

1210.3

Restroom Privacy

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: Concerns regarding privacy within public restrooms have been addressed by requiring a screening element at the entry to the restroom.

2021 CODE TEXT: ~~1209.3~~ **1210.3 Privacy.** Public restrooms shall be visually screened from outside entry or exit doorways to ensure user privacy within the restroom. This provision shall also apply where mirrors would compromise personal privacy. Privacy at water closets and urinals shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1210.3.1 and 1210.3.2.

Exception: Visual screening shall not be required for single-occupant toilet rooms with a lockable door.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: For some time, Section 1210.3 has required sidewall or partition urinal privacy in restrooms but has not previously addressed privacy from passersby outside restroom facilities. A requirement for a screening wall or other obscuring measure in the entry to the facilities has been added. The placement of mirrors within the facility has also been addressed to deal with reflections from within the room to the outside area.

See Chapter 29 of the 2021 IBC for additional changes to public restrooms addressing installation of fixtures and water closets.



Photo courtesy of baona

Screen at restroom entry.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: A flood emergency plan needs to be consistent with ASCE 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*. ASCE 24 requires the submittal and approval of a flood emergency plan where dry floodproofing measures require human intervention, for example, where deployable flood shields are used. Flood emergency plans must specify:

- Storage location of shields
- Method of installation
- Conditions activating installation
- Maintenance of shields and attachment devices
- Periodic practice of installing shields
- Testing of sump pumps and other drainage measures
- Inspection of necessary material and equipment to activate or implement floodproofing

The design professional developing dry floodproofing measures that require human intervention should take into consideration the effort needed to effectively deploy such measures. Preparation of a flood emergency plan ensures that the methods specified by the design professional can be installed and implemented within the given warning time. If a design requires more warning time than reasonably available before the onset of flooding, then the designer should interpret that to mean the contemplated dry floodproofing measures must be redesigned or that dry floodproofing may not be appropriate for the building.

Additionally, maintenance, testing and inspection are critical to ensuring system performance. The possible inability of owners or occupants to implement dry floodproofing due to lack of preparation or maintenance is regarded as an unacceptable risk. After Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, FEMA mitigation assessment teams observed dry floodproofing measures that failed due to inadequate deployment or improper maintenance. Challenges included:

- Systems requiring sizeable crews with heavy and specialized equipment to be mobilized over a period of several days in advance of the storm to install a system.
- Lack of maintenance of gaskets around doors and flood shields that allowed water intrusion.
- Lack of inspection and owner awareness of components integral to dry floodproofing meant inadvertent mis-installation.

Breakaway walls are defined in ASCE 24 as:

any type of wall subject to flooding that is not required to provide structural support to a building ... and is designed and constructed such that ... it will collapse ... [to] (1) allow free passage of floodwaters, and (2) it does not damage the structure or supporting foundation system.

The walls may be designed using a prescriptive approach following ASCE 24, Section 2.7.2.1 for non-engineered openings or use engineering to design openings following the minimum requirements of Section 2.7.2.2. Per the new Section 1612.4, Item 2.4, when ASCE 24, Section 2.7.2.2 is applied, a statement must be included in the construction documents stating that equalization of hydrostatic flood forces was considered in the design of the openings.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Building Code®, 2021 Edition*.

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