

# 407.5.4

## Required Egress from Smoke Compartments

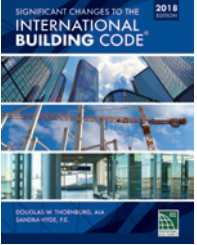
**CHANGE TYPE:** Modification

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** In Group I-2 occupancies, any smoke compartment that does not have an exit from the compartment must now provide direct access to a minimum of two adjacent smoke compartments.

**2018 CODE: 407.5.2 407.5.4 Independent egress.** A means of egress shall be provided from each smoke compartment created by smoke barriers without having to return through the smoke compartment from which means of egress originated. Smoke compartments that do not contain an exit shall be provided with direct access to not less than two adjacent smoke compartments.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** In protect-in-place uses, such as hospitals and nursing homes, it is necessary to provide multiple smoke compartments to allow for movement of patients during fires and other emergency events. Previously, the only limiting requirement for a means of egress system from a smoke compartment was that the egress path could not return through the compartment of origin. An additional condition now indicates that any smoke compartment not having an exit must provide direct access to a minimum of two adjacent compartments.

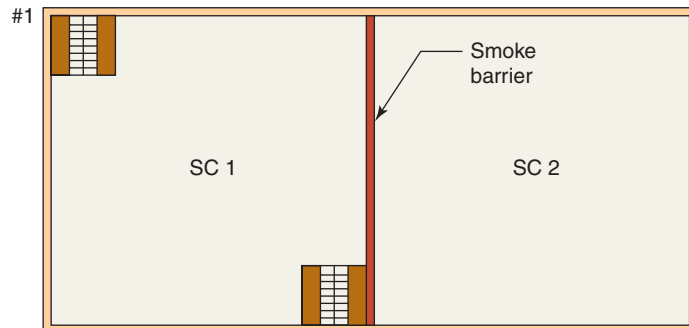
Where there is no exit, such as a horizontal exit, interior exit stairway or exterior door at grade level, directly from a smoke compartment, the resulting condition creates somewhat of a “dead-end smoke compartment.” The IBC is now consistent with federal Medicare requirements in regard to the recognition of two alternative approaches to the design of the means of egress from a smoke compartment. Each compartment must be provided with a minimum of one direct exit, or direct access to at least two smoke compartments is required.



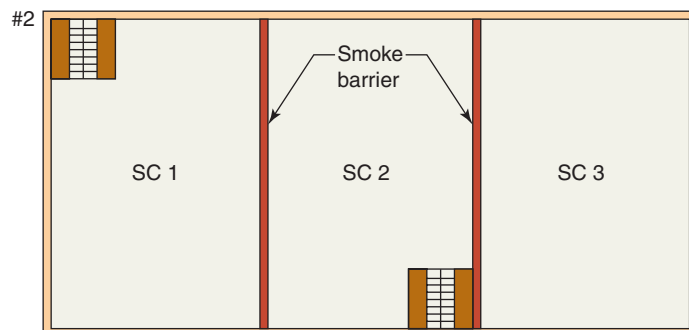
This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Building Code®, 2018 Edition*.

Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.

Noncompliant Examples:



Where smoke compartment does not contain an exit, direct access must be provided to at least two adjacent smoke compartments



In both examples of an upper-story condition, the smoke compartments labeled as SC 2 (top example) and SC 3 (bottom example) do not comply.

Egress from smoke compartments