



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7788



Date June 13, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 1018

Question:

Is it the intent of section 1018.1 to require walls to be fire-resistance rated in a hallway of a Type 3B construction, single occupant tenant, Business occupancy. 12,291sq.ft., 120 occupant load with 4 exits, no fire sprinklers.

Answer

Yes. Assuming the information provided is correct. Occupant load for a corridor includes all occupants using it, in this case 120, according to the information provided. However, the occupant load served by the corridor may not actually be 120. More information is needed to know more about the building layout. From the IBC Commentary to s. 1801: "The number of occupants served by the corridor is different than the occupant load number used to determine the corridor width (Section 1018.2). If a corridor leads in two directions to two separate exits, that number is split in half to determine the required occupant load for the corridor width."

Commentary:

Hallways that are floor to ceiling, define and direct the egress flow while limiting the path of egress to exits and are called corridors. Table 1018.1 provides the rating for a non-sprinklered building. Requirements would depend on the occupant load each corridor serves and if there are doorways separating the corridors. Table 1018.1 only requires fire rated corridors when the occupancy served is greater than 30. See the 2012 ICC base code commentary. The total occupant load that the corridor serves is used to determine the requirement for a rated corridor enclosure.

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.