

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

3.4.4.4. Integrity of Exits

- (1) A *fire separation* that separates an *exit* from the remainder of the *building* shall have no openings except for,
 - (a) standpipe and sprinkler piping,
 - (b) electrical wires and cables, totally enclosed *noncombustible* raceways and *noncombustible* piping that serve only the exit,
 - (c) openings required by the provisions of Subsection 3.2.6.,
 - (d) exit doorways,
 - (e) wired glass and glass block permitted by Article 3.1.8.14., and
 - (f) a sprinkler protected glazed wall assembly conforming to Article 3.1.8.18.
- (2) *Exits* within scissors stairs and other contiguous exit stairways shall be separated from each other by a smoke-tight *fire separation* having a *fire-resistance rating* not less than that required for the floor assembly through which they pass.
- (3) *Fire separations* separating contiguous stairs described in Sentence (2) shall not be pierced by doorways, ductwork, piping or any other openings that affect the continuity of the separation.
- (4) A fuel-fired *appliance* shall not be installed in an *exit*.
- (5) An *exit* shall not be used as a *plenum* for heating, ventilating or air-conditioning system.
- (6) An *exit* shall be designed for no purpose other than for exiting, except that an *exit* is permitted also to be designed to serve as an access to a *floor area*.
- (7) A *service room* shall not open directly into an *exit*.
- (8) *Storage rooms*, washrooms, toilet rooms, laundry rooms and similar ancillary rooms shall not open directly into an *exit*.
- (9) Service spaces referred to in Sentence 3.2.1.1.(9) shall not open directly into an *exit*.
- (10) In elementary and secondary schools, an *exit* shall be designed so that it does not serve access from one portion of a *floor area* to another portion of the same *floor area*.

OBJECTIVE

An exit is required to be separated from the remainder of the building and only the penetrations listed below are permitted within this separation:

- Standpipe and sprinkler piping
- Electrical wiring, noncombustible conduits and noncombustible piping which provide services solely to the exit
- Openings required to comply with Subsections 3.2.6. and 3.2.8.
- Exit doorways
- Wired glass and glass block as permitted in Article 3.1.8.14.

No penetrations are permitted through a fire separation between contiguous exit stairways.

Use of an exit as a plenum for heating, ventilation or air-conditioning is not permitted.

An exit shall be designed for exiting only; as an exception, it can be designed to serve as an access to a floor area. In an elementary or secondary school, an exit cannot serve as an access from one point of a floor area to another portion of the same floor area.

An exit cannot contain an occupancy.

A direct opening from service or ancillary rooms, such as storage rooms, washrooms and laundry rooms is not permitted. These types of rooms may be accessed from exit through a vestibule although access to two exits may still be required for these rooms by Article 3.4.2.1.

