

ICC Code Technology Committee

Area of Study – Unenclosed exits

Scope & Objectives

Approved 11/13/08

Scope:

The current code allows limited use of unenclosed exit stairs. During the previous code development cycles, numerous code changes have been submitted to clarify the intent and application of the code provisions relative to issues such as: exit versus exit access; travel distance measurements; contribution to the minimum number of required exits; etc. Due to the inter-relationship of code provisions, this requires a comprehensive analysis in order to clarify the code requirements.

Objectives:

- A. The Unenclosed Interior Stairway Work Group will answer the following questions based on the current Means of Egress system that is composed of exit, exit access and exit discharge components:
1. Can an unenclosed interior stairway qualify as an exit?
 2. If an un-enclosed interior stairway can qualify as an exit what is the entrance to the exit (where does the exit begin)?
 3. If an un-enclosed interior stairway can qualify as an exit where does the exit discharge begin (where does the exit end)?
 4. How is travel distance measured when an un-enclosed interior stairway is used as an element in a means of egress?
 5. Does the Minimum Number of Exits Section (1019.1 in the 2006 IBC) require entry to the required exits on each story?
- B. The Unenclosed Interior Stairway Work Group will draft recommend code changes, as determined necessary, to effectively communicate the code requirements based on the answers to the above questions.
- C. If the committee agrees that changes to the code, as interpreted by the answers to the above questions, are warranted they will be drafted and forwarded to CTC for consideration.

Study Group Members

- Ron Clements, Chair, CTC member
- Wayne Jewell, CTC member
- Greg Keith, Boeing Co.
- Mike Perrino, Code Consultants, Inc.
- Sarah Rice, Schirmer Engineering
- Steve Thomas, Colorado Code Consulting (07/08 IBC- Egress Committee Vice chair)