



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2010-06

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

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: December 3, 2010

RE: PROTECTION OF "CORRIDORS" IN DAY-CARE OCCUPANCIES

A fundamental strategy of life safety is to provide at least two means of egress in every building or structure, section and area, where the size, occupancy, and arrangement endanger occupants attempting to use a single means of egress that is blocked by fire or smoke.

NFPA 101 requires that at least two exits be provided for each floor occupied by day-care clients. The exits are typically, but not always, connected by an exit access system comprised of a corridor meeting conditions prescribed by the occupancy chapter for protection.

The day-care occupancy chapter of NFPA 101 does not specifically require that a corridor be provided (some other occupancy chapters do). However, NFPA 101 requires 1HR protected corridors where they are used for exit access serving areas having an occupant load exceeding 30 persons, unless the building is existing with no change of occupancy or unless the applicable occupancy chapter modifies the requirement.

NFPA 101 permits the means of egress in day-care occupancies to be arranged such that travel is provided through adjoining or intervening rooms or areas that are accessory to the area served, as long as they are not identified as hazardous areas. In addition, a core provision of NFPA 101 exempts the requirement to provide continuous passageways, aisles, or corridors "*where a single exit is permitted*" and "*where common paths of travel are permitted*".

The code does not "specifically" require corridor protection for adjoining, accessory spaces used for exit access, particularly if the exit can be reached within the common path of travel distance permitted. Exit access through another non-hazardous room in the same tenant space is allowed.

For clarification, this office interprets that a hallway occurring entirely within the common path of travel permitted for day-care occupancy shall not be recognized as an "exit access corridor" and that corridor protection for similar adjoining, intervening, and non-hazardous accessory spaces used for exit access in day-care occupancies, shall not be required.

DZ

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Smoke Detectors Save Lives!!
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