

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION I-13-07

June 8, 2007

The following is offered in response to your May 29, 2007 request for a formal interpretation of the provisions of Section 1024.2 of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code. The scenario you describe is a multi-auditorium movie theatre with a total of five auditoriums. Four of the auditoriums have an occupancy of fewer than 300 and one auditorium has an occupancy exceeding 300. Each auditorium has two exits, one leading to the lobby and one leading to an exit enclosure remote from the lobby. Entry to each auditorium is through a single door from the lobby. A main entrance/exit for the entire theatre complex is provided that has the capacity to exit $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total occupant load of the complex.

Question: Is it true that the auditorium with an occupancy exceeding 300 must have the door to the lobby with an exit capacity of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the occupants but that the auditoriums with occupancy of less than 300 need only have the door to the lobby with a capacity of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the occupants?

Answer: No. Section 1024.2 of the referenced code states in part that in Group A occupancies that have a single main entrance, such main entrance must also be the main exit and such main exit must be of sufficient width to accommodate not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the occupant load. The auditoriums you describe, regardless of occupant load, have only a single door from the lobby leading into the auditorium. As such, a single main entrance to the auditorium exists and the code thus requires that it also be the main exit and have a capacity of not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the occupant load of the auditorium. The path of exit access from each auditorium to the main exit of the theatre complex must be of sufficient capacity to accommodate the cumulative number of people using the main exits of all auditoriums.