instruction. Information should be provided to the owner that defines the operation and maintenance of the system. Basic instruction on the operation of the system should be provided to the owner's representatives. Because the owner can assume beneficial use of the smoke-control system on completion of acceptance testing, this basic instruction should be completed prior to acceptance testing.

F.4 Partial Occupancy. Acceptance testing should be performed as a single step when obtaining a certificate of occupancy. However, if the building is to be completed or occupied in stages, multiple acceptance tests can be conducted in order to obtain temporary certificates of occupancy.

F.5 Simulated Smoke. Where the authority having jurisdiction requires demonstrations utilizing smoke or products that simulate smoke, they should be based on the objective of inhibiting smoke from migrating across smoke zone boundaries to other areas. Test criteria based on the system's ability to remove smoke from an area should not be used for zoned smoke-control systems designed for containment, not removal, of smoke.

F.6 Much can be accomplished to demonstrate smoke-control system operation without resorting to demonstrations that use smoke or products that simulate smoke.

The test methods described in Chapter 8 should provide an adequate means to evaluate the smoke-control system's performance. Other test methods have been used historically in instances where the authority having jurisdiction requires additional testing. These test methods have limited value in evaluating certain system performance, and their validity as methods of testing a smoke-control system is questionable. Examples of other test methods that have been used are as follows:

(1) Chemical smoke tests
(2) Tracer gas tests
(3) Real fire tests

Chemical smoke tests have achieved a degree of popularity out of proportion to the limited information they are capable of providing. The most common sources of chemical smoke

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are the commercially available "smoke candle" (sometimes called a smoke bomb) and the smoke generator apparatus. In this test, the smoke candle is usually placed in a metal container and ignited. The purpose of the metal container is protection from heat damage after ignition; it does not inhibit observation of the movement of the chemical smoke. Care needs to be exercised during observations, because inhalation of chemical smoke can cause nausea.

This type of testing is less realistic than real fire testing because chemical smoke is cold and lacks the buoyancy of smoke from a flaming fire. Such buoyancy forces can be sufficiently large to overpower a smoke-control system that was not designed to withstand them. Smoke from a sprinklered fire has little buoyancy, and so it might be expected that such smoke movement is similar to the movement of unheated chemical smoke. This has not yet been confirmed by test data. Chemical smoke testing can identify leakage paths, and such tests are simple and inexpensive to perform.

The question arises as to what information can be obtained from a cold chemical smoke test. If a smoke-control system does not achieve a high enough level of pressurization, the pressures due to hot, buoyant smoke could overcome that system. The ability to control cold chemical smoke provides no assurance of the ability to control hot smoke in the event of a real fire.

Chemical smoke is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of so-called smoke "purging" systems. Even though such systems are not smoke-control systems, they are closely related and thus are briefly addressed here. For example, consider a system that has six air changes per hour when in the smoke purge mode. Some testing officials have mistaken this number of air changes to mean that the air is completely changed every 10 minutes and that 10 minutes after the smoke candle is out, all the smoke should be gone from the space. Of course, this is not what happens. In a purging system, the air entering the space mixes to some extent with the air and smoke in the space. If the purging system is part of the HVAC system, it has been designed to promote a rather complete degree of mixing. If the concentration of smoke is close to uniform within the space, then the method of analysis for purging presented in Section 2.3 of ASHRAE/SFPE, *Principles of Smoke Management*, is appropriate. Based on such perfect mixing, after 10 minutes, 37 percent of the original smoke remains in the space.

Annex G Informational References

G.1 Referenced Publications. The documents or portions thereof listed in this annex are referenced within the informational sections of this standard and are not part of the requirements of this document unless also listed in Chapter 2 for other reasons.

G.1.1 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 72®, National Fire Alarm Code®, 2002 edition.

NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows*, 1999 edition.

NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 92B, *Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces*, 2005 edition.

NFPA *101®, Life Safety Code®*, 2006 edition.

NFPA 204, *Standard for Smoke and Heat Venting*, 2002 edition.

Tamura, G. T., *Smoke Movement and Control in High-Rise Buildings*, 1994 edition.

G.1.2 Other Publications.

G.1.2.1 ASHRAE Publications. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc., 1791 Tullie Circle, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329-2305.

ASHRAE, *Handbook of Fundamentals*, 2001.

Klote, J. and J. A. Milke, *Principles of Smoke Management*, ASHRAE/SFPE, 2002.

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ASME/ANSI A17.1, *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators*, 2004.

G.1.2.3 SFPE Publication. Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 620E, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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Lougheed, G.D., J.R. Mawhinney, and J. O'Neill, "Full-Scale Fire Tests and the Development of Design Criteria for Sprinkler Protection of Mobile Shelving Units," *Fire Technology*, Vol. 30, 1994, pp. 98–133.

Madrzykowski, D., and R. Vettori. "A Sprinkler Fire Suppression Algorithm," *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering*, Vol. 4, 1992, pp. 151–164.

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Tamura, G.T., and C.Y. Shaw, "Studies on Exterior Wall Air Tightness and Air Infiltration of Tall Buildings," ASHRAE Transactions, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Atlanta, GA, Vol. 82, Part 1, 1976, pp. 122–134.

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Walton, G.N., "CONTAM96 User Manual," NISTIR-6056, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, 1997.

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G.3 References for Extracts in Informational Sections. (Reserved)

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