

By Standard Number / 1910.36 - Design and construction requirements for exit routes.

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- **Part Number:** 1910
  - **Part Number Title:** Occupational Safety and Health Standards
  - **Subpart:** 1910 Subpart E
  - **Subpart Title:** Exit Routes and Emergency Planning
  - **Standard Number:** 1910.36
  - **Title:** Design and construction requirements for exit routes.
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1910.36(a)

**Basic requirements.** Exit routes must meet the following design and construction requirements:

1910.36(a)(1)

**An exit route must be permanent.** Each exit route must be a permanent part of the workplace.

1910.36(a)(2)

**An exit must be separated by fire resistant materials.** Construction materials used to separate an exit from other parts of the workplace must have a one-hour fire resistance-rating if the exit connects three or fewer stories and a two-hour fire resistance-rating if the exit connects four or more stories.

1910.36(a)(3)

**Openings into an exit must be limited.** An exit is permitted to have only those openings necessary to allow access to the exit from occupied areas of the workplace, or to the exit discharge. An opening into an exit must be protected by a self-closing fire door that remains closed or automatically closes in an emergency upon the sounding of a fire alarm or employee alarm system. Each fire door, including its frame and hardware, must be listed or approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Section 1910.155(c)(3)(iv)(A) of this part defines “listed” and § 1910.7 of this part defines a “nationally recognized testing laboratory.”

1910.36(b)

**The number of exit routes must be adequate -**

1910.36(b)(1)

**Two exit routes.** At least two exit routes must be available in a workplace to permit prompt evacuation of employees and other building occupants during an emergency, except as allowed in paragraph (b)(3) of this section. The exit routes must be located as far away as practical from each other so that if one exit route is blocked by fire or smoke, employees can evacuate using the second exit route.

1910.36(b)(2)

**More than two exit routes.** More than two exit routes must be available in a workplace if the number of employees, the size of the building, its occupancy, or the arrangement of the workplace is such that all

employees would not be able to evacuate safely during an emergency.

1910.36(b)(3)

**A single exit route.** A single exit route is permitted where the number of employees, the size of the building, its occupancy, or the arrangement of the workplace is such that all employees would be able to evacuate safely during an emergency.

Note to paragraph (b) of this section:

For assistance in determining the number of exit routes necessary for your workplace, consult NFPA 101-2009, Life Safety Code, or IFC-2009, International Fire Code (incorporated by reference, see § 1910.6).

1910.36(c)

**Exit discharge.**

1910.36(c)(1)

Each exit discharge must lead directly outside or to a street, walkway, refuge area, public way, or open space with access to the outside.

1910.36(c)(2)

The street, walkway, refuge area, public way, or open space to which an exit discharge leads must be large enough to accommodate the building occupants likely to use the exit route.

1910.36(c)(3)

Exit stairs that continue beyond the level on which the exit discharge is located must be interrupted at that level by doors, partitions, or other effective means that clearly indicate the direction of travel leading to the exit discharge.

1910.36(d)

**An exit door must be unlocked.**

1910.36(d)(1)

Employees must be able to open an exit route door from the inside at all times without keys, tools, or special knowledge. A device such as a panic bar that locks only from the outside is permitted on exit discharge doors.

1910.36(d)(2)

Exit route doors must be free of any device or alarm that could restrict emergency use of the exit route if the device or alarm fails.

1910.36(d)(3)

An exit route door may be locked from the inside only in mental, penal, or correctional facilities and then only if supervisory personnel are continuously on duty and the employer has a plan to remove occupants from the facility during an emergency.

1910.36(e)

**A side-hinged exit door must be used.**

1910.36(e)(1)

A side-hinged door must be used to connect any room to an exit route.

1910.36(e)(2)

The door that connects any room to an exit route must swing out in the direction of exit travel if the room is designed to be occupied by more than 50 people or if the room is a high hazard area (*i.e.*, contains contents that are likely to burn with extreme rapidity or explode).

1910.36(f)

***The capacity of an exit route must be adequate.***

1910.36(f)(1)

Exit routes must support the maximum permitted occupant load for each floor served.

1910.36(f)(2)

The capacity of an exit route may not decrease in the direction of exit route travel to the exit discharge.

Note to paragraph (f) of this section:

Information regarding the "Occupant load" is located in NFPA 101-2009, Life Safety Code, and in IFC-2009, International Fire Code (incorporated by reference, see § 1910.6).

1910.36(g)

***An exit route must meet minimum height and width requirements.***

1910.36(g)(1)

The ceiling of an exit route must be at least seven feet six inches (2.3 m) high. Any projection from the ceiling must not reach a point less than six feet eight inches (2.0 m) from the floor.

1910.36(g)(2)

An exit access must be at least 28 inches (71.1 cm) wide at all points. Where there is only one exit access leading to an exit or exit discharge, the width of the exit and exit discharge must be at least equal to the width of the exit access.

1910.36(g)(3)

The width of an exit route must be sufficient to accommodate the maximum permitted occupant load of each floor served by the exit route.

1910.36(g)(4)

Objects that project into the exit route must not reduce the width of the exit route to less than the minimum width requirements for exit routes.

1910.36(h)

***An outdoor exit route is permitted.*** Each outdoor exit route must meet the minimum height and width requirements for indoor exit routes and must also meet the following requirements:

1910.36(h)(1)

The outdoor exit route must have guardrails to protect unenclosed sides if a fall hazard exists;

1910.36(h)(2)

The outdoor exit route must be covered if snow or ice is likely to accumulate along the route, unless the employer can demonstrate that any snow or ice accumulation will be removed before it presents a slipping hazard;

1910.36(h)(3)

The outdoor exit route must be reasonably straight and have smooth, solid, substantially level walkways; and

1910.36(h)(4)

The outdoor exit route must not have a dead-end that is longer than 20 feet (6.2 m).

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