

**CHAPTER 6  
DUCT SYSTEMS**

**IMC SECTION [B] 601.2**  
Reference IBC Section 1016.4  
**IBC Interpretation No. 18-04**  
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**[B] 601.2 Air movement in egress elements.** Exit access corridors shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

**Exceptions:**

1. Use of a corridor as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such corridors, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted provided that each such corridor is directly supplied with outdoor air at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the corridor.
2. Where located within a dwelling unit, the use of corridors for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, utilization of corridors for conveying return air is permitted.



**Q:** Can a single HVAC duct system (supply, return, exhaust, relief, or ventilation) serve an exit access corridor and spaces open and/or adjacent to the exit access corridor where the air supplied into and returned out of the open and/or adjacent spaces is through the duct system and not through the exit access corridor?

**A:** Yes. Air supplied from a single HVAC duct system is permitted to serve an exit access corridor and spaces open and/or adjacent to the exit access corridor. Air supplied by the duct system into the spaces open and/or adjacent to the exit access corridor, either by the duct system or by other mechanical or non-mechanical means, is not permitted to be transferred into or through the exit access corridor as supply air, return air, make up air, ventilation, or exhaust.

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