



BULLETIN RB06-038

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

EGRESSING FROM OCCUPANCIES

Reference: **Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1)** and **Sentence 3.3.1.11.(1)**

Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1) "Except for dwelling units, a minimum of 2 egress doorways located so that one doorway could provide egress from the room or suite as required by **Article 3.3.1.3**. if the other doorway becomes inaccessible to the occupants due to a fire which originates in the room or suite, shall be provided for every room and every suite

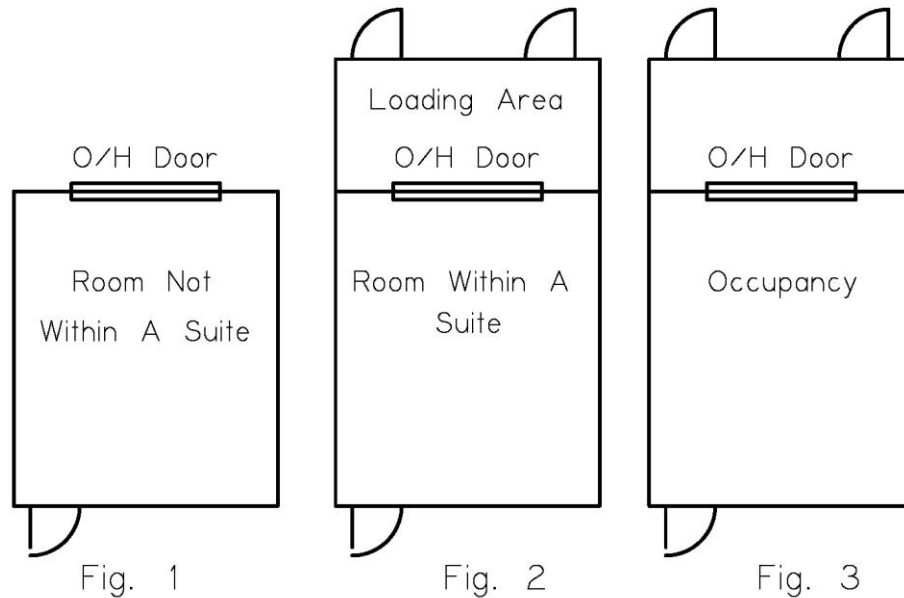
- a) that is used for a high-hazard industrial occupancy and whose area is more than 15 m²,
- b) intended for an occupant load more than 60,
- c) in a floor area that is not sprinklered throughout, and
 - i) the area of a room or suite is more than the value in **Table 3.3.1.5.A.**, or
 - ii) the travel distance within the room or suite to the nearest egress doorway, is more than the value in **Table 3.3.1.5.A.**, or
- d) in a floor area that is sprinklered throughout and does not contain a high-hazard industrial occupancy and
 - i) the travel distance to an egress doorway is more than 25 m, or
 - ii) the area of the room or suite is more than the value in **Table 3.3.1.5.B.**"

Sentence 3.3.1.11.(1) "Except as permitted by **Article 3.3.1.12.**, a door that opens into a corridor or other facility providing access to exit from a *suite* or room not located within a *suite* shall swing on a vertical axis.

Question:

Shown below is an occupancy with only one approved means of egress. The other egress door is an overhead door with no push (swing) panel. (See **Fig.1**)

The size of the occupancy, which is a room inside a suite, requires two means of egress. (See **Fig. 2**). Does this situation comply with the intent of the Code?



Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusion:

Although the requirements in **Sentence 3.3.1.11.** do not apply to a room located in a suite, compare the two layouts above.

If one accepts the wording of the Code literally, **Figure 1** is not acceptable while **Figure 2** is acceptable. However, by adding an extra loading area next to the occupancy, the exiting from this space has been made more, and not less, hazardous. This is because the travel distance and the obstructions (e.g. doors) while reaching the exit are now increased.

Spaces containing occupancies (See **Fig. 3**) shall have two or more means of egress as required by **Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1)**. All sliding or overhead doors serving as required means of egress shall have push-out (swing) panels or a man door shall be installed next to the sliding or overhead door

NOTE: This ruling does **NOT** apply to movable partitions governed by **Sentence 3.3.1.12.(3)**.

Chief Building Inspector

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Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. These bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.