

## CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

### SECTION 1025.1 2012 Edition IBC Interpretation 05-16 Issued 8-4-16 BU\_12\_05\_16

**1025.1 Horizontal exits.** *Horizontal exits* serving as an *exit* in a *means of egress* system shall comply with the requirements of this section. A *horizontal exit* shall not serve as the only *exit* from a portion of a building, and where two or more *exits* are required, not more than one-half of the total number of *exits* or total exit width shall be *horizontal exits*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Horizontal exits* are permitted to comprise two thirds of the required *exits* from any building or floor area for occupancies in Group I-2.
2. *Horizontal exits* are permitted to comprise 100 percent of the *exits* required for occupancies in Group I-3. At least 6 square feet (0.6 m<sup>2</sup>) of accessible space per occupant shall be provided on each side of the *horizontal exit* for the total number of people in adjoining compartments.

**REFERENCEND SECTION:**

### SECTION 202 DEFINITIONS

**EXIT.** That portion of a *means of egress* system between the *exit access* and the *exit discharge* or *public way*. Exit components include exterior exit doors at the *level of exit discharge*, *interior exit stairways*, *interior exit ramps*, *exit passageways*, *exterior exit stairways* and *exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits*.

**EXIT, HORIZONTAL.** A path of egress travel from one building to an area in another building on approximately the same level, or a path of egress travel through or around a wall or partition to an area on approximately the same level in the same building, which affords safety from fire and smoke from the area of incidence and areas communicating there with.

### SECTION 706 FIRE WALLS

**706.1 General.** Each portion of a building separated by one or more *fire walls* that comply with the provisions of this section shall be considered a separate building. The extent and location of such *fire walls* shall provide a complete separation. Where a *fire wall* also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a *fire barrier* wall, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply.



**Q:** A horizontal exit is a path of egress travel from one building to another on approximately the same level. A building is subdivided by fire walls. The purpose of the fire walls is for each portion to be considered a separate building for building area limitations. The path of egress travel to an exit is through a fire door opening in the fire wall. The overall exit access travel distance from the most remote point in the building to an exit (exterior door on the level of exit discharge or a rated exit stairway door) is met within the travel distance limitations permitted by Table 1016.2. Is the fire door opening in the fire wall considered to be a horizontal exit because the path of egress travel is through the fire wall?

**A:** No.

When fire walls are used to subdivide a building for allowable area purposes, fire door openings are not required to be regulated as an opening in a horizontal exit, unless the design of the egress system intends to take advantage of the exit access travel distance that would be otherwise permitted.

A horizontal exit is allowed as an exit in the means of egress system. Where the required exit access travel distance to reach an exit (exterior door on the level of exit discharge or a rated exit stairway door) can be satisfied after traveling through the fire wall, the fire door openings in the fire wall would not be required to comply with the provisions for horizontal exits. From an egress standpoint, such fire door openings in the fire wall are regulated as exit access doorways.

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