

**CHANGE TYPE:** Modification

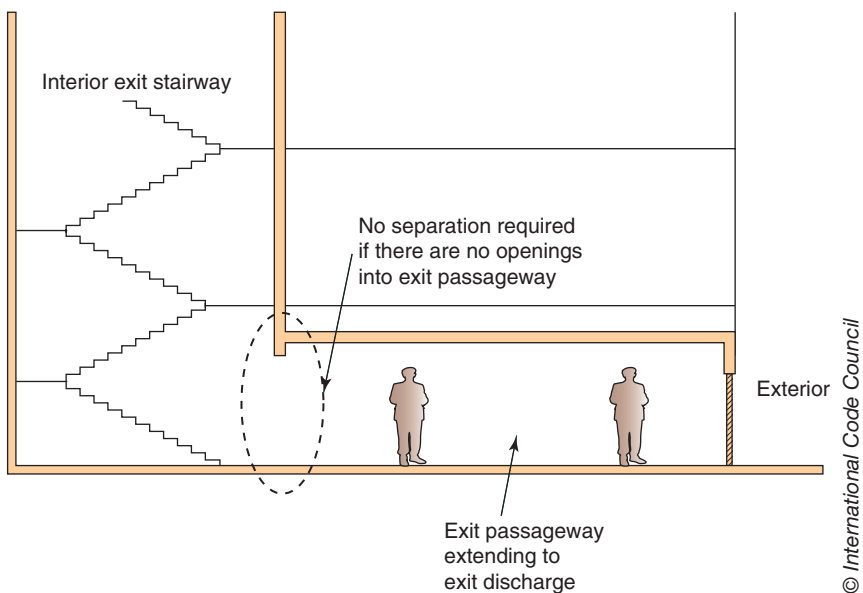
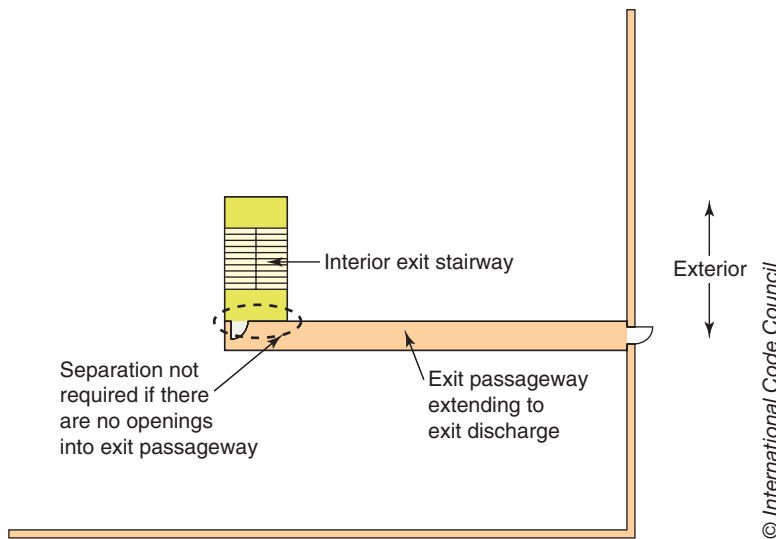
**CHANGE SUMMARY:** An interior exit stairway is now permitted to continue directly into an exit passageway without a required fire door assembly to separate the two elements.

# 1023.3.1

## Stairway Extension

**2015 CODE:** ~~1022.3.1~~ **1023.3.1 Extension.** Where interior exit stairways and ramps are extended to an exit discharge or a public way by an exit passageway, the interior exit stairway and ramp shall be separated from the exit passageway by a fire barrier constructed in accordance with Section 707 or a horizontal assembly constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. The fire-resistance rating shall be not less than that

*1023.3.1 continues*



Separation between stairway and passageway can be eliminated

**1023.3.1 continued**

required for the interior exit stairway and ramp. A fire door assembly complying with Section 716.5 shall be installed in the fire barrier to provide a means of egress from the interior exit stairway and ramp to the exit passageway. Openings in the fire barrier other than the fire door assembly are prohibited. Penetrations of the fire barrier are prohibited.

**Exceptions:**

1. Penetrations of the fire barrier in accordance with Section ~~1022.5~~ 1023.5 shall be permitted.
2. Separation between an interior exit stairway or ramp and the exit passageway extension shall not be required where there are no openings into the exit passageway extension.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** Exit passageways are often used to extend an interior exit stairway from a remote location within the building to the exterior of the building. Besides maintaining exit continuity, occupants are able to remain within the protected enclosure and maintain the required level of egress protection as is required by Section 1022.1. The base requirements of Section 1023.3.1 require that the interior exit stairway or ramp be separated from the exit passageway by a fire barrier and fire door assembly. The new exception will allow this separation between the horizontal and vertical exit elements to be eliminated where there are no openings into the exit passageway.

The general purpose of the separation in the base requirement is to prevent smoke from an open door within the passageway from traveling through the interior exit stairway to other levels of the building. Where there are no openings into the passageway, there is little concern of smoke or fire entering the passageway and then compromising the exit enclosure. In addition, the egress travel can proceed more quickly because there is no intermediate door through which the occupants must travel as they transition from the interior exit stairway to the horizontal travel within the exit passageway.

When applying this new exception, it is important to recognize that this specific requirement mandates that there are no openings into the exit passageway extension other than the connection from the interior exit stairway or ramp and the door providing egress from the passageway. This makes the exception more restrictive than the general exit passageway requirements found within Sections 1024 and 1024.5 that typically allow doors providing egress from normally occupied spaces to open into the passageway. Penetrations into the passageway are not restricted by the new exception but are limited as specified in Section 1024.6 to those elements serving the exit passageway itself. The same restriction is also applied to the ventilation of the exit passageway, as it must be regulated and limited as addressed in Section 1024.7.