



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services

October 4, 2010



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Mr. Robert Wiltse
Dammon Engineering, Inc.
1095 Florida Avenue
Slidell, LA 70158

RE: P0320959, Appeal 6465
St. Tammany Parish Administrative Complex
520 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA

Code Reference:
NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2003 edition

Occupancy Type (renovation):
Business

Dear Mr. Wiltse:

This office is in receipt of your September 1, 2010 appeal concerning the listed issues at the referenced facility and, after review, this office makes the following observations and determination.

Issues:

1. NFPA 101:7.1.3.2.1 fire resistance rating of stair enclosure
2. NFPA 101:7.2.2.5 enclosure and protection of stairs at exposure to other parts of the building

Issue 1.

NFPA 101:7.1.3.2.1(2) states that where an exit connects four or more stories, a 2-hour fire resistance rated separation is required. *You document that two existing open exit stairs have been enclosed with 1-hour fire resistance rated construction rather than 2-hour fire resistance rated construction as required by code.*

Issue 2.

NFPA 101:7.2.2.5.2.1 states that where exterior nonrated walls or unprotected openings enclose an exit stair and the walls or openings are exposed to other parts of the building at an angle of less than 180°, the building walls within 120" horizontally of the nonrated wall or unprotected opening shall be constructed as required for stair enclosures, including opening protectives. Construction shall extend vertically from the ground to a point 120" above the topmost landing of the stairs or to the roofline, whichever is lower. You document that three sides of the new stair enclosure are 1-hour fire resistance rated construction, and the end wall at the stair landing is not fire resistance rated. 'Lean-to' construction of a single story conference center is built against the unrated 6-story stair enclosure end walls. Two-hour fire resistance rated construction is required to extend a minimum of 120" at the exit stair end wall above the roof intersection.

In lieu of demolition, you propose that the stair remain as constructed based on the fact that, though the stair enclosure is new construction, the stair structure itself is existing. NFPA 101:7.1.3.2(2)(b) states that in existing buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system, existing exit stair enclosures shall have not less than a 1-hour fire resistance rating.

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452

The NFPA 101 Life Safety Code requires fire protection features that will provide a minimum acceptable level of safety. The features required by the code may be altered, substituted, or omitted if proposed alternative features can be determined to provide a level of safety equivalent to that required by the code.

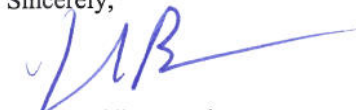
After further review of the information provided, this office grants the appeal with the following stipulations:

1. This determination does not authorize construction which is not in compliance with the International Existing Building Code.
2. Every occupiable room on the first floor shall be protected by a smoke detection device which, upon initiation, will provide audible and visible alarm throughout the facility.
3. LRS 40:1574 and LAC 55:V:303 Submit fire alarm system shop drawings with plan review application and fee prior to installation of any work of this section. Such work shall not commence until shop drawings have been found to be in compliance with applicable codes by this office. **ENCLOSE A COPY OF THIS APPEAL WITH THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM SHOP DRAWINGS SENT TO THIS OFFICE FOR REVIEW.**

Please be advised that this document indicates a determination of equivalency to specific requirements of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. This equivalency applies to this particular installation and shall not be applied to other projects or similar facilities. This determination shall remain valid as long as the provisions of this determination are provided and maintained, or otherwise revised by this office.

Please enclose a copy of this letter with any future correspondence pertaining to this project. If you have questions or need additional clarification, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



H. "Butch" Browning
State Fire Marshal

HBB/CAO/cm

c: Felicia Cooper
Don Zeringue
Cynthia A. Obier
David Jones
St Tammany Parish Government
St Tammany Fire Protection District No 1
City Of Slidell
New Orleans District

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