



City of Houston
Building Inspection
CODE WORD 2006

INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF
THE HOUSTON ADOPTED CODES
2006 IBC, 2006 IRC, 2008 NEC, 2006 UMC,
2006 UPC, 2006 IECC and 2008 HCEC

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PUBLICATION:	September 20, 2012				
SUBJECT:	Interpretation - Elevator Lobby in Open Parking Garages				
CODE(S):	Building Code				
SECTION(S)	707.14				

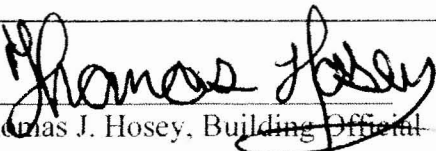
Previous versions of the Houston Building Codes contained an exception to the requirement for an elevator lobby in an open parking garage. The currently adopted 2006 International Building Code does not provide the same exception; however in the 2009 International Building Code the exception is reinstated and clarified.

The intent of the code is that the elevator lobby is not required in this type of occupancy, and creates an undue hardship on structures being constructed under the current code as opposed to those that are or will be constructed using another version of the code.

No additional safety is obtained by the requirement of the elevator lobby in this type of occupancy, as the primary purpose of an elevator lobby is to inhibit the spread of smoke via the elevator hoistway. In an open structure smoke dissipates to the outside of the building.

In summary, an elevator lobby will not be required in an Open Parking Garage structure.

Approved:


Thomas J. Hosey, Building Official