

## INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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### 1022.4 - Electrical Outlet Penetrations of Rated Exit Enclosure Membranes

**Code:** 2012 NC Building Code  
**Section:** 1022.4

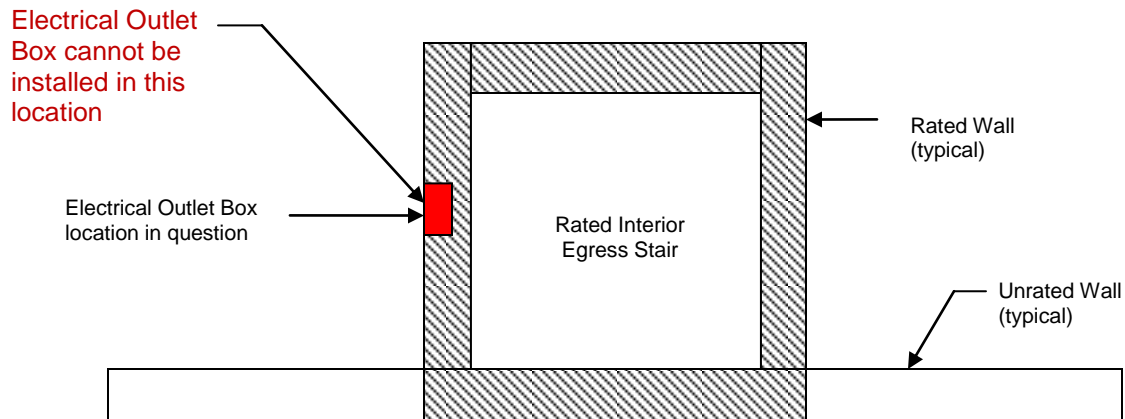
**Date:** August 15, 2012

#### Question:

Can an unrated electrical outlet box located on the outside of a rated exit enclosure penetrate the associated membrane of the rated assembly enclosing the exit? See "Plan View A" below for the electrical outlet box location in question.

#### Answer:

No. Section 1022.4 of the NC Building Code prohibits such penetrations. The purpose of a rated exit enclosure is to separate, as much as is practical, the enclosure from the hazards within the building. This then provides a safe path of egress from the entrance into the exit enclosure to the exit discharge. Allowance of such an electrical outlet inside the cavity of the rated assembly of the exit enclosure unnecessarily introduces the hazards of the building into the rated enclosure and violates the requirement of the code.



Plan View A

#### Footnotes:

1. This interpretation does not address other types of penetrations.
2. Section 1022.4 supersedes Section 713.4.1.2 because Section 1022.4 is more specific.

#### Keywords:

Stair shaft, exit passageway, junction box, power, electrical, means of egress