



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,
"Organization" (§633.026)

Informal Interpretation

Date: 5/22/13

NFPA Document Number: 101 **Edition:** 2009

Paragraph Reference: 7.5.1.3.1; 7.5.1.3.1

For purpose of this petition, pertinent factors do not include the name of the governmental agency or persons representing that agency. Petitioners are discouraged from making any personal assertions about an agency or agency official. If this involves an actual situation, briefly explain all of the pertinent factors.

Building Description (actual situation)

An existing 4 story, unsprinklered, multi-tenanted occupied office building with 2 exit stairs located in the central core of the building. Within the core is an elevator hoistway with 2 elevators, a mechanical equipment room, an electrical equipment room, bathrooms, and a trash chute enclosure. The separation of the exits (stairs) in the core is 13 feet. The approximate diagonal floor measurement for the building is 130ft.

Note: The building does not meet the criteria for a single exit as per sections 39.2.4.2 through 39.2.4.6.

The AHJ has determined that in this arrangement, the exits are not sufficiently remote and are not arranged to minimize the possibility that both exits might be rendered impassable by the same emergency condition. (101-7.5.1.3.1).

Question *(should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"):*

- 1) Does NFPA 101 apply to existing business occupancies/buildings?
- 2) Does section 7.5 apply to the requirements for the arrangement of the means of egress in an existing business occupancy/building?
- 3) Is the AHJ correct in applying section 7.5.1.3.1 to determine the adequacy of the arrangement of the means of egress in an existing business occupan[c]y/building?
- 4) In an existing building would the installation of a 1 hour fire resistance rated corridor, as per section 7.5.1.3.4 and as illustrated in Life Safety Code Handbook Exhibit 7.89, and meeting the distance requirements of 7.5.1.3.2, be a code compliant method in providing remoteness?

Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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- 5) In an existing building, does fs 633.025(6) empower the AHJ to fashion a reasonable alternative that affords an equivalent degree of life and property safety if it has been determined a threat to life safety or property exists?

Answer:

- 1) **Yes**
- 2) **Yes**
- 3) **Yes**
- 4) **Yes**
- 5) **Question denied a response as it's outside of the FCIC's scope of authority.**

Committee Answer Submitted by,

Bart Wright, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

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