

5. *Exit access stairways and ramps* within an *atrium* complying with the provisions of Section 404.
6. *Exit access stairways and ramps* in *open parking garages* that serve only the parking garage.
7. *Exit access stairways and ramps* serving *smoke-protected* or *open-air assembly seating* complying with the *exit access* travel distance requirements of Section 1029.7.
8. *Exit access stairways and ramps* between the balcony, gallery or press box and the main assembly floor in occupancies such as theaters, *places of religious worship*, auditoriums and sports facilities.

**1019.4 Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies.** In Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, floor openings between stories containing *exit access stairways or ramps* are required to be enclosed with a shaft enclosure constructed in accordance with Section 713.

**Exception:** In Group I-3 occupancies, *exit access stairways or ramps* constructed in accordance with Section 408 are not required to be enclosed.

## SECTION 1020 CORRIDORS

**1020.1 Construction.** *Corridors* shall be fire-resistance rated in accordance with Table 1020.1. The *corridor* walls required to be fire-resistance rated shall comply with Section 708 for *fire partitions*.

### Exceptions:

1. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in an occupancy in Group E where each room that is used for instruction has not less than one door opening directly to the exterior and rooms for assembly purposes have not less than one-half of the required *means of egress* doors opening directly to the exterior. Exterior doors specified in this exception are required to be at ground level.
2. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* contained within a *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* in an occupancy in Groups I-1 and R.
3. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in *open parking garages*.
4. A *fire-resistance rating* is not required for *corridors* in an occupancy in Group B that is a space requiring only a single *means of egress* complying with Section 1006.2.
5. *Corridors* adjacent to the *exterior walls* of buildings shall be permitted to have unprotected openings on unrated *exterior walls* where unrated walls are permitted by Table 602 and unprotected openings are permitted by Table 705.8.

**1020.1.1 Hoistway opening protection.** Elevator hoistway openings shall be protected in accordance with Section 3006.2.1.

**TABLE 1020.1  
CORRIDOR FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING**

| OCCUPANCY           | OCCUPANT LOAD SERVED BY CORRIDOR | REQUIRED FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours) |                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|                     |                                  | Without sprinkler system                | With sprinkler system <sup>c</sup> |
| H-1, H-2, H-3       | All                              | Not Permitted                           | 1                                  |
| H-4, H-5            | Greater than 30                  | Not Permitted                           | 1                                  |
| A, B, E, F, M, S, U | Greater than 30                  | 1                                       | 0                                  |
| R                   | Greater than 10                  | Not Permitted                           | 0.5 <sup>c</sup> /1 <sup>d</sup>   |
| I-2 <sup>a</sup>    | All                              | Not Permitted                           | 0                                  |
| I-1, I-3            | All                              | Not Permitted                           | 1 <sup>b</sup>                     |
| I-4                 | All                              | 1                                       | 0                                  |

- a. For requirements for occupancies in Group I-2, see Sections 407.2 and 407.3.
- b. For a reduction in the fire-resistance rating for occupancies in Group I-3, see Section 408.8.
- c. Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 where allowed.
- d. Group R-3 and R-4 buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3. See Section 903.2.8 for occupancies where automatic sprinkler systems are permitted in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3.

**1020.2 Width and capacity.** The required capacity of *corridors* shall be determined as specified in Section 1005.1, but the minimum width shall be not less than that specified in Table 1020.2.

**Exception:** In Group I-2 occupancies, *corridors* are not required to have a clear width of 96 inches (2438 mm) in areas where there will not be stretcher or bed movement for access to care or as part of the defend-in-place strategy.

**TABLE 1020.2  
MINIMUM CORRIDOR WIDTH**

| OCCUPANCY  | MINIMUM WIDTH (inches) |
|--|------------------------|
| Any facility not listed in this table  | 44                     |
| Access to and utilization of mechanical, plumbing or electrical systems or equipment         | 24                     |
| With an occupant load of less than 50  | 36                     |
| Within a <i>dwelling unit</i>  | 36                     |
| In Group E with a <i>corridor</i> having an occupant load of 100 or more                     | 72                     |
| In <i>corridors</i> and areas serving stretcher traffic in <i>ambulatory care facilities</i> | 72                     |
| Group I-2 in areas where required for bed movement   | 96                     |

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**1020.3 Obstruction.** The minimum width or required capacity of *corridors* shall be unobstructed.

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7.

**1020.4 Dead ends.** Where more than one *exit* or *exit access doorway* is required, the *exit access* shall be arranged such

that dead-end *corridors* do not exceed 20 feet (6096 mm) in length.

**Exceptions:**

1. In in Group I-3, Condition 2, 3 or 4, occupancies, the dead end in a *corridor* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
2. In occupancies in Groups B, E, F, I-1, M, R-1, R-2, S and U, where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the length of the dead-end *corridors* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
3. A dead-end *corridor* shall not be limited in length where the length of the dead-end *corridor* is less than 2.5 times the least width of the dead-end *corridor*.

**1020.5 Air movement in corridors.** *Corridors* shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

**Exceptions:**

1. Use of a *corridor* as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such *corridors*, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted, provided that each such *corridor* is directly supplied with outdoor air at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the *corridor*.
2. Where located within a *dwelling unit*, the use of *corridors* for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, utilization of *corridors* for conveying return air is permitted.
4. Incidental air movement from pressurized rooms within health care facilities, provided that the *corridor* is not the primary source of supply or return to the room.

**1020.5.1 Corridor ceiling.** Use of the space between the *corridor* ceiling and the floor or roof structure above as a return air plenum is permitted for one or more of the following conditions:

1. The *corridor* is not required to be of *fire-resistance-rated* construction.
2. The *corridor* is separated from the plenum by *fire-resistance-rated* construction.
3. The air-handling system serving the *corridor* is shut down upon activation of the air-handling unit *smoke detectors* required by the *International Mechanical Code*.
4. The air-handling system serving the *corridor* is shut down upon detection of sprinkler water flow where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system*.
5. The space between the *corridor* ceiling and the floor or roof structure above the *corridor* is used as a component of an approved engineered smoke control system.

**1020.6 Corridor continuity.** *Fire-resistance-rated corridors* shall be continuous from the point of entry to an *exit*, and shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. Where the path of egress travel within a *fire-resistance-rated corridor* to the exit includes travel along unenclosed *exit access stairways* or *ramps*, the *fire-resistance rating* shall be continuous for the length of the *stairway* or *ramp* and for the length of the connecting *corridor* on the adjacent floor leading to the *exit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Foyers, lobbies or reception rooms constructed as required for *corridors* shall not be construed as intervening rooms.
2. Enclosed elevator lobbies as permitted by Item 1 of Section 1016.2 shall not be construed as intervening rooms.

## SECTION 1021 EGRESS BALCONIES

**1021.1 General.** Balconies used for egress purposes shall conform to the same requirements as *corridors* for minimum width, required capacity, headroom, dead ends and projections.

**1021.2 Wall separation.** Exterior egress balconies shall be separated from the interior of the building by walls and opening protectives as required for *corridors*.

**Exception:** Separation is not required where the exterior egress balcony is served by not less than two *stairways* and a dead-end travel condition does not require travel past an unprotected opening to reach a *stairway*.

**1021.3 Openness.** The long side of an egress balcony shall be not less than 50 percent open, and the open area above the *guards* shall be so distributed as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

**1021.4 Location.** Exterior egress balconies shall have a minimum *fire separation distance* of 10 feet (3048 mm) measured at right angles from the exterior edge of the egress balcony to the following:

1. Adjacent *lot lines*.
2. Other portions of the building.
3. Other buildings on the same lot unless the adjacent building *exterior walls* and openings are protected in accordance with Section 705 based on *fire separation distance*.

For the purposes of this section, other portions of the building shall be treated as separate buildings.

## SECTION 1022 EXITS

**1022.1 General.** *Exits* shall comply with Sections 1022 through 1027 and the applicable requirements of Sections 1003 through 1015. An *exit* shall not be used for any purpose that interferes with its function as a *means of egress*. Once a given level of *exit* protection is achieved, such level of protection shall not be reduced until arrival at the *exit discharge*.