

CHAPTER 10  
MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1021.1  
2006 Edition

**IBC Interpretation 27-08**

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**1021.1 Exit passageway.** Exit passageways serving as an exit component in a means of egress system shall comply with the requirements of this section. An exit passageway shall not be used for any purpose other than as a means of egress.



**Q:** In accordance with the provisions of Section 1021.1 of the *International Building Code*, can an exit passageway be used as a path of entry into a building?

**A:** Yes. An exit passageway is an exit component that is separated from all other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives. An exit passageway provides a protected path of egress travel in a horizontal direction to the exit discharge or the public way. While Section 1021.1 states that the exit passageway shall not be used for any purpose other than as a means of egress, similar to an exit enclosure, the intent is to limit openings to those necessary for exit access to the exit passageway from normally occupied spaces and for egress from the exit passage way in addition to prohibiting the exit passageway from being used for storage or the placement of furniture, vending machines, etc., because these situations may obstruct the path of exit travel and, if the materials are combustible, create a life safety hazard. The code does not specifically prohibit the exit passageway from also being used as a path of entry into a building.

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