

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO: I-12-10

October 4, 2010

The following is being offered in response to your fax request dated August 19, 2010 in which you seek a formal interpretation. This question would apply to Section 1011 Exit Signs of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code with the 2009 Amendment. This code section requirement pertains to accessible exits, exit signs, and exit signs marked by the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA).

Question #1:

"Is it the intent to require only an ISA at the 'EXIT' sign above/adjacent to the accessible exit door or is it the intent to also require a proximity ISA sign at that same location and only require these on the level of exit discharge? In a multi-story building, there may be a Group A occupancy on a floor other than the level of exit discharge."

Answer #1:

When exit signs are required, by Section 1011.1, the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) is only required at accessible exit doors at the level of exit discharge that lead directly to accessible paths of exit discharge. This ISA symbol shall be not less than six inches high and shall be incorporated into the required exit sign or shall be located adjacent to it. The 2009 Amendment, which became effective August 1, 2009, removed the Section 1011.1.1 requirement to include the ISA in the Floor Proximity Exit Sign. Additionally, if you have a Group A occupancy (with an occupant load of more than 300) on a floor other than the level of exit discharge, you are required to comply with Section 1011.1.1 Floor Proximity Exit Sign (not including the ISA as mentioned above). This additional exit sign is required at the exit access doors and the exit door that pertains to the Assembly means of egress.

Question #2:

"If it is the intent to require both 'EXIT' signs and ISA signs at all exit access doors, is it the intent to have these located along the entire path from the exit access door thru all exit access ways up to either an Area of Rescue Assistance (non-level of egress) or the level exit discharge (level of egress)?"

Answer #2:

The answer to question #1 above addresses where the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) signage is required. ISA signage is not required at exit access doors or at other exit sign locations required by spacing and visibility concerns.

Question #3:

"For the ISA, is it the intent to require that they may be internally or externally illuminated, in the same manner as 'EXIT' signs? Is it the intent that ISA signs may be self illuminated so they may be mounted on a door in a corridor or glazing of an exit discharge door?"

Answer #3:

The ISA sign is required to be illuminated in the same manner as required for EXIT signs. Internal illumination, external illumination, or self-illumination is acceptable provided they comply with Section 1011.4 or 1011.5 of the above noted code. Whichever method of ISA sign illumination is provided, its location is addressed in Section 1011.1.2 which requires it to be incorporated into the required EXIT sign or placed directly adjacent to it.

Question #4:

“Interpretation I-03-07, dated 3/2/07, Answer 5 stated “The scoping language of Section 1011.1.2 requires accessibility signs in addition to signs required by Sections 1011.1 and 1011.1.1. Since 1011.1.1 is the section that requires floor proximity signs, it follows that such signs must be accompanied by the International Symbol of Accessibility in accordance with Section 1011.1.2. In fact, the proponent of Section 1011.1.2 specifically mentioned the need for the symbol at the low level based on the needs of wheelchair users.”

Is it still the intent to require ISA proximity signs where ever an ISA is located adjacent to the EXIT sign located above/adjacent to an exit access door along the entire exit path to exit discharge?”

Answer #4:

The answers to questions #1 and #2 above address this issue.

Question #5:

“Interpretation I-03-07, dated 3/2/07, Answer 6 stated “A careful reading of Section 1011.1.2 reveals that the accessibility symbol is only required to be added to exit signs (both high level and floor proximity per Answer 5 above) at accessible exits at the level of exit discharge that leads directly to accessible paths of exit discharge. Thus a grade level door designated as an accessible exit that leads to grade or to a compliant ramp leading to grade would require addition of the accessibility sign. The intent is to alert persons with mobility impairments of the location of exits that they can traverse unassisted.”

Is it the intent that ISA signs only need to be at high level of the exit access door within the building along the exit path to the exit discharge, and require the addition of the proximity ISA ONLY at the exit discharge door? Refer to Question 1 above.”

Answer #5:

The answers to questions #1 and #2 above address this issue.