
BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

December 16, 1996

6606 Tussing Road, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

MEANS OF EGRESS DOORWAYS

A question has arisen concerning the application of section 1017.0. In previous editions of the OBBC, this section applied to "...all doorways serving as a component or element of a means of egress *from habitable and occupiable rooms...*" (See old section 813.1) which meant that toilet room doorways were excluded.

However, in current section 1017.1 OBBC, "*habitable and occupiable rooms*" has been deleted. As a result, this section now requires compliance for *all* doorways serving as a component or element of a means of egress. Doorways, such as those serving toilet rooms within use group R-1 guest rooms, for example, would be required to comply.

This change was specifically intended by code change B112-91 to cover *all* means of egress doorways, not just doorways from habitable and occupiable rooms which, by definition, excluded many areas of a building that should have been regulated. This also coincided with a 1990 report from the CABO Board for the Coordination of the Model Codes (BCMC) recommending that code provisions should protect *all* occupants *including* those with physical disabilities.

A related question arises: If toilet room doors are required to comply, why not doors to closets or similar spaces? In applying this section, the building official must determine whether or not a room is *designed* for the entrance, use and exiting of human occupants. This is typically not the case for doorways to small closets and other such spaces.

If you have any questions, please write or call the board staff at (614) 644-2613.