



REVISED

California State Fire Marshal
CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	08-07-01	Interpretation #	01-007
Topic	Horizontal Sliding Doors in the Path of Egress		
Code Section(s)	§ 1003.3.1.2, California Building Code (1998 ed.)		
Requested by	Jimmy H. Hill, Fire Marshal Los Angeles City Fire Department 200 North Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012		
Prepared by	Hugh Council Division Chief (916) 445-8200		

1. **Can a horizontal sliding door complying with UBC Standard 7-8 be used as an exit door for an area having an occupant load of 50 or more?**

Yes. Section 1003.3.1.2 of the 1998 California Building Code identifies three exceptions in which sliding doors complying with UBC Standard 7-8 may be permitted as a means of egress. It is important that it be recognized that each of the exceptions stand-alone and do not effect the others.

Exceptions 2.1 and 2.2 refer to the use of doors at specific locations within a building. Exception 2.1 indicates that horizontal sliding doors may be used in *elevator lobbies*, regardless of occupant load. Exception 2.2 is similar in that it states that horizontal sliding doors may be used in *smoke barriers* in all occupancies other than Group A or Group H regardless of occupant load.

Exception 2.3 limits the occupant load to less than 50 in other Group H occupancies. This means that sliding doors may be used when serving an occupant load of less than 50 in all occupancies except Group H. In Group H occupancies sliding doors cannot be used if the sliding door serves an occupant load of 10 or more.

2. **In a “Z” corridor with the elevator lobby serving the path of egress for 50 or more occupants, can a horizontal sliding door complying with UBC Standard 7-8 be used for enclosing the elevator lobby?**

No. Exception 2 of Section 1004.3.4.4 of the 1998 California Building Code permits corridors to pass through elevator lobbies in fully sprinklered office

buildings if all portions of the building have access to at least one required exit without passing through the elevator lobby. Exception 2.1 of Section 1003.3.1.2 permits horizontal sliding doors to be used for enclosing the lobby regardless of occupant load. All horizontal sliding doors must comply with UBC Standard 7-8.

3. **Since the doors are used in the path of egress for areas serving 50 or more occupants, are the above applications the same?**
No. Depending upon the occupancy group, other Code requirements may affect the use of special doors.