



City of Seattle
Department of Planning & Development

2009 SBC Code Solution

Section 1027.1
Readily Visible Exterior Exit Door
Release Date: **March 4, 2011**
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The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.

Code Issue:

When using SBC Section 10271, Exception 1 to allow exit discharge through a lobby, are there any circumstances where the exterior exit door does not have to be directly visible from the stair enclosure door? (See item 1.1 of SBC Section 1027.1)

Code Modification:

The exterior exit door need not be readily visible from the stair enclosure door, where an open-ended hallway leads from a stair enclosure door to a point where the exterior exit door is readily visible, and all of the following requirements are met:

- The length of the open-ended hallway does not exceed 20 feet.
- No other occupancies or uses (including storage or restrooms) open into the hallway.
- The open-ended hallway has full-height walls and no other direction of travel is possible.
- The stair enclosure door must be within 4 feet of vertical travel from the exterior exit door.
- Exit signs clearly indicate the direction of egress travel.

For questions about whether this code solution applies to your project:

- *If you have submitted a permit application, contact the Building Code plan reviewer assigned to your application*
- *If you have not submitted an application, contact DPD Building Code Technical Support at 206-684-4630 or in person at the Applicant Services Center. Visit the Applicant Services Center website for more information about hours and location http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/Process_Overview/Location_Hours/default.asp*



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