

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

August 2014

**To: Undisclosed Recipients**

**Re: 2014 OSSC Update**  
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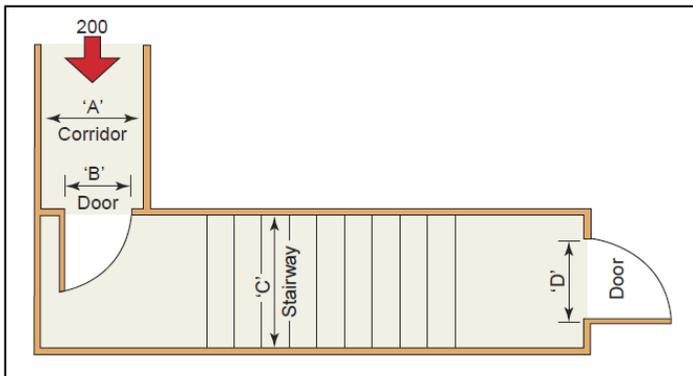
I hope y'all [plural 'you'] are enjoying the summer.

As you should all be aware, we're now using the new and improved 2014 OSSC...

From the 2012 SIGNIFICANT CHANGES to the IBC:

**1005.1 Minimum Required Egress Width.**

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** Reduced exit width factors have been established for sprinklered buildings provided with an emergency voice/alarm communication system, and the exit width/capacity requirements are now presented in a more logical and organized layout.



Example : Assuming exit is serving 200 people

Component	Min width based on component (1005.2)	Min width based on occupant load (1005.3)	
		General <sup>1</sup>	Sprinklered building with EV/ACS <sup>2</sup>
Corridor 'A'	44"	40"	30"
Door 'B'	32"	40"	30"
Stairway 'C'	44"	60"	40"
Door 'D'	32"	40"	30"

1. Building without sprinkler system or EV/ACS; (also includes Group H and I-2 occupancies)

2. Other than Group H and I-2 occupancies

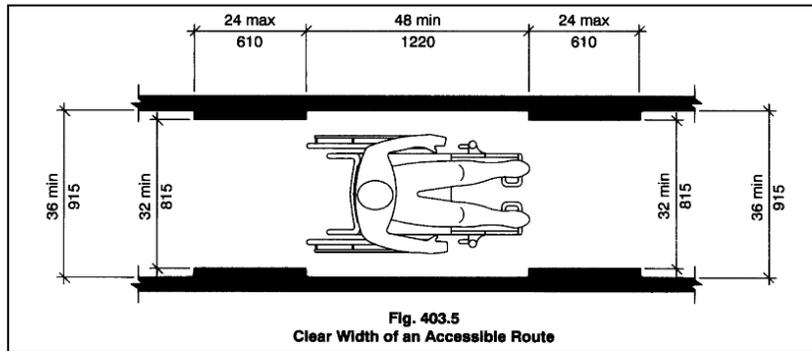
**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** The multiple requirements related to egress width that were previously contained in a single paragraph in Section 1005.1 have been reorganized and clarified, and the related provisions from Section 1004.4 and 1004.5 have been relocated to a more logical location with the other egress width/capacity provisions.

In addition, the reduced egress width factors for sprinklered buildings that had been in the 2000 through 2006 IBC but were removed in the 2009 edition have been reintroduced. The exceptions allow for use of reduced width factors for sprinklered buildings but only where an emergency voice/communications alarm system (EV/ACS) is provided for the building.

The EV/ACS system provides the ability to communicate instructions to the occupants that could facilitate evacuation or relocation during a fire or other emergency. This additional information and direction could lead to more efficient use of the egress system. Studies have shown that most people do not react to an initial alarm; therefore, requiring a voice alarm will increase safety by providing occupants with additional information about the emergency and evacuation.

It is VERY IMPORTANT to remember that this doesn't 'trump' Accessibility requirements.

An Accessible Corridor still needs to have a minimum width of 36in as part of an Accessible Route:



### 1009, 1010, 202 Interior Stairways and Ramps

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** Revisions have been made throughout the code to coordinate the provisions for unenclosed interior stairways and ramps that can be used as a portion of the means of egress.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** *Although generally considered as a clarification of existing requirements, the multiple changes regarding interior stairways and ramps will provide for consistent application of the code requirements. Because so many code sections are affected by this change, including the revision of some of the basic means of egress terminology, it is important that code users are aware of the revisions even if they do not result in major technical changes.*

*Historically, the IBC has allowed the limited use of unenclosed exit stairs in a manner that has resulted in inconsistent interpretations. During previous code development cycles, numerous code changes were submitted, with some incorporated into the code, in order to clarify the intent and application of specific provisions. This new revision is considered as a comprehensive change that addresses the entire egress system and how unenclosed stairs affect issues such as exit versus exit access, travel distance measurements, contribution to the minimum number of required exits, etc.*

**The new and revised definitions and those sections that were revised within the code are based on the following concepts:**

- All stairs within a building are elements of the means of egress system and must comply with Chapter 10.
- Unenclosed stairways are not considered as an exit.
- All exit stairways, to qualify as exits, must be enclosed with a fire-resistance-rated enclosure consisting of exit stair shafts and passageways based on the previous exit enclosure provisions.
- All stairways that are permitted to be open, or are not required stairways for egress purposes, are exit access stairways.
- Exit access stairways must be enclosed with fire-resistance-rated enclosures based on shaft provisions or may be open in accordance with exceptions based on the previous code exceptions.
- Exit access travel distance is measured from an entrance to an exit.
- Exit access travel distance includes the travel distance on an exit access stairway.
- Entrances to exits on each story are not mandatory and access to exits on other stories is permissible within certain limitations.

From my perspective, the terms Exit Enclosure, or Exit Stair Enclosure have now been replaced by the term **Interior Exit Stairway**; and an **Exit Access Stairway** is not the same as an Interior Exit Stairway. The reason I use 'unique' capitalization and font changes is because most of these phrases are actually 'words'—an Interior Exit Stairway is an EXIT; an Exit Access Stairway is not an EXIT; it is an entirely different animal. Pardon the mixed metaphors. You are often permitted to include unenclosed Exit Access Stairways in your design; they are not the same as Interior Exit Stairways.

### 1001.4 Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans

**2012 CODE:** 1001.4 Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans. Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be provided for all occupancies and buildings where required by the *International Fire Code*. Such fire safety

and evacuation plans shall comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 401.2 and 404 of the *International Fire Code*.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** *By providing the direct reference to the IFC provisions of Sections 401.2 and 404, these two provisions of the fire code are essentially “adopted by reference” even if the jurisdiction has not adopted the IFC. Section 401.2 of the IFC will place the enforcement and approval burden for these plans on the fire code official. However, because this requirement is included in the IBC, the building official is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the plans are submitted and approved by the fire code official.*

*Section 404 of the IFC requires fire safety and evacuation plans in certain Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, and R occupancies, in high-rise buildings and underground buildings as well as in specific covered mall buildings and buildings with an atrium. These plans are required to include or address a number of different types of issues that may affect the egress of occupants from the building. Along with other items, these include the identification of potential hazards, exits, primary and secondary egress routes, and occupant assembly points as well as establishing procedures for assisted rescue for people who are unable to use the general means of egress unassisted.*

**404.2 Where required.** An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained for the following occupancies and buildings.

Group A, other than Group A occupancies used exclusively for purposes of religious worship that have an occupant load less than 2,000.

Group B buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or **more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.**

Group E.

Group F buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.

Group H.

Group I.

Group R-1

Group R-2 college and university buildings.

Group R-4

**Group SR**

**Group R occupancies subject to licensure by the state.**

High-rise buildings.

Group M buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.

Covered malls exceeding 50,000 square feet (4645 M<sup>2</sup>) in aggregate floor area.

Underground buildings.

Buildings with an atrium and having an occupancy in Group A, E or M.

Those working with Portland on a regular basis won't find this to be much of a shock; Life Safety Summary plans have been required on lots of projects, for a number of years. Those not accustomed to such things can see an example here:

<http://www.mjarts.com/Code%20Summary%20Sheet.htm>

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Telephone/FAX/e-mail consulting services are available on an hourly, monthly or contract basis for architects, designers and construction professionals. Contact me for more information.

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*MJ Arts was created in 1998 to provide the professional construction community with a source of Building Code and architectural information that will enable them to be better-prepared for working with the governmental bodies that enforce regulations pertaining to the construction industry.*