



**SCHOOL DISTRICT PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
CODE INTERPRETATION**

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Subject Title: Administrative Suite –Fire/Smoke Rated Corridors  
Applicable Code: FBC 1016 Corridor (2004 Edition)  
Date: March 23, 2005  
Revised: April 16, 2007

**Question:** Do the corridors in the administrative suite have to be fire rated or a smoke partition per footnote c in table 1016.1?

**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 students' required exiting system.
- The administrative suite is separated from student occupied areas by fire barrier per section 706 FBC.

**Comment:**

Both FFPC-NFPA 101 38.3.6 and FBC 1016 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 FFPC-NFPA 14.2.5.4. That requires 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.