



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	08-07-00	Interpretation #	00-013
Topic	Covered Malls		
Code Section(s)	§404.1.2, California Building Code (1998 ed.) §404.1.3, California Building Code (1998 ed.) §404.3.3, California Building Code (1998 ed.)		
Requested by	Jimmy H. Hill, Fire Marshal Los Angeles Fire Department 200 North Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012		
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SCENARIO: The building in question is a three-story retail building with retail areas in two of the levels, each open to the other and having a common roofed pedestrian area. The building meets the definition of Section 404.1.3 for a covered mall.

- 1. Is the mall area required to have a smoke-control system?**
Yes. Section 404.3.3 specifically requires a smoke control system meeting the requirements of Section 905.
- 2. If Section 404.1.2, Exception #1 is used, is the mall area still required to have a smoke control system since the building has two floors open to each other?**
In this case, Section 404.3.3 takes precedence over Section 404.1.2, Exception #1, since Section 404.3.3 is specific and the other is general. Therefore, Exception #1 of Section 404.1.2 is not applicable. The smoke control system is still required.
- 3. Does Section 404.1.2, Exception #1 allow the mall area to be used as an intervening room (for exiting purposes) without requiring smoke-control for the mall area?**
No. Exception #1 would have no bearing on the mall area being considered an Intervening room. As in question #2, Section 404.3.3 is fully applicable and a smoke-control system is still required.