

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

Make-up Air to Exit Access Corridors

Code: 2012 Mechanical Code
Section: 601.2

Date: September 1, 2011

Question:

In exception 1 to Section 601.2, is infiltration allowed as the source of make-up air to an exit access corridor that is providing transfer air to a local exhaust system that serves a space that opens directly onto the corridor such as a toilet room, bathroom, dressing room, janitor closet, or a smoking lounge?

Answer:

No, infiltration air is not acceptable as the source of make-up air to the exit access corridor. Exception 1 to Section 601.2 requires that the makeup air to the corridor be provided directly to the corridor by a HVAC system and that the amount of makeup exceed the amount transferred from the corridor such that a slight positive pressurization of the corridor with respect to the adjoining space occurs.

This exception addresses the common practice of using air from the exit access corridor as makeup air for small exhaust fans in adjacent rooms that open directly on the exit access corridor. When the corridor is supplied directly with make-up air in an amount greater than that transferred for the local exhaust of the adjoining space, a positive pressure will be created in the corridor with respect to the adjoining room and smoke will not be drawn into the corridor.

Keywords:

Exit access corridor ventilation, air movement in exit access corridors