

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE INTERPRETATION

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Code: NFPA 82; 1999 Edition

Subject/Background: A typical design in health care is for linen and waste chutes to terminate in a collection room. NFPA 82-1999 3-2.4 addresses chute loading doors (those doors on the upper floors where staff loads the chute). NFPA 82-1999 3-2.6 requires the chute to terminate in a rated room equivalent to the rating of the chute. The terminus room is to have automatic or self closing 1 ½ hour fire doors. The drawings in the code (Figure 3-2.5.1 Gravity Chute) indicate the need for a bottom terminal door that is self-closing and fire rated, although this is not stated in the body of the text.

Question 1: Are both the chute terminal door at the bottom of the chute and the collection room access door required to be automatic or self closing 1 ½ hour fire doors?

Answer 1: YES

Question 2: If the collection room access door is an automatic or self closing 1-½ hour fire door, will this suffice for protecting not only the chute but the collection room? If not, what is the philosophy and code reference for requiring both of these doors?

Answer 2: NO. Protection of the chute terminus room (collection room) requires that protection be provided between the room itself and the shaft (hence the requirement for the rated chute door) and between the chute terminus room and surrounding or adjacent spaces (hence the requirement for the rated door at the opening). See NFPA 82, 1992 Edition, Sections 3-2.2.9 and 3-2.4.3 (NFPA 82, 2004 Edition, Sections 5.2.3.2 and 5.2.5.3.2).