



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7079**



Date January 31, 2013

Edition 2010

Section 1016.1 exception 3

Question:

Is it the intent of 1016.1 exception (3) to have two enclosed stairs to allow an open stair? The statement "The two connected stories shall be provided with at least (two means of egress)."

Answer

No; with a caveat...

Commentary:

The answer is based on an incomplete description by the petitioner of the specific circumstances. The exception is very specific and allows for an unenclosed stair. However, this may not be the same as open. Additionally, the occupancy has not been disclosed in the request, or how many interconnected stories or other specifics that may effect the answer.

Something else to keep in mind: there are changes from 2007 FBC to 2010 FBC which apply to open stairs which may be permitted as part of the means of egress to a maximum of 50 percent of exits in other than Group H and I provided the travel distance requirements are met and no more than two stories are connected...

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida 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.