

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2000 - 12

To: Licensed Architects
Licensed Engineers
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors
Mark Gates, Administrator for Inspections/Arson
Pat Slaughter, Regional Manager of Fire & Safety/Arson
Stephen Gogreve, Regional Manager of Fire & Safety/Arson
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections
Plan Review Staff

From: Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor
Don Zeringue, Architect Supervisor

Approved by: Jerry W. Jones,
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

Date: March 30, 2000

Re: Day Care Occupancies: Exceptions to the Requirement for 1-Hour Fire
Resistance Rating at Interior Corridors

Pursuant to the 1994 edition of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, section 10-7.3.6 requires exit access corridors within day-care centers to comply with section 10-3.6. Section 10-3.6 reads as follows:

10-3.6 Interior Corridors.

Corridors shall be separated from other parts of the story by walls having a 1-hr fire resistance rating in accordance with 6-2.3.

Exception No. 1: Corridor protection shall not be required where all spaces normally subject to student occupancy have at least one door opening directly to the outside or to an exterior exit access balcony or corridor in accordance with 10-2.5.6.

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Exception No. 2: In buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 7-7, corridor walls shall not be required to be rated, provided such walls, in conjunction with openings therein and ceilings at which they terminate, resist the passage of smoke.

Exception No. 3: Where the corridor ceiling is an assembly having a 1-hr fire resistance rating where tested as a wall, the corridor walls shall be permitted to terminate at the corridor ceiling.

Exception No. 4: Lavatories shall not be required to be separated from corridors, provided they are separated from all other spaces by walls having not less than a 1-hr fire resistance rating in accordance with 6-2.3.

The 1997 edition of NFPA 101 is currently enforced by this office. In the 1997 edition, references to day-care occupancies moved from Chapter 10 (Educational Occupancies) to Chapters 30 (New Day Care Occupancies) and 31 (Existing Day Care Occupancies). However, the four exceptions listed above were not included in Chapter 30. The proposed, forthcoming 2000 edition of NFPA 101 has reinstated these four exceptions within the New Day Care Occupancy Chapter.

Because these four exceptions have been acceptable in the past and will be acceptable in the 2000 edition of NFPA 101, this office will allow these four exceptions to be considered under Section 30-3.6 (New Day Care Occupancies) of the currently enforced 1997 edition of NFPA 101.

JWJ/JCC/jcc

Cc: Marc Reech, Executive Staff Officer