

CHAPTER 8 INTERIOR FINISHES

SECTION 803.4 IBC Interpretation No. 35-04 2000 Edition Issued: 08-19-05

803.4 Interior finish requirements based on group. Interior wall and ceiling finish shall have a flame spread index not greater than that specified in Table 803.4 for the group and location designated.

**TABLE 803.4
INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY^a**

GROUP	SPRINKLERED ¹			UNSPRINKLERED		
	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a,b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a,b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c
A-1 & A-2	B	B	C	A	A ^d	B ^e
A-3 ^f , A-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A ^d	C
B, E, M, R-1, R-4	B	C	C	A	B	C
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C ^g	A	A	B
I-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
I-2	B	B	B ^{h,i}	A	A	B
I-3	A	A ^j	C	A	A	B
I-4	B	B	B ^{h,i}	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No restrictions			No restrictions		

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- a. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted for wainscoting or paneling of not more than 1,000 square feet of applied surface area in the grade lobby where applied directly to a noncombustible base or over furring strips applied to a noncombustible base and fireblocked as required by Section 803.3.1.
- b. In vertical exits of buildings less than three stories in height of other than Group I-3, Class B interior finish for unsprinklered buildings and Class C interior finish for sprinklered buildings shall be permitted.
- c. Requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where a fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosing partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered enclosing spaces and the rooms or spaces on both sides shall be considered one. In determining the applicable requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces, the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.
- d. Lobby areas in A-1, A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall not be less than Class B materials.
- e. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in places of assembly with an occupant load of 300 persons or less.
- f. For churches and places of worship, wood used for ornamental purposes, trusses, paneling or chancel furnishing shall be permitted.
- g. Class B material required where building exceeds two stories.
- h. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in administrative spaces.
- i. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in rooms with a capacity of four persons or less.
- j. Class B materials shall be permitted as wainscoting extending not more than 48 inches above the finished floor in exit access corridors.
- k. Finish materials as provided for in other sections of this code.
- l. Applies when the vertical exits, exit passageways, exit access corridors or exitways, or rooms and spaces are protected by a sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or Section 903.3.1.2.



Q: Exterior exit stairways complying with Section 1005.3.6 are used as an element of the means of egress. The exterior exit stairways connect to an open-ended corridor. Is the open-ended corridor that leads to the exterior exit stairways considered interior and required to comply with the interior finish requirements?

A: Yes. The open-ended corridor is an enclosed exit access component that defines and provides a path of egress travel to an exit. Even though the open-ended corridor is open on the ends, it is enclosed within the interior of the building by the ceiling, floor, and walls.
