

Branch Opinion

Sentences 3.3.1.9.(5) & 3.3.3.3.(1)

Issue: Occupancies in corridors in Long Term Care facilities (Group B, Division 2 major occupancies).

New long term care facilities designs usually involve sleeping wings and a central core that contains common dining, sitting and activity spaces and facilities. Each sleeping wing is served by an independent exit and a second egress route leading through the central core. The issue regarding the design of the central core compartment has been brought to our attention.

Sentence 3.3.1.9.(5) reads:

If a *public corridor*, corridor used by the public, a corridor serving classrooms or a corridor serving patients' or residents' sleeping rooms in a Group B, Division 2 or Division 3 *occupancy*, contains an *occupancy*, the *occupancy* shall not reduce the unobstructed width of the corridor to less than its required width.

Sentence 3.3.3.3.(1) reads:

A corridor used by the public or serving patients or residents shall have no dead-end portion unless the area served by the dead-end portion has a second and separate *means of egress*.

Sentence 3.3.1.2.(3) reads:

A fuel-fired *appliance* shall not be installed in a corridor serving as an *access to exit*.

Corridors containing an occupancy in these long term care facilities must address the Ontario Building Code requirements including:

1. The occupancy in the corridor meets all the requirements for corridors including, smoke detectors, emergency lighting, minimum lighting, flame spread ratings, etc.
2. The occupancy is visually and physically open within the corridor.
3. The minimum required unobstructed width of the corridor is maintained.
4. The maximum travel distance from within the occupied space to an exit or adjoining zone is not exceeded.
5. Fuel-fired appliances are not located within the occupancy in the corridor.
6. The corridor does not contain a dead-end portion unless the area served by the dead-end has a second and separate means of egress.

This response is provided by the staff of the Housing Development and Buildings Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Building Code Act, the local municipality is the authority having jurisdiction for enforcing the Ontario Building Code Act and its Regulations, and you are advised to contact their building official for a definitive reply.



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