

**CHAPTER 10
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1018.3
2009 Edition
IBC Interpretation 06-11
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1018.3 Corridor obstruction. The required width of corridors shall be unobstructed.

Exception: Doors complying with Section 1005.2.

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

1005.1 Minimum required egress width.

The means of egress width shall not be less than required by this section. The total width of means of egress in inches (mm) shall not be less than the total occupant load served by the means of egress multiplied by 0.3 inches (7.62 mm) per occupant for stairways and by 0.2 inches (5.08 mm) per occupant for other egress components. The width shall not be less than specified elsewhere in this code. Multiple means of egress shall be sized such that the loss of any one means of egress shall not reduce the available capacity to less than 50 percent of the required capacity. The maximum capacity required from any story of a building shall be maintained to the termination of the means of egress.

Exception: Means of egress complying with Section 1028.

1018.2 Corridor width.

The minimum corridor width shall be as determined in Section 1005.1, but not less than 44 inches (1118 mm).

Exceptions:

1. Twenty-four inches (610 mm)—For access to and utilization of electrical, mechanical or plumbing systems or equipment.
2. Thirty-six inches (914 mm)—With a required occupant capacity of less than 50.
3. Thirty-six inches (914 mm)—Within a dwelling unit.
4. Seventy-two inches (1829 mm)—In Group E with a corridor having a required capacity of 100 or more.
5. Seventy-two inches (1829 mm)—In corridors and areas serving gurney traffic in occupancies where patients receive outpatient medical care, which causes the patient to be not capable of self-preservation.
6. Ninety-six inches (2438 mm)—In Group I-2 in areas where required for bed movement.



Q: Are combustible, nonhazardous items such as tables, chairs, vending machines, furnishings, fixtures, displays, etc. permitted to be located within an exit access corridor provided the minimum width of the exit access corridor is maintained?

A: Yes. Sections 1005.1 and 1018.2 specify the required minimum width for corridors. If this clear width is available without obstruction, design is acceptable in accordance with Section 1018.3. An obstruction to egress travel is not created unless an object is placed or located within the required egress width.