



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	February 9, 2016	Interpretation	16-001
Topic	I-3 Occupancies General Questions		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC Sections 408.1.2.2, 505, 508.2.4, 508.4, 1004, 1014.2, 1027.1		
Requested by	Nacht & Lewis Lorenzo Lopez, Vice President		
Date Received	August 26, 2015		

Question 1: Do all required exits from jail recreation yards need to exit directly to the exterior?

Answer 1: No. Exiting from recreation yards can be to the exterior, 2-hour exit enclosures (still part of exit), or horizontal exits.

Question 2: If one required exit is to the exterior, can one exit lead back into the building?

Answer 2: *See Answer 1.*

Question 3: Alternatively, can one of the exits discharge into an adjacent yard which has a separate exit to the exterior? (Separation distance requirements of the two different exits from yards would apply if they are the only exits provided for these yards)

Answer 3: Yes. In regards to egressing through adjacent yards, the intervening rooms and travel distance requirements apply.

Question 4: If recreation yards are covered, mostly enclosed, and sprinklered, are they considered exterior spaces which cannot exit into the building?

Answer 4: No. They are not exterior. The specific provisions for Jails located in CBC Chapter 12 are not adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Question 5: In a detention housing tier, can one exit discharge through the adjacent tier as long as the primary exit is via a stair to the main level of the housing unit?

Answer 5: No. The tier concept was predicated on free egress off of the raised tier level.

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Question 6: In a detention environment, can one of the required exits travel through a single adjacent space before reaching a rated exit (exterior exit, rated corridor, rated stairwell).

Answer 6: Yes. All provisions of California Building Code Chapter 10 and Section 408 must be met.

Question 7: Is there any requirement that jail pods or inmate program rooms must exit into a rated corridor?

Answer 7: Yes.

Question 8: Can jail pods or program rooms exit into a non-rated circulation space with a custody station at the center; with the circulation space visible from a staff station; and providing a discernible path to an exit?

Answer 8: No. If the occupant load exceeds six persons.

Question 9: In a jail or prison housing unit, does the secure custody station require a 2-hour rated separation from the inmate areas it is designed to observe?

Answer 9: No. If secure custody station is located within the egress corridor, separation is required.

Question 10: In a jail or prison program room, do closets serving that room (which are under 100 sf in area) need to be separated by 1-hour construction from the program room?

Answer 10: Yes.

Question 11: Are tiers held to the same area requirements as mezzanines?

Answer 11: No. Tiers and mezzanines are different.

Question 12: Are they limited to 1/3 of the area of the space in which they are located?

Answer 12: Yes. The tier design concept is for the tier area to not exceed 1/3 of the floor area. This is to maintain a tenable space during a smoke or fire event and to allow for direct visual supervision of inmates by custody staff.

Question 13: In a jail project, where the size of rooms and spaces are dictated by 1231, must exiting loads be held to the requirements of Table 1004.1.2?

Answer 13: Yes. The specific provisions for Jails located in CBC Chapter 12 are not adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and do not apply to exit design.