

E97-07/08

1015.2, 1018.1, 1024.1, (IFC [B] 1015.2, [B] 1018.1, [B] 1024.1)

Proponent: Gregory R. Keith, Professional heuristic Development, representing The Boeing Company

Revise as follows:

1015.2 (IFC [B] 1015.2) Exit or exit access doorway arrangement. ~~Required exits shall be located in a manner that makes their availability obvious. Exits shall be unobstructed at all times.~~ Exit and exit access doorways shall be arranged in accordance with Sections 1015.2.1 and 1015.2.2.

1018.1 (IFC [B] 1018.1) General. Exits shall comply with Sections 1018 through 1023 and the applicable requirements of Sections 1003 through 1013. An exit shall not be used for any purpose that interferes with its function as a means of egress. Exits shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building. Required exits shall be located in a manner that makes their availability obvious. Exits shall be unobstructed at all times. Once a given level of exit protection is achieved, such level of protection shall not be reduced until arrival at the exit discharge.

1024.1 (IFC [B] 1024.1) (Supp) General. ~~Exits shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building. The exit discharge arrangement shall comply with this section and the applicable requirements of Sections 1003 through 1012.~~ The exit discharge shall be at grade or shall provide direct access to grade. Exits shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building. The exit discharge shall not reenter a building.

Exceptions:

1. A maximum of 50 percent of the number and capacity of the exit enclosures is permitted to egress through areas on the level of discharge provided all of the following are met:
 - 1.1. Such exit enclosures egress to a free and unobstructed way to the exterior of the building, which way is readily visible and identifiable from the point of termination of the exit enclosure.
 - 1.2. The entire area of the level of discharge is separated from areas below by construction conforming to the fire-resistance rating for the exit enclosure.
 - 1.3. The egress path from the exit enclosure on the level of discharge is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system. All portions of the level of discharge with access to the egress path shall either be protected throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, or separated from the egress path in accordance with the requirements for the enclosure of exits.
2. A maximum of 50 percent of the number and capacity of the exit enclosures is permitted to egress through a vestibule provided all of the following are met:
 - 2.1. The entire area of the vestibule is separated from areas below by construction conforming to the fire resistance rating for the exit enclosure.
 - 2.2. The depth from the exterior of the building is not greater than 10 feet (3048 mm) and the length is not greater than 30 feet (9144 mm).
 - 2.3. The area is separated from the remainder of the level of exit discharge by construction providing protection at least the equivalent of approved wired glass in steel frames.
 - 2.4. The area is used only for means of egress and exits directly to the outside.
3. Stairways in open parking garages complying with Section 1020.1, Exception 5, are permitted to egress through the open parking garage at the level of exit discharge.
4. Horizontal exits complying with Section 1022 shall not be required to discharge directly to the exterior of the building.

Reason: The purpose of this proposal is to centralize and clarify design requirements for the exit portion of the means of egress system. Obviously, Section 1018 is titled "EXITS" and is intended to serve as the primary location for key design provisions peculiar to the exit portion of the means of egress system. Indeed, the first sentence of Section 1018.1 states that, "Exits shall comply with Sections 1018 through 1023.

Currently, several exit specific design provisions are mislocated. For example, Section 1024.1 (exit discharge) contains the requirement for exits to discharge to the exterior of the building. Additionally, Section 1015.2 (exit access) contains exit specific design requirements. These exit recognition and unobstruction requirements should be properly located in Section 1018.1 where code users will likely not overlook them. The Section 1022.1 exit provision has been retained in that location; however, duplicated in Section 1018.1 for the purposes of technical clarity.

Approval of this proposal will clarify current code provisions and assist in the proper determination of exit design requirements.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E97-07/08

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: The rearrangement of the text does not provide the clarification desired. Section 1024.1 should include Section 1013 in the references. The first proposed sentence in Section 1018.1 was confusing in relation to horizontal exits.

Assembly Action:

None

E103-07/08

1002.1, 1007.3, 1016.1, 1019.1, 1020.1, (IFC [B] 1002.1, [B] 1007.3, [B] 1016.1, [B] 1019.1, [B] 1020.1)

Proponent: Gregory R. Keith, Professional heuristic Development, representing The Boeing Company; Sarah A. Rice, Schirmer Engineering Corporation; Anne R. vonWeller, Murray City, UT, representing Utah Chapter of ICC

1. Add new definition as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

TRAVEL DISTANCE. The measurement of the horizontal and vertical path of egress travel in the exit access portion of the means of egress system until arrival at an exit. Such path shall include travel between various building levels such as mezzanines and stories connected by unenclosed stairways or ramps.

2. Revise definitions as follows:

EXIT ACCESS. That portion of a means of egress system that leads from any occupied portion of within a building or structure to an exit. Exit access include occupied floor areas, aisle accessways, aisles, unenclosed interior stairways, unenclosed interior ramps, corridors and egress balconies.

EXIT. That portion of a means of egress system which is separated from other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives as required to provide a protected path of egress travel between the exit access and the exit discharge or a public way. Exits include exterior exit doors at ground level, exit enclosures, exit passageways, exterior exit ~~stairs~~ stairways, exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits.

EXIT DISCHARGE. That portion of the means of egress system ~~between that leads from the~~ termination of an exit and to a public way.

3. Revise as follows:

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1) (Supp) Travel distance limitations. Exits shall be so located ~~on each story~~ such that the maximum length of ~~exit access~~ egress travel, measured from the most remote point within ~~a story~~ the exit access to the entrance to an exit along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel, shall not exceed the distances given in Table 1016.1.

Where the path of ~~exit access~~ egress travel includes unenclosed stairways or ramps within the exit access, the distance of travel on such unenclosed means of egress components shall also be included in the travel distance measurement. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

Exceptions:

1. Travel distance in open parking garages is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of an open stairs stairway.
2. Travel distance in Group A-5 occupancies where all portions of the means of egress are essentially open to the outside outdoor facilities with open exit access components and open exterior stairs or ramps, travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of a stair an open stairway or the closest slope of the an open ramp.
3. Travel distance in Group I-3 occupancies as provided in Section 408.3.6 is permitted to be measured to the entrance of the exit enclosure.
4. Travel distance for stages, fly galleries and gridirons as provided in Section 410.5.3 is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of an open stairway.
3. ~~In other than occupancy Groups H and I, the exit access travel distance to a maximum of 50 percent of the exits is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps when connecting a maximum of two stories. The two connected stories shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~
4. ~~In other than occupancy Groups H and I, exit access travel distance is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps in the first and second stories above grade plane in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The first and second stories above grade plane shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~

1019.1 (IFC [B] 1019.1) (Supp) Exits from stories. All spaces within each story shall have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits as specified in Table 1019.1 based on the occupant load of the story. For the purposes of this chapter, occupied roofs shall be provided with exits as required for stories. The required number of exits from any story shall be maintained until arrival at grade or the public way.

Exceptions:

1. As modified by Section 403.15 (Additional exit stairway).
2. As modified by Section 1019.2.
3. ~~Rooms and spaces within each story provided with and having access to a means of egress that complies with Exception 3 or 4 in Section 1016.1 shall not be required to be provide the minimum number of approved independent exits required by Table 1019 on each story.~~
4. 3 In Groups R-2 and R-3 occupancies, one means of egress is permitted within and from individual dwelling units with a maximum occupant load of 20 where the dwelling unit is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Sections 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

1020.1 (IFC [B] 1020.1) (Supp) Enclosures required. Interior exit stairways and interior exit ramps shall be enclosed with fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 706 or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. Exit enclosures shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours where connecting four stories or more and not less than 1 hour where connecting less than four stories. The number of stories connected by the exit enclosure shall include any basements but not any mezzanines. Exit enclosures shall have a fire-resistance rating not less than the floor assembly penetrated, but need not exceed 2 hours. An exit enclosure shall not be used for any purpose other than means of egress.

Exceptions: The following exceptions are to the requirement for exit enclosure construction. Unenclosed stairways and ramps as permitted by the following exceptions do not qualify as an exit component for means of egress design purposes.

1. In all occupancies, other than Group H and I occupancies, a stairway is not required to be enclosed when the stairway serves an occupant load of less than 10 and the stairway complies with either Item 1.1 or 1.2. In all cases, the maximum number of connecting open stories shall not exceed two.
 - 1.1. The stairway is open to not more than one story above the story at the level of exit discharge; or
 - 1.2. The stairway is open to not more than one story below the story at the level of exit discharge.
2. Exits Stairways and ramps in buildings of Group A-5 occupancies where all portions of the means of egress are essentially open to the outside need not be enclosed.
3. Stairways serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit or sleeping unit in Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies are not required to be enclosed.
4. Stairways in open parking garages structures that serve only the parking garage structure are not required to be enclosed.
5. Stairways in Group I-3 occupancies, as provided for in Section 408.3.6, are not required to be enclosed.
6. ~~Means of egress~~ Stairways from stages, fly galleries and gridirons as required by provided for in Section 410.5.3 are not required to be enclosed.
7. ~~Means of egress~~ Stairways from balconies, galleries and press boxes as provided for in Section 1025.5.1, are not required to be enclosed.
8. In other than Group H and I occupancies, a maximum of 50 percent of egress stairways serving one adjacent floor are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Any two such interconnected floors shall not be open to other floors. Unenclosed exit stairways shall be remotely located as required in Section 1015.2.
9. In other than Groups H and I occupancies, interior egress stairways serving only the first and second stories of a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. Unenclosed exit stairways shall be remotely located as required in Section 1015.2.

1007.3 (IFC [B] 1007.3) (Supp) Exit Egress stairways. In order to be considered part of an accessible means of egress, an exit egress stairway shall have a clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum between handrails and shall either incorporate an area of refuge within an enlarged floor-level landing or shall be accessed from either an area of refuge complying with Section 1007.6 or a horizontal exit.

Exceptions:

1. The area of refuge is not required at unenclosed interior exit stairways as permitted by Section 1020.1 in buildings or facilities that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between handrails is not required at exit egress stairways in buildings or facilities equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
3. Areas of refuge are not required at exit egress stairways in buildings or facilities equipped throughout by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
4. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between handrails is not required for exit egress stairways accessed from a horizontal exit.
5. Areas of refuge are not required at exit egress stairways serving open parking garages.
6. Areas of refuge are not required for smoke protected seating areas complying with Section 1025.6.2.
7. The areas of refuge are not required in Group R-2 occupancies.

Reason: This proposal is intended to clarify the relationship between exit access travel distance determination requirements and enclosed or unenclosed stairways and ramps. This issue has been one of considerable debate during the last several code development cycles. Efforts to clarify travel distance provisions have actually further confused the matter. Means of egress provisions are necessarily performance based

requirements that will accommodate varying building designs. Basic to design is the three part means of egress system. The exit access portion represents a relatively unprotected area. On the other hand, the exit portion represents a relatively protected area or qualified arrival at the exterior of the building.

To properly determine where each of the three parts of the means of egress system begins and ends, particular attention must be paid to their respective definitions in Section 1002.1. By definition, the exit access is, "That portion of a means of egress system that leads from any occupied portion of a building or structure to an exit." By definition, the exit is, "That portion of a means of egress system which is separated from other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance rated construction and opening protectives as required to provide for a protected path of egress travel between the exit access and the exit discharge. Exits include exterior exit doors at ground level, exit enclosures, exit passageways, exterior exit stairs, exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits."

There are two important points made in the definition of an "exit." One, it declares that an exit provides for "a protected path of egress travel." The inference being that the exit access does not provide for such a protect path of travel. Secondly, the definition provides a list of means of egress components that qualify as exits. It is important to remember these key points. Given the differences in levels of protection between the exit access and the exit parts of the means of egress system, occupant tenability in the exit access is controlled through travel distance requirements. Fundamentally, an occupant is permitted to travel for a specific period of time (converted to distance based on assumed rates of travel) from the most remote point within the building until he or she arrives at a relatively protected area (exit).

Section 1016.1 already acknowledges travel on unenclosed stairways and ramps and properly requires that travel on such open means of egress components shall be included in the travel distance measurement. As such, it is clear that unenclosed stairways and ramps are not exit components. Apparently, a major source of the confusion concerning this issue is that some interpret unenclosed stairways or ramps permitted by exception to 2006 Section 1020.1 as still qualifying as an exit for means of egress design purposes. Section 1020.1 prescribes exit enclosure requirements and an exit enclosure qualifies as an exit by definition. If there is an exception to exit enclosure construction, there is no exit enclosure and therefore, no exit. 2006 means of egress provisions are fairly clear, yet somehow are subject to debate, presumably based on legacy experience that may or may not be germane to current IBC provisions.

This proposal does not read between the lines. It simply takes the aforementioned fundamental requirements and provides amplification in an effort to achieve uniformity in interpretation and application. To begin, a definition has been created for the term "travel distance" to clarify that travel distance can (under prescribed conditions) include vertical travel from one building level to other building levels. Additionally, the key definitions of "exit access," "exit" and "exit discharge" have been enhanced. Just as the current definition for "exit" contains a list of exit components, the definition of exit access will now list included areas. Particularly important is the fact that unenclosed interior stairways and ramps are listed as exit access components. Accordingly, they are not exit components and travel distance is accounted for when unenclosed stairways or ramps are utilized in a specific means of egress design. The fact of the matter is that travel distance—whether it be horizontal or vertical—represents an acceptable period of time that an occupant can be exposed before untenability is theoretically experienced. An exit enclosure is very similar to two other exit components—the exit passageway and the horizontal exit. Typically, as exit components, the latter two are incorporated into a building means of egress to satisfy one or more design requirements—in all likelihood, travel distance. From a means of egress design perspective, an exit enclosure is no different. It is employed when travel distance requirements cannot otherwise be met.

That being said, it must be recognized that Section 1020.1 exit enclosure construction requirements are not necessarily intended only for means of egress purposes. Prevention of the vertical migration of fire and associated byproducts and the provision of fire department access are also valid technical rationale for such enclosure protection requirements. Any of these three concerns (egress, migration or access) could trigger the requirement for an enclosure while such enclosure may not actually be required for the other two concerns. Obviously, the taller the building, the more likely that an exit enclosure will address all three concerns becomes. If exit enclosure construction is required for mitigation of fire migration purposes, an exit component has also been provided and most means of egress system designers would take advantage of that fact and calculate travel distance to the exit enclosure that was initially provided for other than egress purposes.

Technically, this proposal accomplishes three things. First, it refines current IBC means of egress design requirements. This is simply accomplished by adding unenclosed interior stairways and ramps to the definition of "exit access," by adding a comment to the exceptions to Section 1020.1 that unenclosed interior stairways and ramps do not qualify as exits for means of egress design purposes and by creating applicable travel distance exceptions that correlate to appropriate exit enclosure exceptions.

Secondly, it necessarily reverses some of the inconsistent and confusing provisions included in the 2007 Supplement. I think that a possible source of this confusion is shown in the E122-06/07 reason statement. The proponent stated, "Section 1016.1 is intended to tell the code user how to measure "exit access travel distance", e.g. from the most remote point on a story to an "exit." This statement is fundamentally true. The reason statement goes on to say, "Section 1020.1 tells the code user that all exits are to be enclosed in fire rated construction, and more importantly, the conditions when an exit is not required to be enclosed by fire rated construction." This statement is not accurate. Section 1020.1 does not require that all exits be enclosed, it requires that all interior exit stairways be enclosed. By definition, the exit enclosure is the exit component, not the interior exit stairway. Again, the exceptions to Section 1020.1 do not state the conditions where an exit is not required to be enclosed—they are exceptions to the requirement to enclose interior egress stairways. As previously stated, if there is an exception to exit enclosure construction, there is no exit enclosure and therefore, no exit.

Accordingly, to be consistent with the current definitions of the three parts of a means of egress system and the technical requirements for the determination of travel distance, it is necessary to remove exceptions 3 and 4 to Section 1016.1 as they tended to confuse the fundamental issue. These exceptions currently state the requirement that under specified conditions travel distance may be measured to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps. This is not an exception, it is a restatement of the basic provisions of Section 1016.1 ("...measured from the most remote point within a story to the entrance to an exit..." and "...the distance of travel on such means of egress components (unenclosed stairways or ramps) shall also be included in the travel distance measurement." These exceptions are clearly intended to be exceptions to exit enclosure construction requirements and have been properly relocated in Section 1020.1. Additionally, Exception 3 to Section 1019.1 of the 2007 Supplement has been removed for similar reasons. The proponent's reason stated, "The intent of the revision to Section 1019.1 is to address the concern over two exit access stairways being provided from a 2nd floor when two exits were required. This is basically a correlation issue. The purpose of Section 1019.1 is to require access to exits based on increased occupant loads. Unenclosed stairways have no bearing on that issue whatsoever. The occupant load is what it is and the exits are what they are. Again, by definition, interior egress stairways are not exit components.

Based on changes to Section 1019.1 in the 2007 Supplement, additional clarification is provided through modification to Section 1016.1. The present reference to exits located on each "story" has been removed because Section 1019.1 of the 2007 Supplement is titled "Exits from stories" and addresses those requirements. The current Section 1016.1 provision is also in conflict with its own second paragraph that permits exit access to occur via unenclosed stairways and ramps. The statement is also somewhat in conflict with 2007 Supplement Section 1019.1 which states, "All spaces within each story shall have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits..." This modification is necessary for clarification and correlation.

Lastly, the terminology contained in related means of egress provisions has been corrected so as to be consistent with fundamental egress philosophy and not add to the potential confusion in the proper determination of what is—and what is not—an exit (component). Travel distance exceptions have been added to Section 1016.1 that correlate with the exit enclosure exceptions 5, 6 and 7 to Section 1020.1. Several of the exceptions to Section 1020.1 have been editorially revised to be consistent with each other and other related code provisions. Additionally, it is felt that the term "interior exit stairway" lends to the confusion on this issue. As previously stated, that term is a technical misnomer. An interior stairway

is not an exit. Therefore, Sections 1007.3 and 1020.1 have been revised by replacing the term “exit stairway” with “egress stairway.” Hopefully, these subtle changes in terminology will properly differentiate between exit access and exit components.

An indication as to the level of confusion and/or disagreement on this particular subject is offered by the very polarized testimony and vote on the placement of the aforementioned exceptions at the recent final action hearings in Rochester. It is felt that most agree that there is a problem with the manner in which travel distance and exit enclosure requirements are stated; however, there is considerable disagreement on the proper solution. It should be noted that there is a very recent ICC Interpretation Committee approval action that is particularly applicable to this issue. IBC Interpretation No. 23-07 issued September 27, 2007, addressed a question about a specific exception to Section 1020.1; however, the answer had much broader connotations. The question was: “In accordance with the provisions of Exception 3 to Section 1020.1 of the *International Building Code*, is an unenclosed interior stairway within and serving a single R-2 dwelling unit classified as an exit stairway?” Answer: “No. An unenclosed stairway contained within and serving a single dwelling unit is not considered an exit; the unenclosed stairway is deemed to be a component of the exit access portion of the means of egress.” This proposal includes unenclosed interior stairways in the definition of “exit access.” It is unfortunate that such a relatively fundamental question requires an official ICC interpretation. This proposal is technically consistent with this recent interpretation and provides clarification that will hopefully eliminate similar questions in the future.

This proposal honors the fundamental means of egress definitions and currently stated travel distance requirements. Its straight forward approach to means of egress design maintains the performance nature of Chapter 10 thereby allowing flexibility in the application of various means of egress design requirements. It does not define requirements through exception. The suggested clarification is also compatible with progressive approaches to building design that employ compartmentation concepts. It is highly recommended that this proposal be approved so as to promote uniformity in the application of these important provisions while providing for a high degree of occupant safety.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing:	Committee:	AS	AM	D
	Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E103-07/08

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: The committee feels the code needs to be addressed comprehensively regarding open stairways in all occupancies as exits or exit access, and how travel distance should be measured along those stairways. There is confusion as to whether the definition for ‘exit’ would make a stairway no longer an exit if there is an exception for the exit enclosure. This concept should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee.

Section 1019 says each floor has to have access to two exits, not two exits directly from the floor, therefore open stairways can serve as part of a means of egress. A suggestion would be to move Section 1021.1 enclosure requirements to 1019 and apply it to stairways in general.

Assembly Action:

None

E104-07/08

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1)

Proponent: Sarah A. Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise definition as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

EXIT. That portion of a means of egress system which unless specifically exempted by Section 1020.1, is separated from other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives as required to provide a protected path of egress travel between the exit access and the exit discharge. Exits include exterior exit doors at ground level, exit enclosures, exit passageways, exterior exit stairs, exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits.

Reason: Recent interpretations from various jurisdictions have brought to light that there appears to be some confusion regarding when an interior stairway can be considered as an “exit” vs. “exit access.”

While the definition in Section 1002.1 states that and “exit” is “That portion of a means of egress system which is separated from other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives...” the code, in Section 1020.1, has like in so many instances exceptions to when the “enclosure” is not required. The exceptions to the enclosure do not make the exit stair no longer an exit, they just make it an exit stair that doesn’t have to have the physical enclosure around it.

The proposed language is intended to bring this point to light. That even if there is no physical enclosure around a stairway, it can still be considered to be an “exit” stairway or “vertical exit.”

As an example of the inconsistent application of the definition of “exit” is brought to light when one looks at a stairway that connects multiple levels within an open parking garage. The code in Section 1019.1 requires that each story within each building, including open parking garages, be provided with a minimum of 2 independent exits (unless the building qualifies as a single-exit building). But Exception No. 4 in Section 1020.0 (2007 Supp) specifically states that “Stairways in open parking structures that serve only the parking structure are not required to be enclosed.” But are they then still an “exit” – yes, just an exit without a physical enclosure.

This point is further emphasized by the provision in Section 1016.1 Exception 1, which gives direction on how exit access travel distance stops at the top of an unenclosed vertical exit in an open parking garage. This is needed because you do not measure exit access distance down a vertical exit (i.e., stairway or ramp).

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E104-07/08

Committee Action: **Disapproved**

Committee Reason: A definition should not have an exception. This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08.

Assembly Action: **None**

E105-07/08

1002.1, 1007.3 (IFC [B] 1002.1, [B] 1007.3)

Proponent: Sarah A Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS. A continuous and unobstructed way of egress travel from any accessible point in a building or facility to a place designated for assisted rescue or a public way.

1007.3 (IFC [B] 1007.3) (Supp) Exit Stairways. In order to be considered part of an accessible means of egress, an exit or exit access stairway shall have a clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum between handrails and shall either incorporate an area of refuge within an enlarged floor-level landing or shall be accessed from either an area of refuge complying with Section 1007.6 or a horizontal exit

Exceptions:

1. The area of refuge is not required at ~~unenclosed interior~~ open exit access or exit stairways as permitted by ~~Section~~ Sections 1016.1 and 1020.1 in buildings or facilities that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between handrails is not required at exit access or exit stairways in buildings or facilities equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
3. Areas of refuge are not required at exit stairways in buildings or facilities equipped throughout by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
4. The clear width of 48 inches (1219 mm) between handrails is not required for exit stairways accessed from a horizontal exit.
5. Areas of refuge are not required at exit stairways serving open parking garages.
6. Areas of refuge are not required for smoke protected seating areas complying with Section 1025.6.2.
7. The areas of refuge are not required in Group R-2 occupancies.

Reason: The proposed language is part of a package of code changes that is intended to clarify how an unenclosed stairway can be used as part of the required means of egress system for a building. The package was developed by a group of stakeholders representing code officials, designers and code users who have been working together for the past 6 years to make the provisions for unenclosed vertical egress elements work within the terms and concepts found in the IBC.

The package does the following:

- Officially introduces 3 new terms for elements within the required means of egress; unenclosed vertical exit access, exit access stair and exit access ramp;
- Allows, through the use of an exception in 1019.1, an unenclosed vertical exit access element (i.e., "exit access stair" or "exit access ramp") to be used in lieu of an enclosed vertical exit (i.e., "exit stair" or "exit ramp");
- Clarifies that a maximum of 50% of the enclosed vertical exits can be replaced by an unenclosed exit access (1019.1); and
- Clarifies that when an unenclosed vertical exit access is part of the required means of egress system the exit access travel limits in Section 1016.1 are to be measured down the unenclosed vertical exit access to an exit or exit discharge.

- Eliminates the option for 100% of the required exits to be replaced with unenclosed exit access elements as this would create a hardship for small buildings (those that are less than 4 stories above or below the level of exit discharge) where 2 accessible means of egress must be provided on all stories. Without at least one enclosed vertical exit, the elevator which would most like have been installed only to provide an accessible route, would now need to be equipped with standby power in accordance with the provisions of 1007.4 (which could add a considerable amount to the overall cost of the project).
- Clarifies what happens when a corridor that is required to be fire rated terminates at a unenclosed exit access (Section 1017.5)

Together this package is considered to resolve many of the design quandaries that have been encountered by small buildings (typically 2 stories) wishing to have "openness."

The revision to the definition is to clarify that the stairway or elevator portion of the accessible means of egress may be through assistance by emergency responders. Stairways, while they may include provisions for persons with mobility impairments, are not part of an accessible route. In order to avoid possible entrapment, during emergencies, control and evacuation using the elevators must be by the fire department. The current definition could be interpreted to mean that the entire route must be accessible and unassisted. This leads to confusion between the exiting and entrance requirement.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E105-07/08

Committee Action:

Approved as Modified

Modify the proposal as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS. A continuous and unobstructed way of egress travel from any accessible point in a building or facility to a place designated for assisted rescue or a public way.

(Portions of proposal not shown remain unchanged)

Committee Reason: The modification to remove consideration of the change to the definition of accessible means of egress was done based on the proponent's request. Revisions to Section 1007.3 were approved for coordination with the 2007 Supplement where some open stairways provisions were relocated to Section 1016.1.

Assembly Action:

None

E106-07/08

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1)

Proponent: Sarah A. Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise as follows:

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1) (Supp) Travel distance limitations. Exits shall be so located on each story such that the maximum length of exit access travel, measured from the most remote point within a story to the entrance to an exit along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel, shall not exceed the distances given in Table 1016.1.

For vertical exits permitted to be unenclosed by Section 1020.1, the exit access travel distance shall be measured to the closest riser or point of slope of the unenclosed vertical exit.

Where the path of exit access includes unenclosed stairways or ramps within the exit access, the distance of travel on such means of egress components shall also be included in the travel distance measurement. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. Travel distance in open parking garages is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of open stairs.~~
- ~~2~~ 1. In outdoor facilities with open exit access components and open exterior stairs or ramps, travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of a stair or the closest slope of the ramp.
- ~~3~~ 2. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, the exit access travel distance to a maximum of 50 percent of the exits is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed

stairways or ramps when connecting a maximum of two stories. The two connected stories shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

4. 3. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, exit access travel distance is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps in the first and second stories above grade plane in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The first and second stories above grade plane shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

Reason: The proposed language is intended to clarify how exit access travel distance is to be measured when an vertical exit is allowed to be unenclosed.

Currently the only direction for when to stop measuring exit access travel distance for an unenclosed vertical exit is found in Exception No.1, and it only makes reference to what happens in the case of an unenclosed vertical exit in an open parking garage.

Section 1020.1 (2007 Supp) contains 7 exceptions that allow for unenclosed vertical exits. It is only appropriate for the exit access travel distance to be measured consistently for all unenclosed vertical exits.

The proposal incorporates what was Exception No. 1 into the main body of the section thus providing direction on how to measure exit access travel distance in any unenclosed vertical exit.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E106-07/08

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08. Exit access travel distance should not be measured within an exit. If open stairways are considered exits, this language is confusing.

Assembly Action:

None

E107-07/08

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1)

Proponent: Sarah A Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise as follows:

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1) (Supp) Travel distance limitations. Exits shall be so located on each story such that the maximum length of exit access travel, measured from the most remote point within a story to the entrance to an exit along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel, shall not exceed the distances given in Table 1016.1.

Where the path of exit access includes unenclosed stairways or ramps within the exit access, the distance of travel on such means of egress components shall also be included in the travel distance measurement. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

Exceptions:

1. Travel distance in open parking garages is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of open stairs.
2. In outdoor facilities with open exit access components and open exterior stairs or ramps, travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of a stair or the closest slope of the ramp.
3. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, the exit access travel distance to a maximum of 50 percent of the exits is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps when connecting a maximum of two stories. The two connected stories shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

~~4. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, exit access travel distance is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed stairways or ramps in the first and second stories above grade plane in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The first and second stories above grade plane shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~

Reason: The proposed language is part of a package of code changes that is intended to clarify how an unenclosed stairway can be used as part of the required means of egress system for a building. The package was developed by a group of stakeholders representing code officials, designers and code users who have been working together for the past 6 years to make the provisions for unenclosed vertical egress elements work within the terms and concepts found in the IBC.

The package does the following:

- Officially introduces 3 new terms for elements within the required means of egress; unenclosed vertical exit access, exit access stair and exit access ramp;
- Allows, through the use of an exception in 1019.1, an unenclosed vertical exit access element (i.e., “exit access stair” or “exit access ramp”) to be used in lieu of an enclosed vertical exit (i.e., “exit stair” or “exit ramp”);
- Clarifies that a maximum of 50% of the enclosed vertical exits can be replaced by an unenclosed exit access (1019.1); and
- Clarifies that when an unenclosed vertical exit access is part of the required means of egress system the exit access travel limits in Section 1016.1 are to be measured down the unenclosed vertical exit access to an exit or exit discharge.
- Eliminates the option for 100% of the required exits to be replaced with unenclosed exit access elements as this would create a hardship for small buildings (those that are less than 4 stories above or below the level of exit discharge) where 2 accessible means of egress must be provided on all stories. Without at least one enclosed vertical exit, the elevator which would most like have been installed only to provide an accessible route, would now need to be equipped with standby power in accordance with the provisions of 1007.4 (which could add a considerable amount to the overall cost of the project).
- Clarifies what happens when a corridor that is required to be fire rated terminates at a unenclosed exit access (Section 1017.5)

Together this package is considered to resolve many of the design quandaries that have been encountered by small buildings (typically 2 stories) wishing to have “openness.”

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing:	Committee:	AS	AM	D
	Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E107-07/08

Withdrawn by Proponent

E108-07/08

1017 (New), 1002.1 (IFC [B] 1017 (New), [B] 1002.1)

Proponent: Sarah A. Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

1. Add new text as follows:

1017 (IFC [B] 1017)
VERTICAL EXIT ACCESS

1017.1 (IFC [B] 1017.1) General. Exit access stairways and exit access ramps shall comply with the provisions of this section.

1017.2 (IFC [B] 1017.2) Enclosures required. Interior exit access stairways and interior exit access ramps shall be enclosed in accordance with the Section 711.

1017.3 (IFC [B] 1017.3) Exit access stairways. Exit access stairways used as a part of a required means of egress shall comply with Section 1009.

1017.4 (IFC [B] 1017.4) Exit access ramps. Exit access ramps used as a part of a required means of egress shall comply with Section 1010.

2. Revise definition as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

EXIT ACCESS. That portion of a means of egress system that leads from any occupied portion of a building or structure to an exit. Exit access include the floors of a story, unenclosed interior stairways and ramps, exterior stairways and ramps, interior doors and corridors.

Reason: The proposed language is part of a package of code changes that is intended to clarify how an unenclosed stairway can be used as part of the required means of egress system for a building. The package was developed by a group of stakeholders representing code officials, designers and code users who have been working together for the past 6 years to make the provisions for unenclosed vertical egress elements work within the terms and concepts found in the IBC.

The package does the following:

- Officially introduces 3 new terms for elements within the required means of egress; unenclosed vertical exit access, exit access stair and exit access ramp;
- Allows, through the use of an exception in 1019.1, an unenclosed vertical exit access element (i.e., "exit access stair" or "exit access ramp") to be used in lieu of an enclosed vertical exit (i.e., "exit stair" or "exit ramp");
- Clarifies that a maximum of 50% of the enclosed vertical exits can be replaced by an unenclosed exit access (1019.1); and
- Clarifies that when an unenclosed vertical exit access is part of the required means of egress system the exit access travel limits in Section 1016.1 are to be measured down the unenclosed vertical exit access to an exit or exit discharge.
- Eliminates the option for 100% of the required exits to be replaced with unenclosed exit access elements as this would create a hardship for small buildings (those that are less than 4 stories above or below the level of exit discharge) where 2 accessible means of egress must be provided on all stories. Without at least one enclosed vertical exit, the elevator which would most like have been installed only to provide an accessible route, would now need to be equipped with standby power in accordance with the provisions of 1007.4 (which could add a considerable amount to the overall cost of the project).
- Clarifies what happens when a corridor that is required to be fire rated terminates at a unenclosed exit access (Section 1017.5)

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E108-07/08

Committee Action: **Disapproved**

Committee Reason: The proposal was disapproved based on the proponent's request. This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08.

Assembly Action: **None**

E109-07/08

1019.1 (IFC [B] 1019.1)

Proponent: Sarah A. Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise as follows:

1019.1 (IFC [B] 1019.1) (Supp) Exits from stories. All spaces within each story shall have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits as specified in Table 1019.1 based on the occupant load of the story. For the purposes of this chapter, occupied roofs shall be provided with exits as required for stories. The required number of exits from any story shall be maintained until arrival at grade or the public way.

Exceptions:

1. As modified by Section 403.15 (*Additional exit stairway*).
2. As modified by Section 1019.2.
- 3 ~~Rooms and spaces within each story provided with and having access to a means of egress that complies with Exception 3 or 4 in Section 1016.1 shall not be required to be provide the minimum number of approved independent exits required by Table 1019 on each story.~~ In other than Groups H and I occupancies, a maximum of 50 percent of the exits are permitted to be unenclosed exit access stairways or ramps when connecting not more than two stories, and such interconnected stories are not open to other stories.

4. In Groups R-2 and R-3 occupancies, one means of egress is permitted within and from individual dwelling units with a maximum occupant load of 20 where the dwelling unit is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Sections 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

Reason: The proposed language is part of a package of code changes that is intended to clarify how an unenclosed stairway can be used as part of the required means of egress system for a building. The package was developed by a group of stakeholders representing code officials, designers and code users who have been working together for the past 6 years to make the provisions for unenclosed vertical egress elements work within the terms and concepts found in the IBC.

The package does the following:

- Officially introduces 3 new terms for elements within the required means of egress; unenclosed vertical exit access, exit access stair and exit access ramp;
 - Allows, through the use of an exception in 1019.1, an unenclosed vertical exit access element (i.e., "exit access stair" or "exit access ramp") to be used in lieu of an enclosed vertical exit (i.e., "exit stair" or "exit ramp");
 - Clarifies that a maximum of 50% of the enclosed vertical exits can be replaced by an unenclosed exit access (1019.1); and
 - Clarifies that when an unenclosed vertical exit access is part of the required means of egress system the exit access travel limits in Section 1016.1 are to be measured down the unenclosed vertical exit access to an exit or exit discharge.
 - Eliminates the option for 100% of the required exits to be replaced with unenclosed exit access elements as this would create a hardship for small buildings (those that are less than 4 stories above or below the level of exit discharge) where 2 accessible means of egress must be provided on all stories. Without at least one enclosed vertical exit, the elevator which would most like have been installed only to provide an accessible route, would now need to be equipped with standby power in accordance with the provisions of 1007.4 (which could add a considerable amount to the overall cost of the project).
 - Clarifies what happens when a corridor that is required to be fire rated terminates at a unenclosed exit access (Section 1017.5)
- Together this package is considered to resolve many of the design quandaries that have been encountered by small buildings (typically 2 stories) wishing to have "openness."

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E109-07/08

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: The proposal was disapproved based on the proponent's request. This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08.

Assembly Action:

None

E110-07/08

1002.1, 1016.1, 1019.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1, [B] 1016.1, [B] 1019.1)

Proponent: Anne R. vonWeller, Murrery City UT, representing Utah Chapter ICC

Revise as follows:

1002.1 (IFC [B] 1002.1) Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

EXIT. That portion of a means of egress system which is separated from other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives as required to provide a protected path of egress travel between the exit access and the exit discharge. Exits include exterior exit doors at ground ~~the level of~~ the level of exit discharge, vertical exit enclosures, exit passageways, exterior exit ~~stairs~~ stairway, exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits.

EXIT ACCESS DOORWAY. A door or access point along the path of egress travel from an occupied room, area or space where the path of egress enters an intervening room, corridor, unenclosed exit access stair or unenclosed exit access ramp.

1016.1 (IFC [B] 1016.1) (Supp) Travel distance limitations. Exits shall be so located on each story such that the maximum length of exit access travel, measured from the most remote point within a story ~~to the entrance to an exit~~ along the natural and unobstructed path of egress travel to an exterior exit door at the level of exit discharge, an entrance to a vertical exit enclosure, an exit passageway, a horizontal exit, an exterior exit stairway or an exterior exit ramp shall not exceed the distances given in Table 1016.1.

~~Where the path of exit access includes unenclosed stairways or ramps within the exit access, the distance of travel on such means of egress components shall also be included in the travel distance measurement. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~

Exceptions:

1. Travel distance in open parking garages is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of open ~~stairs~~ exit stairways.
2. In outdoor facilities with open exit access components and open exterior ~~stairs~~ exit stairways or exit ramps, travel distance is permitted to be measured to the closest riser of ~~a stair~~ an exit stairway or the closest slope of the exit ramp.
3. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, the exit access travel distance to a maximum of 50 percent of the exits is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed exit access stairways or ramps when connecting a maximum of two stories. The two connected stories shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. ~~The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~
4. In other than occupancy Groups H and I, exit access travel distance is permitted to be measured from the most remote point within a building to an exit using unenclosed exit access stairways or ramps in the first and second stories above grade plane in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The first and second stories above grade plane shall be provided with at least two means of egress. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories. ~~The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.~~

Where applicable, travel distance on unenclosed exit access stairways or ramps and on connecting stories shall also be included in the travel distance measurement. The measurement along stairways shall be made on a plane parallel and tangent to the stair tread nosings in the center of the stairway.

1019.1 (IFC [B] 1019.1) Exits from stories. All spaces within each story shall have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits as specified in Table 1019.1 based on the occupant load of the story. For the purposes of this chapter, occupied roofs shall be provided with exits as required for stories. ~~The required number of exits from any story shall be maintained until arrival at grade or the public way.~~

Exceptions:

1. As modified by Section 403.15 (*Additional exit stairway*).
2. As modified by Section 1019.2.
3. ~~Rooms and spaces within each story provided with and having access to a means of egress that complies with Exception 3 or 4 in Section 1016.1 shall not be required to be~~ Exit access stairways and ramps that comply with Exception 3 or 4 of Section 1016.1 shall be permitted to provide the minimum number of approved independent exits required by Table 1019 on each story.
4. In Groups R-2 and R-3 occupancies, one means of egress is permitted within and from individual dwelling units with a maximum occupant load of 20 where the dwelling unit is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Sections 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

The required number of exits from any story shall be maintained until arrival at grade or the public way.

Reason: This change is offered to make terms consistent in Chapter 10 and help clarify the understanding of how certain unenclosed stairways should appropriately be considered 'exit access stairways' without changing the current intent of the code.

There remains a good deal of confusion about the appropriate application of unenclosed stairways and ramps under the IBC. During the last cycle, the final action moved two exceptions to 1020.1 from the exit enclosure provisions to exceptions for travel distance. Admittedly, travel distance is a very important issue related to unenclosed stairways, but by removing the provisions from those for interior exit stairways and making them exceptions to travel distance will result in further confusion unless additional changes are made to clearly identify these stairways as exit access. Also, parts of the base provisions for 1016.1 and 1091.1 should be moved after the exceptions so they apply correctly to important issues such as measurement of travel distance on unenclosed stairways and maintenance of number of required exits.

The term 'exit access doorway' is used in 13 sections in the IBC (405.8.1, 411.7, 414.7.2, 715.4.3, 1004.3, 1008.1.3.5, 1015.1, 1015.2, 1015.4, 1015.4, 1017.3 and 1025.9). Exit access doorways are used to design many critical aspects of the means of egress including arrangement, number, separation, opening protection and exit sign placement. It is important to include a definition of 'exit access doorway' with this change because as we clarify that the stairways described in 1016.1 exceptions 4 and 5 are exit access stairways, we need to ensure the term exit access doorway is inclusive of specific points in the means of egress which may not include a 'doorway' such as when an unenclosed exit access stairway is used in the egress path.

Exception 3 to 1019.1 is confusing and seems to say one doesn't have to provide required exits as long as exceptions 3 and 4 to Section 1016.1 are met. Each of those exceptions only requires two means of egress. This change makes it clear all the required exits are to be provided and compliant exit access stairways are permitted to be used to help provide them.

Cost Impact: The code change will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E110-07/08

Committee Action: **Approved as Submitted**

Committee Reason: The proposal would coordinate with the open exit and exit access stairways as provided for in the 2007 Supplement. This clarifies this issues and how to use these elements. A definition for vertical exit enclosure may also be helpful. This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08.

Assembly Action: **None**

E124-07/08

1017.5 (IFC [B] 1017.5)

Proponent: Sarah A. Rice, CBO, Schirmer Engineering Corporation

Revise as follows:

1017.5 Corridor continuity. Fire-resistance-rated corridors shall be continuous from the point of entry to an exit, and shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. Where the corridor ends at an exit that is permitted to be unenclosed by Section 1020.1, The fire resistance rating shall terminate at the point where vertical ascent or decent occurs.

Exception: Foyers, lobbies or reception rooms constructed as required for corridors shall not be construed as intervening rooms.

Reason: Yes it is important to provide a specific level of protection to a person that is in a fire rated corridors as often they are less able to identify an emergency due to the confinement of the space.

But to not allow the occupants to discharge from a very restrictive space into a large room where there would be numerous paths of travel to an exit does not make sense. A large space offers many advantages that a corridor would not, they include quick recognition of an emergency, a much larger space for smoke to disperse in and typically numerous paths of travel to the exit.

An example of the problem with the current language would be if the spaces on a floor were arranged in what could be referred to as a bar-bell configuration. There are exits at each end of the floor, there are multiple rooms located in the center of the floor all opening onto a corridor which allows travel to both of the exits. The rooms have an occupant load of greater than 30 and thus require a fire rated corridor. The corridor opens onto a very large room at each end – hence the bar-bell description. While when in the corridor there is the required protection, but once an occupant leaves that corridor they enter a very large room with numerous paths of travel to the exit. Should that room be compromised, they can go back the other way and again have access to a space that would provide numerous paths of travel to the exit.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

E124-07/08

Committee Action: **Disapproved**

Committee Reason: This should be referred to the Code Technologies Committee. See the committee action on E103-07/08. The language does not accomplish the intent stated in the reason. Once a certain level of protection is provided along a confined path, that level of protection should be maintained to the exit discharge.

Assembly Action: **None**
