

CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION [B] 1019.1.2 IBC Interpretation No. 12-07 2003 Edition Issued: 08-14-2007

FI_03_34_07

[B] 1019.1.2 Penetrations. Penetrations into and openings through an exit enclosure are prohibited except for required exit doors, equipment and ductwork necessary for independent pressurization, sprinkler piping, standpipes, electrical raceway for fire department communication and electrical raceway serving the exit enclosure and terminating at a steel box not exceeding 16 square inches (0.010m²). Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 712. There shall be no penetrations or communication openings, whether protected or not, between adjacent exit enclosures.



Q: In accordance with the provisions of Section 1019.1.2 of the *International Building Code* regarding “penetrations into and openings through an exit enclosure...”, is a membrane penetration permitted to be located in the wall membrane on the outside of the exit enclosure (fire barrier) where the penetration of the wall membrane, such as for an electrical outlet, serves an area of the building outside the exit enclosure?

A: No. The provisions in 1019.1.2 of the *International Building Code* stipulate that: “Penetrations into and openings through an exit enclosure are prohibited...” which would include all membrane penetrations, as well as through penetrations, into any fire-resistance-rated assembly, or portion thereof, of the enclosure.

The list of exceptions included in the Section 1019.1.2 is very specific, and does not include a provision for electrical boxes serving spaces outside of the exit enclosure. Although membrane penetrations must comply with the provisions in Section 712.3.2 of the *International Building Code*; the specific prohibition for any type of penetration of an exit enclosure, in accordance with Section 1019.1.2, would take precedence over the general provisions in Section 712.3.2.
