CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1019.1.2 IBC Interpretation No. 41-05 2003 Edition Issued: 12-19-05

1019.1.2 Penetrations. Penetrations into and openings through an exit enclosure are prohibited except for required exit doors, equipment and ductwork necessary for independent pressurization, sprinkler piping, standpipes, electrical raceway for fire department communication and electrical raceway serving the exit enclosure and terminating at a steel box not exceeding 16 square inches (0.010m²). Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 712. There shall be no penetrations or communication openings, whether protected or not, between adjacent exit enclosures.

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Q: Is a Hot Water Unit Heater permitted to be installed within an exit enclosure?

A: Yes. Portions of a buildings service systems that serve only the exit enclosure are permitted to penetrate the exit enclosure that is being served. The hot water unit heater cannot obstruct the path of egress travel, or reduce the clear width of the stair or landing. The boiler that provides the hot water for the unit heater must be located outside the exit enclosure.
