



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2009 - 02

To: LA Licensed Architects
LA Licensed Engineers
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Fire Marshal Enforcement/Emergency Services
Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst Secretary/Plan Review
Stephen Gogreve, Manager
Pat Aronstein, Manager
Plan Review Staff

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: July 15, 2009

Re: **Exits for Educational and Day-Care Occupancies**

In new educational occupancies, NFPA 101 requires “not less than two separate exits” on every story that are also accessible from every part of every story and mezzanine. Similarly, the same conditions are prescribed for new day-care occupancies. In conjunction, this office recognizes that the level of safety is substantially increased when occupants actually exit the building to outdoor areas providing safe access to public way.

NFPA 101 permits common paths of travel in new educational and new day-care occupancies of 75’, except in buildings protected throughout by approved, supervised automatic sprinkler systems, whereby the common path of travel is permitted to be 100’.

SCENARIO

A typical arrangement complying with NFPA 101 permits a room in a new non-sprinklered day-care occupancy to be large enough that the corridor can be reached within 75’, provided the room is NOT a sleeping room whereas the maximum limit is 50’. At that point, access is required to at least two remotely located exits and travel to the nearest exit is required within another 75’. In all cases, the maximum travel distance permitted to reach the nearest building exit in a new day-care occupancy is 150’ and two separate exits are required on every story.

This office considers that an occupied room with one door opening directly to the outside which can be reached within the common path of travel permitted for the specific occupancy is a substantially safer condition than the aforementioned scenario, particularly if two distinct paths of travel are provided outside to the public way.

This document represents an interpretation and the official policy of this office that a single exit shall be permitted at educational and day-care occupancies under the following conditions:

Is Yours Working"??
Smoke Detectors Save Lives!!
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM

July 27, 2009

Page 2

For educational occupancies, the requirement to provide not less than two exits on every story shall not apply under the following conditions:

1. The room or space served by the single exit shall not exceed 1000 square feet in area and shall not have an occupant load greater than 50 persons.
2. The exit door shall open directly to the outside or to an acceptable exterior way of exit access.
3. Common path of travel shall not exceed the limitations prescribed for new educational occupancies. Other exit access requirements prescribed for new educational occupancies shall remain applicable.

For day-care occupancies, the requirement to provide not less than two exits on every story shall not apply under the following conditions:

1. The room or space served by the single exit shall not have an occupant load greater than 50 persons.
2. The exit door shall open directly to the outside or to an acceptable exterior way of exit access.
3. Common path of travel shall not exceed the limitations prescribed for new day-care occupancies. Other exit access requirements prescribed for new day-care occupancies shall remain applicable.

DPZ/ff