



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE
BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

DATE SUBMITTED: May 28, 2021

CODE INFORMATION

Proposed change to: ☒ Building Code ☐ Fire Safety Code
Code section(s): IBC, Section 1019.3 and IFC, Section 1019.3

PROPONENT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Perras Representing: Code Red Consultants
Telephone: 508-669-7552 Email: jeffp@crcfire.com
Address: 154 Turnpike Road Southborough MA 01772
Street Address Town State Zip Code

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Description of change and reason for change (attach additional information as needed):

This amendment will allow the to use of a 2-story floor opening for egress.

Proposed text change, addition or deletion (attach additional information as needed):

See attached.

Supporting data and documents (attach additional information as needed)

See attached.

☒ **This Proposal is original material.** (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter's own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)

☐ **This Comment is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows:** (such as material / code development proposal from a prior development cycle or proposal submitted to model code committee etc.)

☐ **I would like to make an in-person presentation of my proposal.**

Release

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Proponent's Signature

Jeff Perras

Printed Name

PLEASE EMAIL (PREFERRED) TO DAS.CodesStandards@CT.GOV OR MAIL OR FAX (SEE BELOW)

*Department of Administrative Services
Office of the State Building Inspector
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1303
Hartford, CT 06103
Tel: 860-713-5900 Fax: 860-713-7410
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12/29/16

Connecticut State Building Code, Amendments to the International Building Code

Add Amendment as follows:

(Amd) 1019.3 Occupancies other than Groups I-2 and I-3 In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, floor openings containing exit access stairways or ramps shall be enclosed with a shaft enclosure constructed in accordance with Section 713.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. In buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1 with other than Group H or I occupancies, an exit access stairway serving an occupant load of less than 10 not more than one story above the level of exit discharge.~~
1. Exit access stairways and ramps that serve or atmospherically communicate between only two adjacent stories. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories.
2. In Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies, exit access stairways and ramps connecting four stories or less serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit or sleeping unit or live/work unit.
3. Exit access stairways serving and contained within a Group R-3 congregate residence or a Group R-4 facility are not required to be enclosed.
4. Exit access stairways connecting the first and second floors of Group R-1 bed and breakfast establishments. Stairways connecting the second and third floors in such occupancies shall be enclosed with fire separation assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour. Stairways connecting the basement and the first floor occupancies shall be enclosed with fire partitions having a fire-resistance rating of not less than ½ hour with 20-minute fire-resistance-rated door assemblies. Fire-resistance assemblies at stairways in Group R-1 bed and breakfast establishments shall not be required to be supported by fire-resistance-rated construction.
5. Exit access stairways and ramps within an atrium complying with the provisions of Section 404.
6. Exit access stairways and ramps in open parking garages that serve only the parking garage.
7. Exit access stairways and ramps serving open-air seating complying with the exit access travel distance requirements of Section 1029.7.
8. Exit access stairways and ramps serving the balcony, gallery or press box and the main assembly floor in occupancies such as theaters, places of religious worship, auditoriums and sport facilities.
9. Stairways serving outdoor facilities where all portions of the means of egress are essentially open to the outside.
10. Exit access stairways serving mezzanines complying with the provisions of Section 505.

Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, Amendments to the International Fire Code**Add Amendment as follows:**

(Amd) [BE] 1019.3 Occupancies other than Groups I-2 and I-3 In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, floor openings containing exit access stairways or ramps shall be enclosed with a shaft enclosure constructed in accordance with Section 713 of the International Building Code.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. In buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1 with other than Group H or I occupancies, an exit access stairway serving an occupant load of less than 10 not more than one story above the level of exit discharge.~~
 1. Exit access stairways and ramps that serve or atmospherically communicate between only two adjacent stories. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories.
 2. In Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies, exit access stairways and ramps connecting four stories or less serving and contained within a single residential dwelling unit or sleeping unit or live/work unit.
 3. Exit access stairways serving and contained within a Group R-3 congregate residence or a Group R-4 facility are not required to be enclosed.
 4. Exit access stairways connecting the first and second floors of Group R-1 bed and breakfast establishments. Stairways connecting the second and third floors in such occupancies shall be enclosed with fire separation assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour. Stairways connecting the basement and the first floor occupancies shall be enclosed with fire partitions having a fire-resistance rating of not less than ½ hour with 20-minute fire-resistance-rated door assemblies. Fire-resistance assemblies at stairways in Group R-1 bed and breakfast establishments shall not be required to be supported by fire-resistance-rated construction.
 5. Exit access stairways and ramps within an atrium complying with the provisions of Section 404.
 6. Exit access stairways and ramps in open parking garages that serve only the parking garage.
 7. Exit access stairways and ramps serving open-air seating complying with the exit access travel distance requirements of Section 1029.7.
 8. Exit access stairways and ramps serving the balcony, gallery or press box and the main assembly floor in occupancies such as theaters, places of religious worship, auditoriums and sport facilities.
 9. Stairways serving outdoor facilities where all portions of the means of egress are essentially open to the outside.
 10. Exit access stairways serving mezzanines complying with the provisions of Section 505.
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Reason Statement: This change will re-instate the base IBC/IFC code allowance to use a 2-story floor opening for egress. The allowance to use a two-story open stair for egress has been in the IBC/IFC since the I-codes were first written (over 21 years ago). Currently 49 out of the 50 states adopt the IBC/IFC, which are reviewed and revised every 3 years by thousands of building and fire officials across the country. If the allowance to use a two-story open stair for egress posed a life safety risk to the public, it would have been removed from the code at this point.

Many buildings being constructed today incorporate large, monumental stairs between floors at the main entry to a building, which is permitted by Section 712.1.9 of the IBC. When this occurs in a building with assembly use, not being able to use the open stair for egress presents a difficult (and potentially conflicting) challenge trying to comply with the main exit requirements in Section 1030.2 & the Connecticut General Statute 29-381-a. Allowing the open stair to be used for egress will align with how most people will use the stair in an emergency event, regardless of exit signage.

The design and construction industry has made significant advancements over the past 50 years with respect to providing an increased level of life safety within buildings due to the passive and active fire protection systems present. This proposed code change recognizes the significant steps that have been made and moves on from one of the dated CT amendments that have remained in effect primarily to align with what has been required since the 1970's.