

addressed independently of the occupancy in which they are located. The presence of these rooms does not result in a facility being designated a multiple occupancy.

7.12.1 Mechanical equipment rooms, boiler rooms, furnace rooms, and similar spaces shall be arranged to limit common path of travel to a distance not exceeding 50 ft (15 m), unless otherwise permitted by the following:

- (1) A common path of travel not exceeding 100 ft (30 m) shall be permitted in the following locations:
 - (a) In buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7
 - (b) In mechanical equipment rooms with no fuel-fired equipment
 - (c) In existing buildings
- (2) In an existing building, a common path of travel not exceeding 150 ft (46 m) shall be permitted, provided that all of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) The building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 9.7.
 - (b) No fuel-fired equipment is within the space.
 - (c) The egress path is readily identifiable.
- (3) The requirement of 7.12.1 shall not apply to rooms or spaces in existing health care occupancies complying with the arrangement of means of egress provisions of 19.2.5 and the travel distance limits of 19.2.6.

7.12.2 Stories used exclusively for mechanical equipment, furnaces, or boilers shall be permitted to have a single means of egress where the travel distance to an exit on that story is not in excess of the common path of travel limitations of 7.12.1.

Paragraph 7.12.2 is especially useful in equipment penthouses and for basement furnace and boiler rooms. As long as the common path of travel specified by 7.12.1 is not exceeded, a story used exclusively for mechanical equipment, boilers, or furnaces is permit-

reducing the means of egress features required for normally unoccupied building service equipment support areas. See 3.3.21.6 for a definition of *normally unoccupied building service equipment support area*. The advisory annex text that accompanies the definition is repeated below, as it is important not to permit the leniencies offered by Section 7.13 to be used in spaces that should not be classified as normally unoccupied building service equipment support areas.

A.3.3.21.6 Normally Unoccupied Building Service Equipment Support Area.

Normally unoccupied building service support areas are often found in attics, crawl spaces, chases, and interstitial areas where the space is vacant or intended exclusively for routing ductwork, cables, conduits, piping, and similar services and is rarely accessed. In such spaces, it is often difficult or impossible to fully comply with the egress requirements of Chapter 7. Where portions of such spaces are routinely visited for storage, maintenance, testing, or inspection, that portion is excluded from this definition, but the remainder of the space might be considered a normally unoccupied building service equipment support area. Storage and fuel-fired equipment would not be expected to be permitted in these locations. Roofs are not considered to be normally unoccupied building service equipment support areas.

The two themes that run through Section 7.13 are that the subject means of egress feature that is normally required by Chapter 7 is exempted in the normally unoccupied building service equipment support area if:

1. The normally unoccupied building service equipment support area is not larger than 45,000 ft² (4180 m²) in a building that is not sprinklered throughout, without the presence or absence of sprinklers in the normally unoccupied building service equipment support area affecting the determination of whether the building is sprinklered throughout

2. The normally unoccupied building service equipment support area is not larger than 90,000 ft² (8270 m²) in a building that is sprinklered throughout