

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-16-08

December 4, 2008

The following is offered in response to your letter dated February 6, 2008 and received by this Office on September 2, 2008, in which you seek a formal interpretation of the requirements of Section 1017.2, of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code, in effect for building permits applied for from May 1, 1999 through December 30, 2005.

Scenario: The building is an A3 use occupancy, non-separated, 2C unprotected, non-combustible construction and is provided with an automatic sprinkler system. The assembly use room in question is square in geometry, fully enclosed with walls on three of the four sides. The fourth wall side has one opening, the approximate size is one third of the wall. This room has an occupant load of 55 occupants and one means of egress is provided.

Question: Does this assembly use space require two means of egress as required by Section 1017.2 of BOCA 1996?

Answer: Yes, Section 1017.2 addresses the required number of means of egress from any specific room or space. This section's purpose is to evaluate a room or space within a floor or story to determine how many doors leading to an exit access or constituting an exit are required. When the occupant load exceeds 50 or the travel distance exceeds 75 feet, per Table 1017.2 requirements for an assembly use, two means of egress are required.