

FOCUS:

Power Operated Doors Required at Accessible Public Entrances

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The IBC has long required many public entrances to buildings to be accessible. The 2021 IBC includes requirements for power-operated doors on accessible public entrances serving larger buildings of specific occupancies.

The IBC, in Section 1105.1, requires at least 60 percent of public entrances to be accessible. New for the 2021 IBC, in Section 1105.1.1, power-operated doors are required on public entrances that are required to be accessible on buildings with occupancy and occupant load per Table 1105.1.1:

**Table 1105.1.1 Public Entrance
with Power-Operated Door^a**

| Occupancy | Building Occupant Load Greater Than |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4 | 300 |
| B, M, R-1 | 500 |

a. In mixed-use facilities where the total sum of the building occupant load is greater than those listed, the most restrictive building occupant load shall apply.

This requirement applies to Assembly occupancies (A-1 to A-4, excluding A-5) with an occupant load of greater than 300 people, and the following use groups where the occupant load is greater than 500 people: Business (B), Mercantile (M), and Residential transient occupancies (R-1: hotels, motels, boarding houses, congregant living). Note: Assembly occupancy A-5 (bleachers, grandstands, stadiums, and amusement parks) and Residential occupancy groups other than R-1 are not included in Table 1105.1.1.



Beginning with the 2021 edition of the IBC, accessible public entrances in some buildings will require power-operated doors.

The IBC requirement is a minimum of one power-operated door – or one set of doors of a vestibule – at each of the public entrances required to be accessible. The power-operated doors required by Section 1105.1.1 can be either an automatic power-operated door or low-energy power-operated door. Power-assist doors would not meet the new 2021 IBC requirements. Note: IBC Section 1010.3.2 requires (automatic) power-operated doors to comply with ANSI/BHMA A156.10, and requires low-energy power-operated doors to comply with ANSI/BHMA A156.19.

- In the IBC, a public entrance is defined: “An entrance that is not a service entrance or a restricted entrance.”
- A service entrance is defined: “An entrance intended primarily for delivery of goods or services.”
- And a restricted entrance is defined: “An entrance that is made available for common use on a controlled basis, but not public use, and that is not a service entrance.”

DISCLAIMER: BHMA provides this information as a service. Refer to the jurisdiction’s building codes and the project requirements. If questions, consult the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).