



## **BULLETIN RB06-049**

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

### **TRAVEL DISTANCE INSIDE ROOMS AND SUITES**

**Reference: Sentences 3.3.1.5.(1), 3.3.1.6.(1), 9.9.7.4.(1) and 9.9.7.4.(2)**

**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 **Sentence 3.3.1.3**. if the other doorway becomes inaccessible due to a fire which originates in the room or *suite*, shall be provided for every room and suite

- a) that is used for a high-hazard industrial occupancy and whose area is more than 15 m<sup>2</sup>,
- 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 given 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 25m, or
  - ii) the area of the room or suite is more than the value in **Table 3.3.1.5.B.**”

**Sentence 3.3.1.6.(1)** “If more than one egress doorway is required from a room or suite referred to in **Article 3.3.1.5.**, the travel distance within the room or suite to the nearest egress doorway shall not exceed the maximum travel distances specified in **Clauses 3.4.2.5.(1)(a), (b), (c) and (f)** for exits.”

**Sentence 9.9.7.4.(1)** “Except for dwelling units, at least 2 egress doors shall be provided when the area of a room or suite, or the distance measured from any point within the room or suite to the nearest egress door, exceeds the values in **Table 9.9.7.4.**”

**Sentence 9.9.7.4.(2)** “Doors required in **Sentence (1)** shall be spaced so that in the event that one door is made inaccessible by a fire within such room or suite, the other door will provide safe egress.”

**Question:**

- a) Should the distances in **Tables 3.3.1.5.A & B** and **Table 9.9.7.4.** be measured around obstacles in the room or suite?
- b) Should a minimum distance between the egress doors be specified for rooms or suites requiring two or more such doors? (similar to the minimum distance between exits in **Sentence 3.4.2.3.(1)**).

**Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusion:**

Although **Sentence 3.4.2.4.(1)** and **Sentence 9.9.8.1.(1)** both state "the distance from any point in the floor area to an exit measured along the path of travel to the exit" , the key issue here is travel distance, i.e., the distance along the path of exit travel, and not the straight line distance between any point on the floor area and the door. Thus the distances in **Tables 3.3.1.5.A. & B.** and **Table 9.9.7.4.** should be measured around all permanent obstructions including fixed seating.

For travel distance requirements for open floor areas, non-fixed seating and non-fixed tables and chairs, refer to the Alberta Fire Code.

A minimum distance between the egress doors cannot be specified as this depends on the configuration of the room or suite and its position relative to adjoining corridors and other means of egress. The criterion to be used here is to have doors as far apart as the floor layout permits. However, two doors placed side by side are not acceptable as a separate means of egress. When two or more exits are provided, each must be independent of the other. In order to preserve the principle of having a choice of escape routes, the exits have to be spaced as far apart as possible to reduce the chance of both becoming inaccessible at the same time.

Chief Building Inspector

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