

## ***Categorical Waiver Available:***

### **2. Openings in Exit Enclosures**

The 2000 LSC limits opening in exit enclosures (e.g., stairwells) to doors from normally occupied spaces and corridor, and doors for egress from the enclosure, with a few exceptions. Existing health care facilities often have unoccupied mechanical equipment spaces that have an exit access door to an exit enclosure. Providing an alternative exit access to these areas is typically impractical and unduly burdensome with respect to the cost of the reconstruction that would be required. With the 2003 LSC, the NFPA began to permit existing unoccupied openings to mechanical equipment spaces with fire-rated doors to open into exit enclosures, and continuation of this policy is reflected in section 7.1.3.2(9)(c) of the 2012 LSC. Accordingly, we are permitting a waiver to allow existing openings in exit enclosures to mechanical equipment spaces that are protected by fire-rated door assemblies. These mechanical equipment spaces must be used only for non-fuel-fired mechanical equipment, must contain no storage of combustible materials, and must be located in sprinklered buildings. This waiver allowance will be permitted only if the provider/supplier is in compliance with all other applicable 2000 LSC exit provisions, as well as with section 7.1.3.2.1(9)(c) of the 2012 LSC.

#### **2012 NFPA 101, Section 7.1.3.2.1(9)(c)**

**(9)\***Openings in exit enclosures shall be limited to door assemblies from normally occupied spaces and corridors and door assemblies for egress from the enclosure, unless one of the following conditions exists:

**(c)** Existing openings to mechanical equipment spaces protected by approved existing fire protection-rated door assemblies shall be permitted, provided that the following criteria are met:

- i. The space is used solely for non-fuel-fired mechanical equipment.
- ii. The space contains no storage of combustible materials.
- iii. The building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.