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**FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Department of Homeland Security**

**Written Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner**

**Interpretation #:** CEB-2019-14-2014 IBC-1022.5

**Building or Fire Safety Law Interpreted**

2014 Indiana Building Code Section 1022.5 Penetrations.

**Issue**

Whether the general prohibition on penetrations of interior exit stair enclosures applies to a two-story open exit access stair.

**Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner**

The provisions of Section 1022, which include 1022.5, apply only to interior exit stairways and interior exit ramps which serve as exit components in means of egress systems, and not to exit access stairs.

**Rationale**

Exit access stairs are not addressed in any way by Section 1022. They are regulated by 1009.3. Any such exit access stairs that may be required to be enclosed are regulated by 1009.3.1, and penetrations of such enclosed stairs are regulated by 1009.3.1.5, which allows penetrations, subject to compliance with the fire barrier requirements of Section 714.

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