

**CHAPTER 10  
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1020.6  
2015 Edition  
IBC Interpretation 33-19  
ISSUED: 12-19-2019  
BU\_15\_33\_19**

**1020.6 Corridor continuity.**

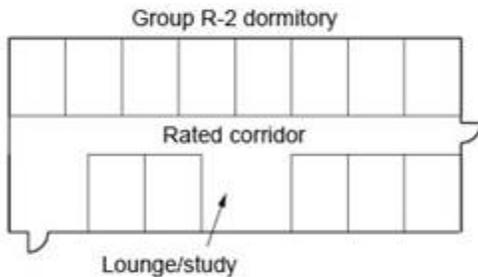
*Fire-resistance-rated corridors* shall be continuous from the point of entry to an *exit*, and shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. Where the path of egress travel within a *fire-resistance-rated corridor* to the exit includes travel along unenclosed *exit access stairways* or *ramps*, the *fire-resistance rating* shall be continuous for the length of the *stairway* or *ramp* and for the length of the connecting *corridor* on the adjacent floor leading to the *exit*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Foyers, lobbies or reception rooms constructed as required for *corridors* shall not be construed as intervening rooms.
2. Enclosed elevator lobbies as permitted by Item 1 of Section 1016.2 shall not be construed as intervening rooms.

• • • • •

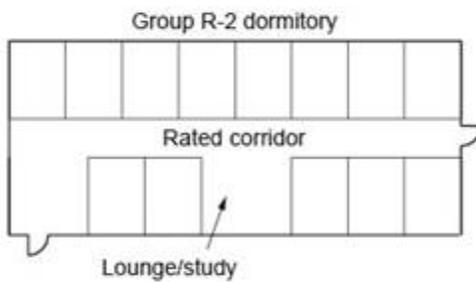
**Q:** A fully sprinklered Group R-2 dormitory with a rated corridor contains an adjacent lounge/study area open to the corridor as indicated in the diagram. Would the arrangement comply with the corridor continuity requirements of Section 1020.6?



**A:** Yes. Fire-resistance rated corridors are required to be continuous from the point of entry to an exit without being interrupted by intervening rooms. While the lounge/study area is open to the rated corridor, it is not considered an intervening room since egress is neither required through the lounge/study area nor does it obstruct access to the required exits. A typical lounge/study area represents a similar level of hazard as foyers, lobbies and reception rooms permitted by Exception No.1 provided the room has the same rated walls as required for the corridor.

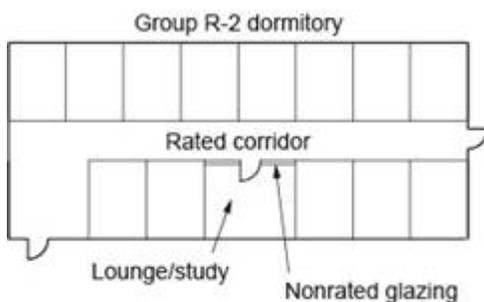
While exit stairs regulated by Section 1023.1 and exit passageways regulated by Section 1024.1 are not permitted to be used for any other purpose than means of egress, such a restriction is not specifically required for exit access corridors. Such combustible items such as tables, chairs, vending machines, planters and furnishings are permitted in exit access corridors provided adequate egress width is provided and maintained.

**Q:** A fully sprinklered Group R-2 dormitory with a rated corridor contains an adjacent lounge/study area open to the corridor as indicated in the diagram. In addition to typical lounge/study furniture, the designated area includes types of domestic cooking appliances. Would the arrangement comply with the corridor continuity requirements of Section 1020.6?



**A:** No. The presence of cooking equipment and similar heat producing devices are not anticipated within or adjacent and open to a fire-resistance rated exit access corridor. A study/lounge containing such equipment would not be considered equivalent to a foyer, lobby or reception room as indicated in Exception #1 and would therefore not satisfy the intent of the corridor continuity provisions of Section 1020.6.

**Q:** A fully sprinklered Group R-2 dormitory with a rated corridor contains an adjacent lounge/study area separated from the corridor by a nonrated full height glass partition as indicated in the diagram. In addition to typical lounge/study furniture, the designated area may include types of domestic cooking appliances. Would the arrangement comply with the corridor continuity requirements of Section 1020.6?



**A:** No. Regardless of whether cooking equipment is present within the lounge/study area, due to the presence of the glass partition, a corridor is created which defines the path of egress travel and limits the awareness between adjacent areas. The glass partition is required to be fire-resistance rated equivalent to the required fire-resistance rating required for the corridor with approved opening protectives.