



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7328**



Date June 22, 2014

Edition 2010

Section 1016.1 Exception 3

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 1016.1 exception 3 to allow for 50% of the required exits of a two story, single tenant, group B building to utilize unenclosed stairways?

Answer

The wording of the question muddies the issue. The questioner asks if 50% of the required EXITS ... may utilize unenclosed stairways. It is not the exit, but the exit access that may utilize open stairways. In Group B, the Exception allows open exit access stairways to 50% of the exits, assuming the other restrictions are met.

Therefore, a two story building, as described in the requester's Comment as having one properly enclosed stairway (i.e. exit) from the second floor could have access to the second exit on the first floor by way of an open stairway. Two means of egress are provided from the second story; one by the enclosed stair and the other by the open stair, again assuming other conditions such as

travel distance are met. The requester does not give items like area, but two exits from the first floor are also required, so there should be two means of egress from the first floor.

If the building is protected throughout with automatic sprinklers and travel distance limits are met, both stairways could be unenclosed per Exception 4.

Commentary:

Note: We should use the term "Exit Access Stairway" for this type of egress component.

Notice:

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