

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE INTERPRETATION

Number: HITF.2007.001

Date: June 5, 2007

Code: NFPA 101 (2000) 19.2.5, 19.2.3.3 exception # 2

NFPA 101 (2006) 19.2.5.6, 19.2.3.4(4)

Background: Recently several surveyors have cited medical centers for not maintaining 6 and 8 feet corridor widths within suites, usually within emergency department suites. The 2000 Code was quite clear on this issue where, under the corridor width requirements Section 19.2.3.3 had an exception stating “*Exception # 2 Exit access within a room or suite of rooms complying with the requirements of 19.2.5*”. We had the understanding that corridor width requirements do not apply within a suite. We would then default to Chapter 7 Section 7.3 and 7.3.4, which specifies a minimum width of 36 inches as the general rule and allows exceptions down to 28 inches. The 2006 Code has the same requirements.

Question: Within a space meeting the requirements for a suite, do the requirements for minimum corridor width apply?

Answer: NO