

## RB14-023

### EGRESSING FROM OCCUPANCIES

**Reference: Alberta Building Code 2014 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 15m<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 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.

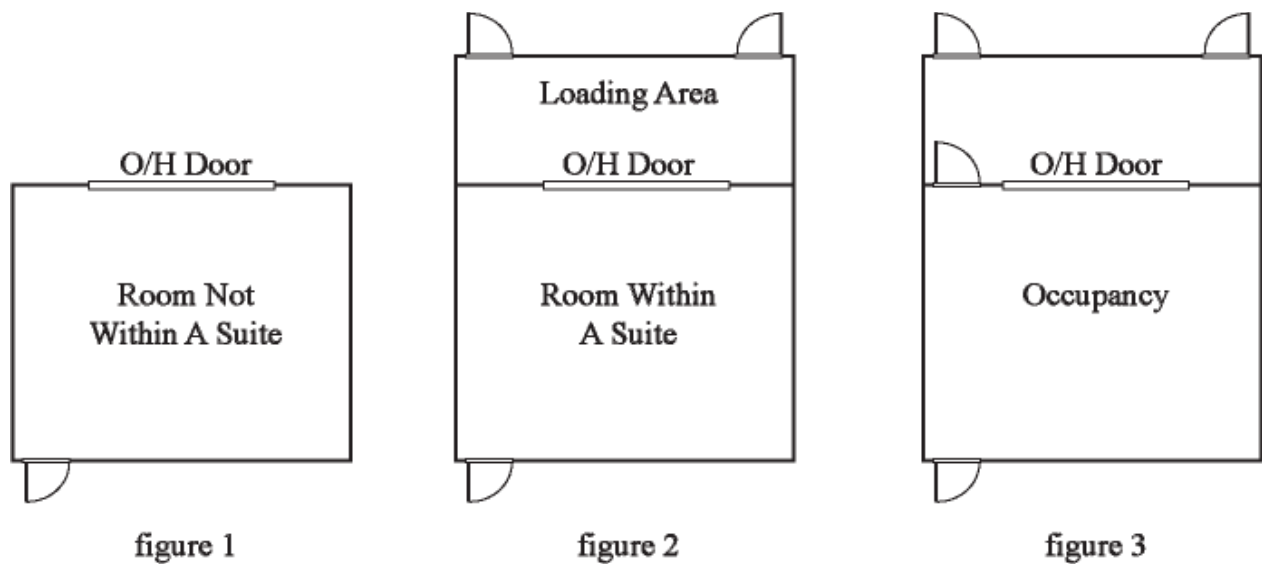
#### Question:

Shown below in Figure 1, is an occupancy with only one approved means of egress. The other egress is an overhead door with no vertical axis swing panel. The size of the occupancy, in this example an F2 use over 225m<sup>2</sup>, requires two approved egresses, so would not satisfy the code without a second swing door.

In Figure 2, the same F2 occupancy is now a room which is part of a larger suite, which again requires two means of egress. Does this situation comply with the intent of the Code?

#### Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation 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. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements 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 overhead door obstruction limiting access to the exits are now increased.

Spaces containing occupancies shall have two or more means of egress as required by Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1) and shown in Figure 3,. All sliding or overhead doors serving as required means of egress shall have vertical axis swing panels or a man door shall be installed next to the sliding or overhead door or as part of the sliding or overhead door to meet the code.

This ruling does not apply to movable partitions governed by Sentence 3.3.1.12.(3).

Chief Building Inspector