

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: An additional method of stage proscenium opening protection has now been provided that permits the use of horizontal sliding doors having a minimum fire protection rating of 1 hour.

2015 CODE: 410.3.5 Proscenium Curtain. Where a proscenium wall is required to have a fire-resistance rating, the stage opening shall be provided with a fire curtain complying with NFPA 80, horizontal sliding doors complying with Section 716.5.2 having a fire protection rating of at least 1 hour, or an approved water curtain complying with Section 903.3.1.1 or, in facilities not utilizing the provisions of smoke-protected assembly seating in accordance with Section 1029.6.2, a smoke control system complying with Section 909 or natural ventilation designed to maintain the smoke level not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) above the floor of the means of egress.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Where a stage height exceeds 50 feet, a minimum 2-hour proscenium wall is required to provide a fire separation between the stage and the assembly seating area. The stage opening must also be appropriately protected in order to maintain the integrity of the separation. Because the opening in a fire-resistance-rated stage proscenium wall is typically too large to be protected with any usual type of fire protective, the code has historically required that it be protected with a fire curtain. Recent alternative methods permitted by the code include the use of a water curtain or assembly seating protection through a smoke control system or natural ventilation. An additional method of proscenium opening protection has now been included that permits the use of horizontal sliding doors having a minimum fire protection rating of 1 hour.

410.3.5 continues

410.3.5

Horizontal Sliding Doors at Stage Proscenium Opening



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Stage proscenium opening

410.3.5 continued

Horizontal sliding doors have long been identified and approved by the code as a component of the means of egress when in compliance with eight criteria specified in Section 1010.1.4.3 addressing special-purpose horizontal sliding, accordion and folding doors. Such doors are often used to create fire separations at expansive openings where wall construction is not desirable. The provisions of Section 716.5.2, addressing the testing of fire door assemblies other than side-hinged and pivoted swinging doors, indicate that horizontal sliding fire assemblies are to be tested in accordance with NFPA 252 or UL 10B.