



## **BULLETIN RB06-014**

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

### **MOVABLE PARTITIONS IN A MEANS OF EGRESS**

**Reference: Sentence 3.3.1.12.(3) and Div A, Sentence 1.4.1.2.(1)**

**Sentence 3.3.1.12.(3)** "Movable partitions used to separate a public corridor from an adjacent business and personal services occupancy or a mercantile occupancy need not conform to **Sentence (1) and Sentences 3.3.1.11.(1) and (2)** provided the partitions are not located in the only means of egress. (See Appendix A.)"

**Div A, Sentence 1.4.1.2.(1)** "Partition means an interior wall 1 storey or part-storey in height that is not loadbearing."

**Div B, Appendix A, A-3.3.1.12.(3)** "Moveable Partitions. Should an emergency situation arise outside of normal working hours but when occupants are still in the space, they could be left without a clear way out. This could occur during inventory or after closing time when all occupants have not yet left, but, staff close the door to prevent other persons from entering. In many small tenant spaces, the moveable partitions (store fronts) provide the only way out. There should always be a second way out or a swinging door within or adjacent to the sliding partitions."

**Sentences 3.3.1.12.(1) and 3.3.1.11.(1) & (2)** state requirements about the direction of swing, etc., of doors in a means of egress.

#### **Question:**

Does the term "movable partition" in the above Sentence include an overhead roller-shutter door?

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

The term "partition" as defined in the Code means an interior wall 1 storey or part-storey in height that is not loadbearing. "Movable partitions" implies partitions that can be moved aside to facilitate egressing or that can incorporate an egress door into them. This, read in conjunction with Div. B, Appendix A, **Sentence A-3.3.1.12.(3)**, permits sliding doors but and not overhead roller-shutter doors in a means of egress.

Overhead rolling shutters which cannot be moved aside or readily incorporate a vertical axis door and cannot be opened quickly in an emergency would not be classified as movable partitions.

Consistent with **Sentence 3.3.1.12.(3)** , top hung, horizontal folding accordion shutters, which are under tension when closed, and which spring apart when the opening latch is released in a single operation, are acceptable as providing a second means of egress to a public corridor from a business, personal service or mercantile occupancy.

Chief Building Inspector

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