Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise Section 27.1 to read as follows:
<Insert 5000_27.1>
Statement: 1. The xx.1 section of the occupancy chapters should be revised to reflect the reorganization of these same sections in NFPA 101 that were made for the 2012 edition of the Code. The reorganization presents a more logical and user friendly order of the requirements. In addition, references to Chapter 1, 3, and 4 were added so that users had a pointer back to the core chapters of the document.
2. Correlative text is being added to address new Section 6.2.4.7. The provision is limited to separation from those occupancies that present an acceptable level of risk and hazard.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: 1. Add new Section to read as follows:
27.2.2.2.4 Reserved.
2. Renumber section accordingly.
Statement: The addition of a "reserved" section preserves the numbering of the section to make it align with other occupancy chapters. Change is consistent with language in NFPA 101.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:
27.3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings. Any vertical opening shall be protected in accordance with Section 8.6, except under any of the following conditions:
(1) In Class A or Class B mercantile occupancies protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1), unprotected vertical openings shall be permitted at one of the following locations:
(a) Between any two floors
(b) Among the street floor, the first adjacent floor below, and the adjacent floor (or mezzanine) above
(2) In Class C mercantile occupancies, unprotected openings shall be permitted between the street floor and the mezzanine.
(3) The draft stop and closely spaced sprinkler requirements of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, shall not be required for unenclosed vertical openings permitted in 36.3.1(1) and (2).
(4) Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.12.5.2 shall be permitted.
Statement: Language permits the use of 8.12.5.2 which was added to the Code in 2012.
27.1—General Requirements.

27.1.1—Application.

27.1.1.1—The requirements of this chapter shall apply to new buildings or portions thereof used as a mercantile occupancy.

27.1.1.2—Repairs, renovations, modifications, additions, and reconstruction of a mercantile occupancy, and changes of use, including change of occupancy classification to a mercantile occupancy, or correction of a damaged or unsafe portion of the building containing the mercantile occupancy, shall comply with one of the following:

(1)—Provisions of this chapter
(2)—Provisions of Chapter 15

27.1.1.3—This chapter shall establish requirements for all buildings, or portions thereof, used as mercantile occupancies. Suboccupancy groups such as Class A, Class B, and Class C mercantile occupancies; malls; and bulk merchandising retail buildings shall comply with the requirements of the paragraphs pertaining thereto.

27.1.1.4—When a mercantile occupancy changes from Class C to Class A or Class B, or from Class B to Class A, the provisions of this chapter shall apply.

27.1.2—Multiple Occupancies.

27.1.2.1—General. All multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with Section 6.2 and 27.1.2. Where there are differences in the specific requirements in this chapter and provisions for mixed occupancies or separated occupancies as specified in 6.2.3 and 6.2.4, the requirements of this chapter shall apply. (See 4.3.2.3.)

27.1.2.2—Combined Mercantile Occupancies and Parking Structures.

27.1.2.2.1—The wall separating a parking structure from a building classified as a mercantile occupancy shall be a fire barrier having a fire resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

27.1.2.2.2—Openings in the fire barrier shall not be required to be protected with fire protection-rated opening protectives in enclosed parking structures that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2, or in open parking structures, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(1)—The openings do not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier in which they are located.

(2)—The openings are used as a public entrance and for associated sidelight functions.

(3)—The buildings containing the mercantile occupancy are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 and 55.3.2.
Means are provided to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to the openings and entering the building.

Physical means are provided to prevent vehicles from being parked or driven within 10 ft (3050 mm) of the openings.

The openings are protected as required for a smoke partition in accordance with Section 8.10, with no minimum fire protection rating required.

27.1.3—Classification of Occupancy.

27.1.3.1—General. Mercantile occupancies shall include all buildings and structures, or parts thereof, with mercantile occupancy, as defined in 6.1.10.

27.1.3.2—Subclassification of Occupancy.

27.1.3.2.1—Mercantile occupancies shall be subclassified as follows:

(1) Class A—All mercantile occupancies having an aggregate gross area of more than 30,000 ft² (2800 m²) or occupying more than three stories for sales purposes

(2) Class B, as follows:

   (a) All mercantile occupancies of more than 3000 ft² (280 m²), but not more than 30,000 ft² (2800 m²), aggregate gross area occupying not more than three stories for sales purposes

   (b) All mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft² (280 m²) gross area and occupying two or three stories for sales purposes

(3) Class C—All mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft² (280 m²) gross area used for sales purposes occupying one story only

27.1.3.2.2—For the purpose of the classification required in 27.1.3.2.1, the aggregate gross area shall be the total gross area of all floors used for mercantile purposes. Where a mercantile occupancy is divided into sections, regardless of fire separation, the aggregate gross area shall include the area of all sections used for sales purposes. Areas of floors not used for sales purposes, such as an area used only for storage and not open to the public, shall not be counted for the purposes of the classifications in 27.1.3.2.1(1) through (3). However, means of egress shall be provided for such nonsales areas in accordance with their occupancy, as specified by other chapters of this Code.

27.1.3.2.3—Mezzanines shall comply with Section 8.13.

27.1.3.2.4—Where a number of tenant spaces under different management are located in the same building, the aggregate gross area for subclassification shall be determined in accordance with any of the following:

(1) Where tenant spaces are not separated, the aggregate gross floor area of all such tenant spaces shall be used in determining classification per 27.1.3.2.1.
(2) Where individual tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 2-hour fire resistance rating, each tenant space shall be individually classified.

(3) Where tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 1-hour fire resistance rating and the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 and 55.3.2, each tenant space shall be individually classified.

(4) The tenant spaces in a mall building in accordance with 27.4.4 shall be classified individually.

27.1.4 Classification of Hazard of Contents.

27.1.4.1 Hazard of contents shall be classified in accordance with 6.3.2.

27.1.4.2 Buildings or areas in which high hazard contents are stored, used, or handled shall comply with Chapter 34.

27.1.5 Minimum Construction Requirements. Construction types and heights and area requirements shall be in accordance with all of the following:

(1) Chapter 7, Construction Types and Height and Area Requirements

(2) Chapter 8, Fire Resistant Materials and Construction

(3) Chapter 13, Encroachments into the Public Right of Way

(4) Chapter 14, Safeguards During Construction

(5) Chapter 31, Occupancies in Special Structures

(6) Chapter 35, Structural Design

(7) Chapter 36, Soils, Foundations, and Retaining Walls

(8) Chapter 37, Exterior Wall Construction

(9) Chapter 38, Roof Assemblies and Roof Structures

(10) Chapter 39, Flood-Resistant Design and Construction

(11) Chapter 40, Quality Assurance During Construction

27.1.6 Occupant Load. The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of Table 11.3.1.2 that are characteristic of the use of the space, or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

27.1.7 Accessibility. Accessibility shall be in accordance with Chapter 12.
27.1 General Requirements.

27.1.1 Application.

27.1.1.1 The requirements of this chapter shall apply to new buildings or portions thereof used as a mercantile occupancy.

27.1.1.2 Administration. The provisions of Chapter 1 shall apply.

27.1.1.3 General. The provisions of Chapter 4 shall apply.

27.1.1.4 Repairs, renovations, modifications, additions, and reconstruction of a mercantile occupancy, and changes of use, including change of occupancy classification to a mercantile occupancy, or correction of a damaged or unsafe portion of the building containing the mercantile occupancy, shall comply with one of the following:

(1) Provisions of this chapter

(2) Provisions of Chapter 15

27.1.1.5 This chapter shall establish requirements for all buildings, or portions thereof, used as mercantile occupancies. Suboccupancy groups such as Class A, Class B, and Class C mercantile occupancies; mall buildings; and bulk merchandising retail buildings shall comply with the requirements of the paragraphs pertaining thereto.

27.1.1.6 When a mercantile occupancy changes from Class C to Class A or Class B, or from Class B to Class A, the provisions of this chapter shall apply.

27.1.2 Classification of Occupancy.

27.1.2.1 General. Mercantile occupancies shall include all buildings and structures, or parts thereof with mercantile occupancy, as defined in 6.1.10.

27.1.2.2 Subclassification of Occupancy.

27.1.2.2.1 Mercantile occupancies shall be subclassified as follows:

(1) Class A — All mercantile occupancies having an aggregate gross area of more than 30,000 ft\(^2\) (2800 m\(^2\)) or occupying more than three stories for sales purposes

(2) Class B, as follows:

   (a) All mercantile occupancies of more than 3000 ft\(^2\) (280 m\(^2\)), but not more than 30,000 ft\(^2\) (2800 m\(^2\)), aggregate gross area occupying not more than three stories for sales purposes

   (b) All mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft\(^2\) (280 m\(^2\)) gross area and occupying two or three stories for sales purposes

(3) Class C — All mercantile occupancies of not more than 3000 ft\(^2\) (280 m\(^2\)) gross area used for sales purposes occupying one story only
27.1.2.2 For the purpose of the classification required in 27.1.3.2.1, the aggregate gross area shall be the total gross area of all floors used for mercantile purposes. Where a mercantile occupancy is divided into sections, regardless of fire separation, the aggregate gross area shall include the area of all sections used for sales purposes. Areas of floors not used for sales purposes, such as an area used only for storage and not open to the public, shall not be counted for the purposes of the classifications in 27.1.3.2.1(1) through (3). However, means of egress shall be provided for such nonsales areas in accordance with their occupancy, as specified by other chapters of this Code.

27.1.2.2.3 Mezzanines shall comply with Section 8.13.

27.1.2.2.4 Where a number of tenant spaces under different management are located in the same building, the aggregate gross area for subclassification shall be determined in accordance with any of the following:

1. Where tenant spaces are not separated, the aggregate gross floor area of all such tenant spaces shall be used in determining classification per 27.1.3.2.1.

2. Where individual tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 2-hour fire resistance rating, each tenant space shall be individually classified.

3. Where tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 1-hour fire resistance rating and the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2, each tenant space shall be individually classified.

4. The tenant spaces in a mall building in accordance with 27.4.4 shall be classified individually.

27.1.3 Multiple Occupancies.

27.1.3.1 General. All multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with Section 6.2 and 27.1.2.

27.1.3.2 Where there are differences in the specific requirements in this chapter and provisions for mixed occupancies or separated occupancies as specified in 6.2.3 and 6.2.4, the requirements of this chapter shall apply. (See 4.3.2.3.)

27.1.3.3 Combined Mercantile Occupancies and Parking Structures.

27.1.3.3.1 The wall separating a parking structure from a building classified as a mercantile occupancy shall be a fire barrier having a fire resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

27.1.3.3.2 Openings in the fire barrier shall not be required to be protected with fire protection–rated opening protectives in enclosed parking structures that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2, or in open parking structures, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The openings do not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier in which they are located.

2. The openings are used as a public entrance and for associated sidelight functions.
(3) The buildings containing the mercantile occupancy are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 and 55.3.2.

(4)* Means are provided to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to the openings and entering the building.

(5) Physical means are provided to prevent vehicles from being parked or driven within 10 ft (3050 mm) of the openings.

(6) The openings are protected as required for a smoke partition in accordance with Section 8.10, with no minimum fire protection rating required.

27.1.3.4 In other than bulk merchandising mercantile occupancies, atrium walls in accordance with 6.2.4.7 shall be permitted to serve as part of the separation required by 6.2.4.1 for creating separated occupancies on a story-by-story basis from non-hazardous spaces in assembly, educational, day care, health care, ambulatory health care, residential, residential board and care occupancies, and business occupancies.

27.1.4 Definitions.

27.1.4.1 General. For definitions, see Chapter 3.

27.1.4.2 Special Definitions. The following is a list of special terms used in this chapter:

(1) Anchor Building. See 3.3.36.2.

(2) Bulk Merchandising Retail Building. See 3.3.36.4.

(3) Gross Leasable Area. See 3.3.21.3.

(4) Major Tenant. See 3.3.166.

(5) Mall. See 3.3.167.

(6) Mall Building. See 3.3.36.9.

(7) Open-Air Mercantile Operation. See 3.3.197.

27.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents.

27.1.5.1 Hazard of contents shall be classified in accordance with 6.3.2.

27.1.5.2 Buildings or areas in which high hazard contents are stored, used, or handled shall comply with Chapter 34.

27.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements. Construction types and heights and area requirements shall be in accordance with Chapters 7–8, 13–14, 31, and 35–40.

27.1.7 Occupant Load. The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of
Table 11.3.1.2 that are characteristic of the use of the space, or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

27.1.8 **Accessibility.** Accessibility shall be in accordance with Chapter 12.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

27.3.2.2 Commercial Cooking Facilities Operations. Commercial cooking facilities operations shall be protected in accordance with Section 55.10, unless the cooking equipment is one of the following types:

1. Outdoor equipment
2. Portable equipment not flue-connected
3. Equipment used only for food warming

Statement: 1. Coordinate terminology and language with revisions to 55.10
2. Portable equipment is addressed by NFPA 96 and does not need to be duplicated here. The hazard is based upon the cooking operation, not the portable nature of the equipment. NFPA 96 does permit such operations such as cooking demonstrations or limited cooking operations under NFPA 96, Section 1.1.4

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new Section to read as follows:

27.3.2.3 Alcohol based hand rub dispensers in accordance with 8.15.4 shall be permitted.

Statement: Proposed text adds language to permit the use of alcohol based hand rub dispensers per the new Section 8.15.4. Alcohol based hand rub solutions and dispensers are presently found in Mercantile occupancies and Section 8.15.4 provides the provisions to ensure that they are in safe locations and the solution is stored properly.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new section to read as follows:

27.4.4.5.5.3 Every floor of a mall shall be provided with the number of means of egress specified by Section 11.4, with not less than two means of egress remotely located from each other.

27.4.4.5.5.4 Class A and Class B mercantile occupancies connected to a mall shall be provided with the number of means of egress required by Section 11.4, with not less than two means of egress remotely located from one another.

Statement: Proposed text currently exists in NFPA 101 and should be added here for correlation. It should be noted that the work to Section 27.4.4 for malls is ongoing, and commenced during the First Draft meetings. The committee plans to further address additional issues for the Second Draft phase and will continue to update and revise the provisions for malls for more clarity, consistency, and correlation with NFPA 101.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Delete the following section:

27.4.4.5.9 Where horizontal or vertical security grilles or doors are used as a part of the required means of egress from a tenant space, such grilles or doors shall comply with 11.2.1.4.(3).

Statement: The current section is a duplicate of Section 27.2.2.2.6 and should be deleted. It should be noted that the work to Section 27.4.4 for malls is ongoing, and commenced during the First Draft meetings. The committee plans to further address additional issues for the Second Draft phase and will continue to update and revise the provisions for malls for more clarity, consistency, and correlation with NFPA 101.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new section to read as follows:

27.4.4.10 Emergency lighting shall be provided in accordance with 27.2.9.

Statement: Text currently exists in NFPA 101 and should be added here for correlation. Proposed text provides a pointer back to the section of the chapter that mandates emergency lighting. It should be noted that the work to Section 27.4.4 for malls is ongoing, and commenced during the First Draft meetings. The committee plans to further address additional issues for the Second Draft phase and will continue to update and revise the provisions for malls for more clarity, consistency, and correlation with NFPA 101.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new section to read as follows:

27.4.4.10.4 Emergency Control. The fire alarm system shall be arranged to automatically actuate smoke management or smoke control systems in accordance with 55.2.5.2.(3).

Statement: Text currently exists in NFPA 101 and should be added here for correlation. It should be noted that the work to Section 27.4.4 for malls is ongoing, and commenced during the First Draft meetings. The committee plans to further address additional issues for the Second Draft phase and will continue to update and revise the provisions for malls for more clarity, consistency, and correlation with NFPA 101.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new section to read as follows:

27.4.4.11 Tenant Spaces. Each individual tenant space shall have means of egress to the outside or to the mall, based on occupant load calculated by using Table 11.3.1.2.

Statement: Text currently exists in NFPA 101 and should be added here for correlation. It should be noted that the work to Section 27.4.4 for malls is ongoing, and commenced during the First Draft meetings. The committee plans to further address additional issues for the Second Draft phase and will continue to update and revise the provisions for malls for more clarity, consistency, and correlation with NFPA 101.
5000 FR7035 BLD-MER
(27.4.5.2)

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

27.4.5.2 Means of Egress Requirements.

27.4.5.2.1 All means of egress shall be in accordance with Chapter 11 and this chapter.

27.4.5.2.2 In bulk merchandising retail buildings where the only means of customer entrance is through one exterior wall of the building, not less than 50 percent of the required egress capacity from the street floor shall be located independent of the main entrance/exit doors, located in such wall. Means of egress from floors above or below the street floor shall be arranged in accordance with Section 11.6.

Statement: A proposal was submitted to the Committee during the development of the 2009 edition of the Code to change the current section. The section was not changed for NFPA 101, but was changed in NFPA 5000. The intent of the committee was for the language in NFPA 101 to correlate, and is the correct language. The current language is too restrictive.

5000 FR7013 BLD-MER
(28.1)

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise Section 28.1 to read as follows:<Insert 5000_28.1>

Statement: 1. The xx.1 section of the occupancy chapters should be revised to reflect the reorganization of these same sections in NFPA 101 that were made for the 2012 edition of the Code. The reorganization presents a more logical and user friendly order of the requirements. In addition, references to Chapter 1, 3, and 4 were added so that users had a pointer back to the core chapters of the document.

2. Correlative text to address new Section 6.2.4.7. The provision is limited to separation from those occupancies that present an acceptable level of risk and hazard.

3. Action was taken by the Means of Egress Technical Committee to change the occupant load factor for business use areas based upon research conducted and presented in a published report by the Fire Protection Research Foundation. However, the FPRF report does not adequately justify that the 100 sq. ft per person factor, as proposed by the Means of Egress Committee is the correct factor for concentrated use business spaces. The report indicates that 50 sq. ft. per person more appropriately reflects the concentrated business use areas. The committee is not in agreement that the 100 occupant load factor represents the concept of concentrated use areas and that a different value for this factor should be used.

Note to CC: Proposed text should be moved to Chapter 7 if accepted.

5000 FR7014 BLD-MER
(28.2.2.2.4 (New) )

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: 1. Add new Section to read as follows:

28.2.2.4 Reserved.

2. Renumber section accordingly.

Statement: The addition of a "reserved" section preserves the numbering of the section to make it align with other occupancy chapters. Change is consistent with language in NFPA 101.
28.1—General Requirements.

28.1.1—Application.

28.1.1.1—The requirements of this chapter shall apply to all of the following:

(1) New buildings or portions thereof used as business occupancies
(2) Additions made to, or used as, a business occupancy
(3)* Alterations, modernizations, or renovations of existing business occupancies
(4) Existing buildings, or portions thereof, upon change of occupancy to a business occupancy

28.1.1.2—Repairs, renovations, modifications, additions, and reconstruction of a business occupancy, and changes of use, including change of occupancy classification to a business occupancy, or correction of a damaged or unsafe portion of the building containing the business occupancy, shall comply with one of the following:

(1) Provisions of this chapter
(2) Provisions of Chapter 15

28.1.1.3—This chapter shall establish requirements for all buildings or portions thereof used as business occupancies.

28.1.2—Multiple Occupancies.

28.1.2.1—General. All multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with Section 6.2 and 28.1.2. Where there are differences in the specific requirements in this chapter and provisions for mixed occupancies or separated occupancies as specified in 6.2.3 and 6.2.4, the requirements of this chapter shall apply. (See 4.3.2.3.)

28.1.2.2—Combined Business Occupancies and Parking Structures.

28.1.2.2.1—The wall separating a parking structure from a building classified as a business occupancy shall be a fire barrier having a fire resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

28.1.2.2.2—Openings in the fire barrier shall not be required to be protected with fire protection−rated opening protectives in enclosed parking structures that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 55.3 and 55.3.2, or in open parking structures, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The openings do not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier in which they are located.
(2) The openings are used as a public entrance and for associated sidelight functions.
(3) The buildings containing the business occupancy are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 55.3 and 55.3.2.
(4) Means are provided to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to the openings and entering the building.

(5) Physical means are provided to prevent vehicles from being parked or driven within 10 ft (3050 mm) of the openings.

(6) The openings are protected as required for a smoke partition in accordance with Section 8.10, with no minimum fire protection rating required.

28.1.3 Classification of Occupancy. Business occupancies shall include all buildings and structures, or parts thereof, with business occupancy, as defined in 6.1.11.

28.1.4 Classification of Hazard of Contents.

28.1.4.1 Hazard of contents shall be classified in accordance with 6.3.2.

28.1.4.2 Buildings or areas in which high hazard contents are stored, used, or handled shall comply with Chapter 34.

28.1.5 Minimum Construction Requirements. Construction types and height and area requirements shall be in accordance with all of the following:

(1) Chapter 7, Construction Types and Height and Area Requirements

(2) Chapter 8, Fire Resistive Materials and Construction

(3) Chapter 13, Encroachments into the Public Right-of-Way

(4) Chapter 14, Safeguards During Construction

(5) Chapter 31, Occupancies in Special Structures

(6) Chapter 35, Structural Design

(7) Chapter 36, Soils, Foundations, and Retaining Walls

(8) Chapter 37, Exterior Wall Construction

(9) Chapter 38, Roof Assemblies and Roof Structures

(10) Chapter 39, Flood-Resistant Design and Construction

(11) Chapter 40, Quality Assurance During Construction

28.1.6 Occupant Load. The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of Table 11.3.1.2 that are characteristic of the use of the space, or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

28.1.7 Accessibility. Accessibility shall be in accordance with Chapter 12.
28.1 General Requirements.

28.1.1 Application.

28.1.1.1 The requirements of this chapter shall apply to all of the following:

(1) New buildings or portions thereof used as business occupancies
(2) Additions made to, or used as, a business occupancy
(3)* Alterations, modernizations, or renovations of existing business occupancies
(4) Existing buildings, or portions thereof, upon change of occupancy to a business occupancy

28.1.1.2 Administration. The provisions of Chapter 1 shall apply.

28.1.1.3 General. The provisions of Chapter 4 shall apply.

28.1.1.4 Repairs, renovations, modifications, additions, and reconstruction of a business occupancy, and changes of use, including change of occupancy classification to a business occupancy, or correction of a damaged or unsafe portion of the building containing the business occupancy, shall comply with one of the following:

(1) Provisions of this chapter
(2) Provisions of Chapter 15

28.1.1.5 This chapter shall establish requirements for all buildings or portions thereof used as business occupancies.

28.1.2 Classification of Occupancy. Business occupancies shall include all buildings and structures, or parts thereof, with business occupancy, as defined in 6.1.11.

28.1.3 Multiple Occupancies.

28.1.3.1 General. All multiple occupancies shall be in accordance with Section 6.2 and 28.1.2. Where there are differences in the specific requirements in this chapter and provisions for mixed occupancies or separated occupancies as specified in 6.2.3 and 6.2.4, the requirements of this chapter shall apply. (See 4.3.2.3.)

28.1.3.2 Combined Business Occupancies and Parking Structures.

28.1.3.2.1 The wall separating a parking structure from a building classified as a business occupancy shall be a fire barrier having a fire resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

28.1.3.2.2 Openings in the fire barrier shall not be required to be protected with fire protection-rated opening protectives in enclosed parking structures that are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 55.3 and 55.3.2, or in open parking structures, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The openings do not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier in which they are located.
(2) The openings are used as a public entrance and for associated sidelight functions.

(3) The buildings containing the business occupancy are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 55.3 and 55.3.2.

(4)* Means are provided to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to the openings and entering the building.

(5) Physical means are provided to prevent vehicles from being parked or driven within 10 ft (3050 mm) of the openings.

(6) The openings are protected as required for a smoke partition in accordance with Section 8.10, with no minimum fire protection rating required.

38.1.4 Definitions.

38.1.4.1 General. For definitions, see Chapter 3.

38.1.4.2 Special Definitions. Special terms applicable to this chapter are defined in Chapter 3.

28.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents.

28.1.5.1 Hazard of contents shall be classified in accordance with 6.3.2.

28.1.5.2 Buildings or areas in which high hazard contents are stored, used, or handled shall comply with Chapter 34.

28.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements. Construction types and height and area requirements shall be in accordance with Chapters 7–8, 13–14, 31, and 35–40.

28.1.7 Occupant Load. The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of Table 11.3.1.2 that are characteristic of the use of the space, or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

28.1.8 Accessibility. Accessibility shall be in accordance with Chapter 12.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.2.2.6 Where horizontal or vertical security grilles or doors are used as part of the required means of egress from a tenant space, such grilles or doors shall comply with 11.2.1.4.1(3). Horizontal or vertical security grilles or doors complying with 11.2.1.4.1(3) shall be permitted to be used as part of the required means of egress from a tenant space.

Statement: Proposed change correlates current 28.2.2.2.6 with the language in NFPA 101. The current text is too wordy and unclear.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.4.3 A single exit shall be permitted for a room or area with a total occupant load of less than 100 persons, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The exit shall discharge directly to the outside at the level of exit discharge for the building.
(2) The total distance of travel from any point, including travel within the exit, shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m).
(3) The total distance of travel specified in 28.2.4.3(2) shall be on the same story, or, if traversing of stairs is necessary, such stairs shall not exceed 15 ft (4570 mm) in height, and both of the following shall also apply:

(a) The interior stairs shall be provided with complete enclosures to separate them from any other part of the building, with no door openings therein.
(4b) A single outside stair in accordance with 11.2.2 shall be permitted to serve all stories permitted within the 15 ft (4570 mm) vertical travel limitation.

Statement: Proposed change correlates the text with the current text and format of NFPA 101. The current (4) should not be a separate section and should be incorporated into the list, as proposed.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.4.4 Any business occupancy three or fewer stories in height, and not exceeding an occupant load of 30 people per story, shall be permitted a single separate exit to each story, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The exit shall discharge directly to the outside.
(2) The total travel distance to the outside of the building shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m).
(3) The exit shall be enclosed in accordance with 11.1.3.2, and both of the following shall also apply:

(a) The stair shall serve as an exit from no other stories, and shall discharge directly to the outside.
(3b) A single outside stair in accordance with 11.2.2 shall be permitted to serve all stories.

Statement: Proposed revision makes no technical change. The revisions are editorial only and correlate the section with the language in NFPA 101.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.4.6 A single exit means of egress shall be permitted for a maximum two story, single-tenant space provided that both of the following criteria are met or
(1) The building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2.
(2) the total travel to the outside does not exceed 100 ft (30 m).

Statement: 1. This section permits an interior unenclosed stair to be used as the exit access portion of the means of egress from the upper floor(s). The term exit is specifically defined in Code and it is not an unenclosed exit access stair. 2. Additional revisions were made to reorganize the section into a list format that is more user friendly and easier to read. The proposed changed correlate the language with that in NFPA 101.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.5.3 Common Paths of Travel. Limitations on common path of travel shall be in accordance with 28.2.5.3.1 through 28.2.5.3.3.

28.2.5.3.1 A common path of travel shall be permitted for the first 100 ft (30 m) Common paths of travel shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m) in a building protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2.

28.2.5.3.2 A common path of travel shall be permitted for the first 100 ft (30 m) Common paths of travel shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m) within a single tenant space having an occupant load not exceeding 30 persons.

28.2.5.3.3 In buildings other than those specified in 28.2.5.3.1 or 28.2.5.3.2, the common paths of travel shall not exceed 75 ft (23 m).

Statement: Section 28.2.5.3 is being revised to correlate with the language and format currently in NFPA 101. Revised text is more clear and user friendly. Proposed revision makes no technical change.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.2.6 Travel Distance to Exits. Travel distance shall comply with 28.2.6.1 through 28.2.6.3

28.2.6.1 Travel distance shall be measured in accordance with Section 11.6.

28.2.6.42 Travel distance to an exit shall not exceed 200 ft (61 m) from any point in a building unless otherwise permitted by 28.2.6.3, in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 and 55.3.2, the travel distance measured in accordance with Section 11.6 shall not exceed 300 ft (91 m).

28.2.6.23 Travel distance shall not exceed 300 ft (91 m) in business occupancies protected throughout by an approved, supervised, automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2. In buildings other than those specified in 28.2.6.1, the travel distance to exits, measured in accordance with Section 11.6, shall not exceed 200 ft (61 m).

Statement: Section 28.2.6 is being revised to correlate with the language and format currently in NFPA 101. Revised text is more clear and user friendly. Proposed revision makes no technical change.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: 28.2.9.2 Emergency lighting in accordance with Section 11.9 shall be provided for all underground and limited access structures as defined in 3.3.632.16 and 3.3.632.6 respectively.
Statement: Current text exists in NFPA 101 and should be added here for correlation. Proposed text provides a helpful pointer back to the definitions of underground and limited access structures in Chapter 3.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: 28.3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings.
28.3.1.1 Any vertical opening shall comply with 28.3.1.1.1 and 28.3.1.1.2.
28.3.1.1.1 Any vertical opening shall be enclosed or protected in accordance with Section 8.12. Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.12.5 shall be permitted.
28.3.1.1.2 Single-tenant buildings or spaces two or fewer stories in height that are provided with a single exit in accordance with exit access stairs as specified in 28.2.4.6 shall be permitted to be unenclosed.
28.3.1.1 Vertical openings shall be enclosed or protected in accordance with Section 8.12, unless otherwise permitted by any of the following:
(1) Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.12.5.1 shall be permitted.
(2) Unenclosed vertical openings in accordance with 8.12.5.2 shall be permitted.
(3) Exit access stairs in accordance with 28.2.4.6 shall be permitted to be unenclosed.
Statement: The section is being revised to correlate with the format of NFPA 101. The revised list format is more user friendly and easy to read. The only technical change is the addition of 28.3.1.1(2) which is being added to permit the use of Section 8.12.5.2 that was added to the Code in 2012.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: 28.3.2 Hazardous Area Protection Protection from Hazards.
Statement: Section 28.3.2 provides requirements for protecting areas of the building from hazards such as hazardous areas and commercial cooking facilities. The section is not limited to only hazardous areas. Proposed change correlates with the text in NFPA 101.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

**28.3.2.2 Commercial Cooking Facilities Operations.** Commercial cooking facilities operations shall be protected in accordance with Section 55.10, unless the cooking equipment is one of the following types:

1. Outdoor equipment
2. Portable equipment not flue-connected
3. Equipment used only for food warming

**Statement:**
1. Coordinate terminology and language with revisions to 55.10
2. Portable equipment is addressed by NFPA 96 and does not need to be duplicated here. The hazard is based upon the cooking operation, not the portable nature of the equipment. NFPA 96 does permit such operations such as cooking demonstrations or limited cooking operations under NFPA 96, Section 1.1.4

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new Section to read as follows:

**28.3.2.3 Alcohol based hand rub dispensers in accordance with 8.15.4 shall be permitted.**

**Statement:** Proposed text adds language to permit the use of alcohol based hand rub dispensers per the new Section 8.15.4. Alcohol based hand rub solutions and dispensers are presently found in Business occupancies and Section 8.15.4 provides the provisions to ensure that they are in safe locations and the solution is stored properly.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

**28.3.3.2 Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish.**

**28.3.3.2.1 Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 10.2 shall be Class A or Class B in exits and exit access corridors and in enclosed corridors furnishing access to exits, and Class A, Class B, or Class C in office areas.**

**28.3.3.2.2 Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be Class A, Class B, or Class C in areas other than those specified in 38.3.3.2.1.**

**Statement:** Section 28.3.3.2 is being revised to correlate with the language and format currently in NFPA 101. Revised text is more clear and user friendly. Proposed revision makes no technical change.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

**28.3.3.3.2 Interior floor finish in exit enclosures shall be not less than Class I or Class II.**

**Statement:** Section 28.3.3.3.2 is being revised to correlate with the language and format currently in NFPA 101. The current wording in 28.3.3.3.2 is somewhat confusing. By stating "shall be not less than Class II", some readers have assumed that Class I interior floor finish is not allowed since I is less than II. Revised text is more clear and user friendly. Proposed revision makes no technical change.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.3.4.1 General. A fire alarm system in accordance with Section 55.2 shall be provided in any business occupancy where any one of the following conditions exists:

(1) The building is **three** or more stories in height.
(2) The occupancy is subject to 50 or more occupants above or below the level of exit discharge.
(3) The occupancy is subject to 300 or more total occupants.

Statement: The current provisions of 28.3.4.1 are incorrect. Fire alarm systems are required for new business occupancies three or more stories in height. The proposed change correlates with the text that currently exists in NFPA 101.

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Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.3.4.3 Notification

28.3.4.3.1 Occupant Notification. During all times that the building is occupied, the required fire alarm system, once initiated, shall perform one of the following functions:

(1) It shall activate a general alarm in accordance with 55.2.3 **throughout the business occupancy**.
(2) A positive alarm sequence in accordance with 55.2.3.4 shall be permitted.

28.3.4.3.2 Emergency Forces Notification. Emergency forces notification shall be provided and shall include notifying all** of the following:

(1) Fire department in accordance with 55.2.4
(2) Approved local emergency organization, if provided

Statement: The phrase "throughout the business occupancy" is being deleted as the requirements for the alarm system coverage are contained in the fire alarm requirements of the core Chapter 9 and should not be included here. Proposed change is consistent with actions taken in NFPA 101. The term "all" is being changed to "both" for consistency in the application of list based provisions.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

28.3.6 Corridors.

28.3.6.1* Where access to exits is provided by corridors, such corridors shall be separated from use areas by walls having a fire resistance rating of not less than 1 hour in accordance with Section 8.4, unless one of the following conditions exists:

(1)* Where exits are available from an open floor area
(2)* Within a space occupied by a single tenant
(3) Within buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and 55.3.2

28.3.6.2 Openings in corridor walls required by 28.3.6.1 to have a fire resistance rating shall be protected in accordance with Table 8.7.2 Section 8.7.

Statement: Revised text of 28.3.6.1 currently exists in NFPA 101 and should be added for correlation. Proposed text provides more appropriate language for describing the construction of corridor walls. Annex language currently exists as part of A.28.3.6.1 but is being broken up into three separate sections. (See associated First Revision)

Section 28.3.6.2 should reference Section 8.7 in its entirety for the protection of openings in fire barriers. The current reference points users to the opening protective table only.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

A.27.1.3.2.2(4) Means to prevent spilled fuel from accumulating adjacent to, and from entering, the building can be by curbs, scuppers, or special drainage systems, or by sloping the floor away from the openings, or by use of a floor level in the adjacent story of the building containing the mercantile occupancy that is not less than 4 in. (100 mm) above the floor level of the parking structure.

Statement: Revising annex note section reference to correspond with changes made to Section 27.1.

Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies
Recommendation: Add new section to read as follows:

A.27.3.2.2 It is not the intent to prohibit the use of equipment that is used less frequently and does not produce significant grease laden vapors such as that equipment used for cooking demonstrations.

Statement: Clarifies the change made to 27.3.2.2.
Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise Section to read as follows:

**A.28.3.2.2** This provision is not intended to apply to the temporary, small-scale demonstration activities that take place in business occupancies. It is not the intent to prohibit the use of equipment that is used less frequently and does not produce significant grease laden vapors such as that equipment used for cooking demonstrations.

**Statement:** Clarifies the change made to 28.3.2.3

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Submitter: Technical Committee Mercantile and Business Occupancies

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

**A.28.3.6.1** The intent of 28.3.6(1) through (3) is to permit spaces to be open to the exit access corridor without separation.

**A.28.3.6.1(1)** Where exits are available from an open floor area, such as are found in open plan or flexible plan office buildings, corridors are not required to be separated. An example of an open plan or flexible plan office building is a building in which the work spaces and accesses to exits are delineated by the use of tables, desks, bookcases, or counters or by nonpermanent partitions that are less than floor-to-ceiling height.

**A.28.3.6.1(2)** It is the intent of 28.3.6 through this provision that a single tenant be limited to an area occupied under a single management and work the same hours. The concept is that people under the same employ working the same hours would likely be familiar with their entire tenant space. It is not the intent to apply this provision simply because tenants are owned by the same organization. For example, in a government-owned office building, the offices of different federal agencies would be considered multiple tenants, because an employee normally works for one agency. The agencies might work various hours. Another example of multiple tenancy would be a classroom building of a university, since some classrooms might be in use at times when other classrooms are not being used.

The intent of 28.3.6.1(3) is to permit spaces within buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system to be open to the exit access corridor without separation.

**Statement:** Provisions break up current Section A.28.3.6.1 into three separate sections. Proposed changes are editorial only. No technical changes are being made. Proposed changes also correlate with the current language in NFPA 101.