



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 6684**



**Date** December 06, 2011

**Edition** 2007

**Section** 710.5.2 and 716.5.4.1

**Question:**

I have two questions. First question: Is it the intent of FBCB 710.5.2 to require smoke and draft control doors in exit access corridors in a fully sprinklered public education facility? The second question: Is it the intent of FBCB 716.5.4.1 to require smoke dampers for all air ducts penetrating an exit access corridor enclosure when using a standard [non- fire /smoke rated] acoustical tile suspended ceiling grid system instead of walls extending to the underside of the roof /floor assembly above?

**Answer**

Question 1: Section 710.5.2 does not address where smoke and draft control doors are required. You must go to 715.4.3 to determine if smoke and draft control doors are required in the corridor. Essentially, if the corridor is required to be fire resistance rated, then smoke and draft control doors are also required.

Question 2: 716.5.4.1 only requires smoke dampers in duct penetrations of corridors if smoke and draft control doors are required by 715.4.3. Again, this would mean only if the corridor walls are required to be fire resistance rated.

**Commentary:**

Comment 2: This is a building official's call. In a smoke partition, smoke dampers are only required in air transfer openings, not at duct penetrations, per 710.7. The duct penetration need only be sealed (filled) with an approved material to limit the free passage of smoke.

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Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.