

International Building Code 2015 Edition - Egress

Public Comment:

Section: 1006.1 - General

Recommend adding the following:

Exemption: Spaces containing S occupancies that are illuminated only by natural lighting, including by usage of large door openings.

We should encourage the use of renewable energy and lessen costs for unnecessary electrical systems. This exemption would allow small industrial storage buildings, which are often created with one side being mainly overhead doors that are open during business hours. Furthermore, for buildings without extensive doors, daylight tubes and skylights, as well as translucent wall panels, may provide adequate lighting during the day. If there is a need for lighting to perform work within, then this exemption would not apply.

Committee Comments:

WGMS – The request is a modification request using the provisions of the act that allow the RAC to “modify” sections of the proposed code. This appears to be miss-numbered and I believe should be a proposed modification of *Section 1008 – Means of Egress Illumination*. With respect to the proposed modification in the proper location, it is my professional opinion that provision of illumination in these areas does not constitute a large cost on the building owner and this is a life-safety issue. In times when the doors are not open or when there is not enough natural light, the space would be dark and violate the requirements of the code. In addition, the use of the space could easily be altered over time and may result in a non-compliant condition being created that the owner/tenant may not be aware of. Overall, I am not in favor of this change.

KM - I agree with Walter's opinion and I am also not in favor of this change.

MG - I oppose the proposed amendment

JK - Walter, I agree with you. It appears that this is some special case the proponent is thinking about. It is unusual because storage occupancies usually consist of large areas and I can't imagine how you could get enough natural light even if you put skylights all over the roof and it was only one story. Then what happens on a dark, stormy day. I can remember something similar coming up many years ago and it was shot down then. I would recommend rejection of this change.

JV - Walt et al, I am not supportive of the language of the proposed amendment and therefore oppose it. Thank You, Joe.

CC - Walt, I am in agreement and oppose this amendment.

Recommendation to RAC: We recommend to the RAC that the request for modification be rejected and the section adopted as written in the 2015 IBC.