



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7772**



Date May 25, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 804.1.1

Question:

Is it the intent of FBC-Existing 804.1.1 to not allow a reduction in the fire-resistance rating of the corridor unless stairwell landings serving the floor and the intermediate landings immediately below have sprinkler coverage even though the noncombustible stairwell already complies with NFPA 13 with sprinklers only at the top of shaft and at the bottom landing of stairwells?

Answer

Yes, 804.1.1 is clear, in existing buildings going thru level 2 alterations, no reduction in fire resistance is allowed in corridors if sprinkler coverage for the landings is not provided.

Commentary:

The requestor's comment regarding the existing code being more stringent than the new code is not a glitch. You need to factor in that the existing code governs buildings built to many different code versions and fire protection is a complete package which includes smoke/fire detection, annunciation, fire protection ratings, fire extinguishing and notifications. Existing buildings may not have all the latest features of fire protection which allow the safe reduction of the corridor rating.

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.