

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880

Floor/Ceiling Rating Requirement

Code: 2012 North Carolina Building Code

Date: September 26, 2012

Section: Table 1018.1, Footnote f

Question:

If you have an unsprinklered multi-floor building with only one business occupancy tenant, can the exit access corridors be unrated on all floors without rating the floor/ceiling assembly between the floors?

Answer:

No. The 1-hour rated floor/ceiling assembly is required even if adjacent floors are occupied by one tenant because the occupants on different floors may not be aware of hazards on other floors. The 1-hour rating provides additional time for occupants to respond to emergencies that may not have originated on their floor.

Related to this subject: The interpretation has also been made that because a 1-hour rated exit access corridor in Types IIB, IIIB, and VB are not required to be supported by rated construction in Section 709.4, then the 1-hour rated floor/ceiling assembly required by Table 1018.1, Footnote f is not required to be supported by a rated structure for Types IIB, IIIB, and VB construction. If the structure is required to be rated for other reasons, then those reasons supersede this exemption just as they would for the structure supporting a rated exit access corridor.

Keywords:

Tenant space