



**BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Position Statement # 01 – 700 - 01

Subject: Administrative Suite – Fire Rated Corridors
Applicable Code: 2001 FBC 704.2.4 Exit Access Corridor
Date: March 23, 2003

Question: Do the corridors in the administrative suite have to be fire rated?

Answer: No, under the following conditions:

- Building has fully automatic fire sprinkler system.
- No classroom or similar type room normally subject to student occupancy uses the corridor as part of the required exit access and the room has access door directly to exterior or other fire rated exit access corridor.
- The administrative corridor leads directly to exterior or fire rated exit access corridor.
- The administrative corridor is not part of the student's required exiting system.

Comment: Both NFPA 101 38.3.6 and FBC 704.2.4 allow business occupancies to have non-fire rated corridors when the building has a fire sprinkler system.

FBC 423.8.1.1 indicates that support spaces such as media centers, administrative offices, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and kitchens within educational facilities are not separate occupancies. Thus, meaning a fire rated separation is not required between these spaces and the classrooms. With this in mind, we do not require fire separation between these spaces, but we do allow for these spaces to form a suite within the building. That suite may or may not have circulation corridors, if they do have corridors they are not required to have a fire rating when they meet the conditions stated above.

This idea is further supported by the requirement of NFPA 14.2.5.4. Requiring only rooms normally subject to student occupancy to have an access door leading directly to a fire rated exit access corridor or directly to the exterior. The administrative suite (area) is a separate functioning area not normally subject to student occupancy.



**BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Position Statement # 01- 700-01

Subject: Administrative Suite – Fire Rated Corridors
Applicable Code: 2001 FBC 704.2.4 Exit Access Corridor
Date: March 23, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Morgan", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald F. Morgan Acting Chief Building Official

3-23-03

Date