

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 98-0129

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: April 19, 2005

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Exiting from tenant space to Exit Stairs

Keywords: Exit, Egress

Building Code Reference(s): 1.1.2.3.(1); 3.3.1.3.(8); 3.3.1.5.(1);
3.4.4.4.(1)

Question:

A building has a multi tenant floor area served by a public corridor with exit stairs at each end of the corridor.

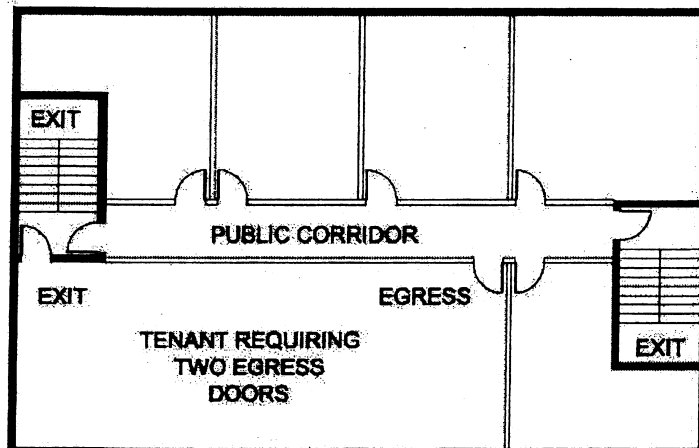
Can a suite that requires 2 egress doors have one of the egress doors open directly into an exit?

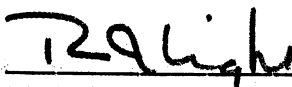
Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 3.3.1.3.(8) stipulates that each suite in a floor area that contains more than one suite must have a door into the public corridor or an exterior door. Provision of two egress doors from the suite has to satisfy this requirement at least by one door. A second egress door required by Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1) can be an exit door from the room or suite requiring two egress doors. The definition of an exit 1.1.2.3.(1) states that an exit is a particular part of means of egress that leads from the floor area it serves. It is important to note, that once the egress door becomes an exit door it has to follow all the requirements for exit door (rating, closures, exit lights, fire alarm pull station and swing must be observed) - refer to Articles 3.4.5.1, 3.4.6.10, 3.4.6.11, 3.4.6.12 & 3.4.6.16.

Note that Sentences 3.4.4.4.(7), (8) & (9) does not permit openings of service rooms, storage rooms, washrooms, toilet rooms, laundry rooms, service spaces and similar ancillary rooms, directly into an exit.




R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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