



## **BULLETIN RB06-004**

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

### **EXITING THROUGH LOBBIES**

**Reference: Sentence 3.4.4.2.(2), Sentence 9.9.8.5.(1) and NBCC 2005 Intent Statements**

**Sentence 3.4.4.2.(2)** "Not more than one exit from a floor area is permitted to lead through a lobby..."

**Sentence 9.9.8.5.(1)** "Not more than one exit from a floor area above or below the first storey is permitted to lead through a lobby."

#### **Question:**

If a floor is required to have only one exit, can this exit lead through a lobby?

#### **Commentary / Relevant Facts:**

For Div B, Part 3 buildings not exceeding 2 storey's in building height, a floor area may be served by 1 exit provided the floor area and travel distance requirements conform to Table 3.4.2.1.A. or Table 3.4.2.1.B. and the total occupant load served by the exit does not exceed 60 persons (Sentence 3.4.2.1.(2)).

For Part 9 buildings of 1 and 2 storeys in building height, a single exit is permitted from each storey provided that the floor area and travel distance requirements conform to Table 9.9.7.4. and the total occupant load served by the exit does not exceed 60 persons (Articles 9.9.8.2. and 9.9.7.4.).

#### **Intent Statements for 9.9.8.2.:**

"To limit the probability of excessive travel distances to exits, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons."

"To limit the probability that persons will not have access to an alternative exit in the event one exit is blocked or obstructed in an emergency situation, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons."

#### **Intent Statements for 9.9.7.2.:**

"To limit the probability of an insufficient number of egress doors from a large room or suite, which could lead to inefficient egress in an emergency situation, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons."

"To exempt situations from the application of this Sentence, where there is a lower occupant load and where occupants are likely to have an enhanced familiarity with egress facilities."

**Conclusion:**

If a floor is permitted to have only one exit, the floor area, travel distance and occupant load of that floor will be relatively small. Also, for an exit through a lobby, the path of travel will be limited to a maximum of 15 m. Therefore, if a floor area is only required to have one exit, that exit can lead through a lobby.

Chief Building Inspector

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