

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 00-04

CODE: 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC),

State Regulations for Barrier-Free Facilities

SECTION: Section 1104.2.1 Location and Construction of Areas for Evacuation

Assistance.

QUESTIONS: UBC Section 1005.3.3 Exit enclosures, allows an exception for an exit

stairway serving only one adjacent floor to not be enclosed. Section 1104.2.1, Items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 all state that an area of evacuation assistance shall be immediately adjacent to or directly connected to an exit enclosure. Section 101.3 states "Where, in any specific case, different sections of this code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable." With these

facts in mind:

Question 1: On a floor where there is no exit enclosure due to the application of Section 1005.3.3, can any of the methods of construction listed in Section 1104.2.1, Items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 be used if an area of evacuation assistance is required?

Question 2: Would the requirement for an area of evacuation assistance by Section 1104.2.1, Item 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6 trigger the requirement for construction of an exit enclosure?

ANSWERS:

- 1. Yes, either the vestibule of Section 1104.2.1, Item 4, or the area or room of 1104.2.1, Item 6 could be constructed adjacent to the location of an unenclosed stairway which is allowed by the code.
- 2. No, it is not the intent of Section 1104.2.1 to require the construction of an exit enclosure where one is not otherwise required. However, where an exit enclosure is required then any required areas for evacuation assistance must be located as specified by Section 1104.2.1.

See also Interpretations 93-05 and 93-26.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Town of Friday Harbor