

**Memorandum**

October 11, 2005

**To:** Gerald Brown 

**From:** William Griffing 

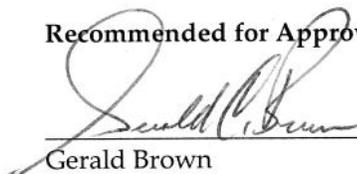
**Subject:** Revised FESHM Chapter 6020.4, "Minimum Aisle and Doorway Widths for Safe Egress"

Enclosed you will find revised FESHM Chapter 6020.4, "Minimum Aisle and Doorway Widths for Safe Egress. This chapter has been revised to reflect current operations.

After final approval, please return this approval page to Elizabeth May at MS119 for posting on the web.

Encl.

**Recommended for Approval:**

  
Gerald Brown

10/12/2005  
Date

**Approved:**

  
Piermaria Oddone

10/14/05  
Date

Database login \_\_\_\_\_  
Sent for posting on web \_\_\_\_\_  
Date posted \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail sent \_\_\_\_\_

## MINIMUM AISLE AND DOORWAY WIDTHS FOR SAFE EGRESS

### INTRODUCTION

Aisle widths in Laboratory buildings are to conform to the requirements of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, to provide safe exiting from a building in case of fire. These requirements are summarized below. In the event of a discrepancy between the summary given below and the requirements of NFPA 101, the requirements of NFPA 101 take precedence.

Illinois and Federal regulations govern egress and area refuge may supercede these requirements.

### DEFINITIONS

**Means of Egress** - A continuous and unobstructed way of exit travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way open to the outside air. It comprises the vertical and horizontal travel and includes intervening room spaces, doorways, hallways, corridors, passageways, balconies, ramps, stairs, enclosures, lobbies, escalators, horizontal exits, courts and yards.

**Occupancy** - The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is used or intended to be used. Occupancy uses are defined in NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2003 edition.

Illinois and Federal regulations govern egress and area refuge may supercede these requirements.

### REQUIREMENTS

1. **Means of Egress.** The minimum corridor or aisle width, clear of any obstructions, must be sufficient to accommodate the required occupant load, but cannot be less than the following:

Occupancy	Minimum Aisle Width	NFPA 101 Reference(s)
Assembly (includes libraries)	Varies	12.2.3
Business	44 inches	38.2.3.2
Educational	72 inches	14.2.3.2
Hotels & Dormitories	44 inches	28.2.3.3
Industrial	36 inches	28.2.3.1
Lodging & Rooming Houses (for 16 or less)	36 inches	26.2.1.1.1; 24.2.6.1
One & Two Family Dwellings	36 inches	24.2.6.1
Storage	36 inches	42.2.2.1

2. **Doorways.** The minimum doorway\* widths cannot be less than the following:

Occupancy	Minimum Aisle Width	NFPA 101 Reference(s)
Existing Buildings*	28 inches	7.2.1.2.4
New Buildings (except as modified below)	32 inches	7.2.1.2.4
Doors serving area of < 70 sq ft w/o required handicap access	24 inches	7.2.1.2.4
Lodging & Rooming Houses	28 inches	26.2.3.1
Lodging & Rooming Houses – Bathroom Doors	24 inches	26.2.3.2
One & Two Family Dwellings	28 inches	24.2.4.1
One & Two Family Dwellings – Bathroom Doors	24 inches	24.2.4.2

\* Includes similar openings defined by tables, benches, cabinets, etc.