



Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention

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Division:	Fire Prevention	Code Interpretation:	FP-CI-047
Subject:	MEANS OF EGRESS CONTINUITY	Effective Date:	6-8-15
Code:	2012 IBC/IFC Sections 1003.6/1025.4	Revised Date:	5-13-15

A. SUBJECT:

Building Plans Examination approves overall master egress plans for buildings, including areas used for exhibits, trade shows, meetings, and conventions. Fire Prevention issues temporary permits for exhibits and trade shows. The master egress plans approved by Building Plans Examination identify the required exits, exit capacities, exit access paths, refuge areas (for horizontal exits), and areas of rescue assistance or safe dispersal areas (where applicable). This code interpretation is intended to clarify that the arrangement of the means of egress in the field may vary from the approved master egress plans in order to accommodate different locations and arrangements of displays and other features provided the minimum egress requirements are still maintained.

B. CODE REQUIREMENT:

Section 1003.6 of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC) requires that the path of egress travel along a means of egress shall not be interrupted by any building element other than a means of egress component. Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a means of egress except projections specifically permitted by IBC/IFC Sections 1003.3 and 1005.7.2. The required capacity of a means of egress system shall not be diminished along the path of egress travel.

Section 1025.4 of the IBC and the IFC provides the criteria for calculating the refuge area, which is required for a horizontal exit. The refuge area is intended to hold the occupants temporarily in a safe place until they can evacuate the premises in an orderly manner. The required capacity of a refuge area shall not be diminished.

C. INTERPRETATION:

The master egress plans approved by Building Plans Examination are intended to demonstrate the minimum requirements for the means of egress for exhibits, trade shows, meetings, and conventions, including locations of all required exits, clear exit access pathways that lead to the exits, and required capacities of refuge areas (where applicable). Floor areas that are not required for the minimum means of egress requirements may be designated for typical features associated with such events, including displays (e.g., pop-up, modular, and/or entrance units), booths, banner stands, and kiosks. The routing of the minimum required egress paths may be adjusted in the field to accommodate the desired locations of the displays, booths, banner stands, kiosks, and similar features provided the minimum required egress width and maximum travel distances to exits are maintained. Exit access routes that serpentine around displays, registration tables or other allowable features are acceptable as long as the minimum required egress width is provided and the resulting travel distance to the nearest exit still complies with IBC Section 1016. Further, the location and configuration of refuge areas from horizontal exits may also be adjusted in the

field to accommodate the desired locations of the displays, booths, banner stands, kiosks, and similar features provided the minimum required capacity of the refuge areas is maintained.

D. RATIONALE:

This code interpretation is intended to ensure consistent application of IBC/IFC Sections 1003.6 and 1025.4 to exhibits and trade shows.

Revision History:

POLICY #	TITLE	Effective Date	Revised	Reviewed

Concurred by: <i>Fulton Cochran</i> Fulton Cochran, Assistant Fire Chief	Concurred by: <i>Adolf A. Zubia</i> Adolf A. Zubia, Assistant Fire Chief
Concurred by: <i>Girard Page</i> Girard Page, Senior Deputy Fire Chief	Concurred by: <i>Kevin T. McOsker</i> Kevin T. McOsker, Building Plans Exam Manager
Approved by: <i>Ron L. Lynn</i> Ronald L. Lynn, Director/Building & Fire Official	Concurred by: <i>Ron L. Lynn</i> Samuel D. Palmer, Assistant Director