

**CHAPTER 10  
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1020.5  
2021 Edition  
IBC Interpretation 68-23  
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**1020.5 Dead ends.**

Where more than one *exit* or *exit access doorway* is required, the *exit access* shall be arranged such that dead-end *corridors* do not exceed 20 feet (6096 mm) in length.

**Exceptions:**

1. 1. In Group I-3, Condition 2, 3 or 4, occupancies, the dead end in a *corridor* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
2. 2. In occupancies in Groups B, E, F, I-1, M, R-1, R-2, S and U, where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the length of the dead-end *corridors* shall not exceed 50 feet (15 240 mm).
3. 3. A dead-end *corridor* shall not be limited in length where the length of the dead-end *corridor* is less than 2.5 times the least width of the dead-end *corridor*.
4. 4. In Group I-2, Condition 2 occupancies, the length of dead-end *corridors* that do not serve patient rooms or patient treatment spaces shall not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm).



**Q:** In general, Section 1020.5 limits the length of dead-end corridors depending on occupancy and whether the building is protected with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system. Is the placement of an intervening door, which does not swing in the direction of egress travel, permitted to be used to satisfy the dead-end requirements of Section 1020.5?

**A:** Yes. The installation of an intervening door within a corridor may be utilized to meet the dead-end corridor maximum length requirements of Section 1020.5. The strategic location of an intervening door, which does not swing in the direction of egress travel and is not provided with exit signage, significantly increases the probability that the occupant will turn around instead of continuing beyond the door into the last section of the dead-end corridor looking for an exit. The placement of the intervening door must be such that each corridor segment on either side of the door is within the dead-end corridor length requirements of Section 1020.5.