

## HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE INTERPRETATION

**Number:** HITF.2006.004

**Date:** December 8, 2006

**Code:** NFPA 101; 2000 Editions

**Subject/Background: Allowable gaps in certain corridor doors.** The following questions apply to requirements in the 2000 Life Safety Code for corridor doors other than those in required enclosures of vertical openings, exits, or hazardous areas, and other than those in smoke barriers.

**Question 1:** Does the Life Safety Code limit the gap between the edge of a corridor door and the door frame to 1/8-inch?

**Answer 1:** NO. However, because the door stop functions as an astragal, the gap between the edge of a corridor door and the door frame shall not be greater than the depth of the door stop.

**Question 2:** Does the Life Safety Code limit the gap between the face of a corridor door and the door stop to 1/8-inch?

**Answer 2:** NO. The Code does not specify a maximum gap dimension and specifically states that corridor doors are not required to comply with NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows. The Code goes on to state that corridor doors should be relatively smoke tight. Due to the lack of specific dimensions for door gaps and the subjective language in the Code, the following guidance is deemed appropriate. In a smoke compartment that is not fully sprinklered, a gap not exceeding 1/4-inch between the face of a corridor door and the door stop should be permitted, provided that the door latch mechanism is functioning. In a smoke compartment that is fully sprinklered, a gap not exceeding 1/2-inch between the face of a corridor door and the door stop should be permitted, provided that the door latch mechanism is functioning. In a smoke compartment that is not fully sprinklered, to achieve a better fit the thickness of a 1 3/4-inch thick corridor door should be permitted to be reduced by removing not more than 1/4-inch from the face of the door. In a smoke compartment that is fully sprinklered, the Code does not impose construction requirements on a corridor door, provided that it resists the passage of smoke.

**Question 3:** Does the Life Safety Code limit the gap between the meeting edges of the leaves of a two-leaf corridor door to 1/8-inch?

**Answer 3:** NO. The gap is permitted to exceed 1/8-inch provided that the meeting edges of the leaves are equipped with an astragal, a rabbet, or a bevel.

