

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Doors on Landings at Bottom of Interior Stairs

Code: 2018 NCRC
Section: R311.7.6

Date: January 19, 2021

Question:

Is a cased opening or a doorway allowed in the required landing space at the bottom of an interior stairway?

Answer:

Yes. The code specifies that a floor or landing be provided at the bottom of an interior stairway but is silent on the presence of a doorway. Just as the code is silent on the subject of a doorway in a corridor, it follows that as long as the floor beyond the doorway is continuous, on the same level, to meet the intent of a landing, it is compliant with Section R311.7.6.. The cased opening or doorway would only need to meet the minimum egress width and height requirements.

Safe operation of the door latch will require an 18" minimum floor space between the nose of the bottom tread and the face of the door. The 18" space is intended to allow sufficient floor area for safe footing while manipulating the latching device. If no door is present, then the cased opening can be less than 18" from the nose of the bottom tread to the face of the cased opening with stair headroom maintained.

Keywords: