

## MEANS OF EGRESS

suites to the exits would be evaluated in accordance with Table 1020.1.

Exception 5 addresses when the exterior wall of a building is also the wall of the corridor. The exterior wall is not required to be rated by the corridor provisions where there is a sufficient fire separation distance for the exterior wall to be able to have unprotected openings. This is similar to the exterior wall for an enclosed interior exit stairway. The fire is assumed to be inside the building, so that is where the protection is required.

**TABLE 1020.1  
CORRIDOR FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING**

OCCUPANCY	OCCUPANT LOAD SERVED BY CORRIDOR	REQUIRED FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)	
		Without sprinkler system	With sprinkler system <sup>c</sup>
H-1, H-2, H-3	All	Not Permitted	1
H-4, H-5	Greater than 30	Not Permitted	1
A, B, E, F, M, S, U	Greater than 30	1	0
R	Greater than 10	Not Permitted	0.5
I-2 <sup>a</sup> , I-4	All	Not Permitted	0
I-1, I-3	All	Not Permitted	1 <sup>b</sup>

a. For requirements for occupancies in Group I-2, see Sections 407.2 and 407.3.

b. For a reduction in the *fire-resistance rating* for occupancies in Group I-3, see Section 408.8.

c. Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 where allowed.

❖ The required fire-resistance ratings of corridors serving adjacent spaces are provided in Table 1020.1. The fire-resistance rating is based on the group classification (considering characteristics such as occupant mobility, density and familiarity with the building as well as the fire hazard associated with the classification), the total occupant load served by the corridor and the presence of an automatic sprinkler system.

Where the corridor serves a limited number of people (second column in Table 1020.1), the fire-resistance rating is eliminated because of the limited size

of the facility and the likelihood that the occupants would become aware of a fire buildup in sufficient time to exit the structure safely. The total occupant load that the corridor serves is used to determine the requirement for a rated corridor enclosure. The number of occupants served is the total occupants that will move into the corridor to egress. Corridors serving a total occupant load equal to or less than that indicated in the second column of Table 1020.1 are not required to be enclosed with fire-resistance-rated construction. For example, a corridor serving an occupant load of 30 or less in an unsprinklered Group B occupancy is not required to be enclosed with fire-resistance-rated construction. This example is illustrated in Commentary Figure 1020.1.

The purpose of corridor enclosures is to provide fire protection to occupants as they travel the confined path, perhaps unaware of a fire buildup in an adjacent floor area. The base protection is a fire partition having a 1-hour fire-resistance rating. The table allows a reduction or elimination of the fire-resistance rating depending on the occupant load and the presence of an NFPA 13 or 13R automatic sprinkler system throughout the building.

A common mistake is assuming a building is sprinklered throughout and utilizing the corridor rating reductions, when in fact certain requirements in NFPA 13 would not consider the building sprinklered throughout. For example, a health club installs a sprinkler system, but chooses to eliminate the sprinklers over the swimming pool in accordance with the exception in Section 507.4. Any corridors within the building that serve greater than 30 occupants must be rated because the building would not be considered sprinklered throughout in accordance with NFPA 13 requirements.

Note that because of the hazardous nature of occupancies in Groups H-1, H-2 and H-3, fire-resistance-rated corridors are required under all conditions. Regardless of the presence of a fire sprinkler system, a 1-hour-rated corridor enclosure is required in high-hazard occupancies with detonation, deflagration,

