

You Should Know

Corridor doors in work areas cannot be constructed of hollow core wood and cannot have louvers. ●

Openings in corridor walls

Corridor wall openings in any Level 2 Alterations work areas must comply with IEBC Section 805.5. The requirements of this section are limited to Level 2 Alterations work areas that include exits or corridors shared by more than one tenant in the work area, but may also apply beyond the work area where specified. [\[Ref. 805.5\]](#)

Corridor doors

In shared exit access corridors, existing corridor doors to dwelling units and sleeping units in work areas in residential occupancies (Groups R-1 and R-2) and large assisted living facilities (Group I-1) must not be less than $1\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-thick (35 mm) solid wood core door or equivalent construction (Figure 9-24). Such corridor doors are permitted to have approved glazing in metal frames (while the IEBC will allow the use of approved wired glass, it is recommended that other approved glazing materials be used for safety reasons). All such corridor doors must be self-closing. Any replacement corridor doors must not be less than $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick (44 mm) thick solid wood core door or equivalent construction unless the existing door frame can only accept a $1\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-thick (35 mm) door. Doors having a minimum 20-minute fire protection rating are considered equivalent construction. [\[Ref. 805.5.1\]](#)



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FIGURE 9-24 Doors in exit access corridors.

There are exemptions from this requirement in the following conditions:

- Existing corridor doors that provide a fire protection rating of not less than 15 minutes meeting the requirements of Table 5.1 of the Guidelines on Fire Ratings of Archaic Materials and Assemblies (IEBC Resource A),
- Existing corridor doors in a building protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system. Such doors must only be tight fitting and resist the passage of smoke and contain no louvers, or
- In small group homes (less than 16 occupants, including staff), self-closing corridor doors are not required when the facility is protected by an approved automatic smoke detection system.

Transoms

In shared exit access corridors, existing transoms in work areas in residential occupancies (Group R-1 and R-2) and large assisted living facilities (Group I-1) and health care facilities (Group I-2) must have fixed glazing with the same fire protection rating as required for the corridor doors, or the transom opening must be sealed with materials consistent with the corridor construction (Figure 9-25). [Ref. 805.5.2]

Other corridor openings

In general, sashes, grilles and other openings located in work areas where the shared exit access corridor is required to be fire-resistance rated or of smoke-resistant construction, must be sealed with materials consistent with the corridor construction. [Ref. 805.5.3]

Supplemental requirements for corridor openings

When the aggregate of Level 2 Alterations work areas on a floor exceeds 50 percent of the gross area of that specific floor, then the shared exit access corridor opening requirements are applicable throughout that entire story. [Ref. 805.5.4]



FIGURE 9-25 Transoms in corridor.

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