



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/2/2009	Interpretation <b>REVISED</b>	08-084
Topic	Corridor penetrations in SFM regulated occupancies		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code Section 716.5.4 and 716.5.4.1		
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### **Are fire dampers and smoke dampers or combination fire/smoke dampers required in duct penetrations of corridor walls?**

Fire dampers and smoke dampers or combination fire/smoke dampers are required; use both Sections 716.5.4 and 716.5.4.1 together for corridor penetrations. The provisions of Section 716.5.4 are general requirements for fire partitions; Section 716.5.4.1 is a subsection to Section 716.5.4 and is in addition to the provisions of Section 716.5.4 when corridors are constructed with duct penetrations.

However, where exception #2 of Section 716.5.4.1 is utilized smoke dampers may be omitted. Additionally, as currently written, Section 716.5.4 would still require fire dampers in this condition, although it was not the intent to require fire dampers in corridor walls where the fire partition wall complies with exception #3 of Section 716.5.4 and is not used for the following:

1. Walls separating dwelling units in the same building.
2. Walls separating sleeping units in occupancies in Group R-1 hotel, R-2 and I-1 occupancies.

3. Walls separating tenant spaces in covered mall buildings as required by Section 402.7.2.
4. Elevator lobby separation as required by Section 707.14.1.
5. Residential aircraft hangars.

*SFM is currently developing a modification to resolve this issue in the current rulemaking cycle.*