



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9500



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Section

Question:

Regarding the path of egress:

- 1) Is a mechanical room with equipment, requiring only intermittent maintenance, classified as an occupied portion of the building by definition of "Means of Egress" thus requiring means of egress inside the room.
- 2) If so, is the entire mechanical room area required to adhere to the ceiling height requirement per 1003.2 with allowable protruding object and headroom per 1003.3 and 1003.3.1 or is an indicated pathway acceptable for this requirement.

Answer

While there may not be a one size fits all answer, this has to be determined (case by case) by the AHJ based on information presented. Part of the Occupiable Space definition also indicates "is equipped with a means of egress..."

This potentially creates a chicken and egg scenario. Is it occupiable because it has a means of egress or does it require a means of egress because it is occupiable?

Commentary:

Section 1003.3 includes "circulation path" which is italicized and therefore found in chapter 2 definitions. Under "CIRCULATION PATH" this is there for Accessibility and the definition directs you to Accessibility volume. Chapter 1 of the Accessibility defines the term "Circulation Path". Furthermore, Florida Accessibility Code Section 203 GENERAL EXCEPTIONS states under Section 203.5 Machinery Spaces are exempt from these requirements....

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.