

**CHAPTER 10  
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1020.1, EXCEPTION 3  
2006 Edition  
IBC Interpretation No. 36-08  
Issued: 12-04-2008  
BU\_06\_36\_08**

**1020.1 Enclosures required.** Interior exit stairways and interior exit ramps shall be enclosed with fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 706 or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. Exit enclosures shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours where connecting four stories or more and not less than 1 hour where connecting less than four stories. The number of stories connected by the exit enclosure shall include any basements but not any mezzanines. An exit enclosure shall not be used for any purpose other than means of egress.

**Exceptions:**

Items 1 and 2 not shown.

3. Stairways serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit or sleeping unit in Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies are not required to be enclosed.

Items 4 through 9 not shown.

! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

**Q:** In accordance with the provisions of Section 1020.1, Exception 3 of the *International Building Code* an interior exit stairway serving and contained within a single Group R-2 or Group R-3 dwelling unit is not required to be enclosed with a fire-resistance-rated enclosure. Does the exit access travel distance end at the top of the stair?

**A:** No. Where an unenclosed interior exit stairway is serving and located within an individual dwelling unit, Section 1016.1 of the *International Building Code* states: "the distance of travel on such means of egress components shall also be included in the travel distance measurement."

---