

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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919-661-5880**

**Exit Stair Enclosures**

**Code:** 2012 North Carolina Building Code  
**Section:** 1022.1

**Date:** September 1, 2011

**Question:**

Section 1022.1 exception (8) allows a maximum of 50 percent of egress stairs to not be enclosed when the other stairs are enclosed and meet minimum ratings, etc. It appears that this section is assuming the stair to be open. Could you have an enclosed stair using this exception, and just not rate the walls?

**Answer:**

Yes, based on the IBC Commentary, the "open stair" could be a non-fire rated enclosed stair.