

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Smoke and Draft Control Doors for Rated Exit Access Corridors**

**Code:** 2018 Building Code

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Section:** 716.5.3

**Question:**

Are elevator doors opening into a rated exit access corridor required to provide smoke and draft control protection complying with 716.5.3?

**Answer:**

Yes, 716.5.3 provides no exception for elevator doors that open into a rated exit access corridor. All elevator doors are rated for 90-minutes but are not capable of smoke and draft control because of the sliding operation of the door. It may, therefore, be necessary to construct an elevator lobby as is allowed by Section 1020.6, Exception #2 or add a smoke and draft control door as allowed by Section 3006.3, item #3 or provide shaft pressurization as allowed by Section 3006.3, Item #4 to prevent smoke from the elevator shaft from entering the exit access corridor.

Because smoke in the elevator shaft will naturally rise until it reaches a level of equal air pressure and backs down the shaft or the shaft fills with smoke, smoke and draft control is required on all floors where elevator doors open to rated exit access corridors.

**Keywords:**