

1023 INTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAYS AND RAMPS

1023.3.1 Extension. Where interior exit stairways and ramps are extended to an exit discharge or a public way by an exit passageway, the interior exit stairway and ramp shall be separated from the exit passageway by a fire barrier constructed in accordance with Section 707 or a horizontal assembly constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. The fire-resistance rating shall be not less than that required for the interior exit stairway and ramp. A fire door assembly complying with Section 716.5 shall be installed in the fire barrier to provide a means of egress from the interior exit stairway and ramp to the exit passageway. Openings in the fire barrier other than the fire door assembly are prohibited. Penetrations of the fire barrier are prohibited.

Exceptions:

1. Penetrations of the fire barrier in accordance with Section 1023.5 shall be permitted.
2. Separation between an interior exit stairway or ramp and the exit passageway extension shall not be required where there are no openings into the exit passageway extension.
3. Separation between an interior exit stairway or ramp and the exit passageway extension shall not be required when the interior exit stair and the exit passageway extension are pressurized in accordance with Section 909.20.5.

Strike Section 1023.9 of the International Building Code in its entirety and insert new Section 1023.9 in the Building Code in its place to read as follows:

1023.9 Stairway signage. Signs shall be provided for all *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* connecting more than three stories, and for all *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* in buildings with three or more *interior exit stairways* or *ramps*.

1023.9.1 Signs outside stairway. A sign shall be provided at each entrance to the *exit stairway* and *ramp*, identifying the *stair* or *ramp* with the same designations used for the *stairway* identification signs in Section 1023.9.2.1. The sign also shall state "EXIT" in accordance with Section 1013.4 of the *Building Code*. The sign shall state the required text in visual characters, in raised characters, and in braille complying with ICC A117.1.

1023.9.2 Signs inside stairway. *Stairway* identification signs, floor-level signs, and *exit discharge* signs shall comply with the following requirements:

1023.9.2.1 Stairway identification signs. A *stairway* identification sign shall be provided at each floor landing in the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* designating the floor level, the terminus of the top and bottom of the *interior exit stairway* or *ramp* and the identification of the *stair* or *ramp*. The signage shall also identify the story of, and the direction to, the *exit discharge* and the availability of roof access from the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* for the fire department. The sign shall be located entirely between 5 feet (1524 mm) and 8 feet (2438 mm) above

the floor landing in a position that is readily visible when the doors are in the open and closed positions and located so that occupants egressing from floors that are more remote from the exit discharge will face the sign frontally at some point in their path of egress.

Exception: *Stairway* identification signs are not required to identify the *story of*, and direction to the *exit discharge* in *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* that connect less than three stories.

1023.9.2.1.1 Signage requirements. *Stairway* identification signs shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. The signs shall be a minimum size of 18 inches (457 mm) by 12 inches (305 mm).
2. The word "STAIR" and the *stair* designation or "RAMP" and the *ramp* designation shall consist of numerals and/or capital letters designating the identification of the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp*. *The characters* shall be a minimum of 1¹/₂ inches (38 mm) in height but not greater than one-third (¹/₃) the height of the floor level identification characters.
3. The numerals or capital letters designating the floor level shall be a minimum of 5 inches (127 mm) in height and located in the center of the sign.
4. All other lettering and numbers shall be a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) in height but not greater than the *stair* or *ramp* identification characters.
5. The directional arrow shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) in length.
6. If the *interior exit stairway* or *ramp* provides access to the roof, the words "FIRE DEPT. ROOF ACCESS" shall be displayed immediately after the *stair* or *ramp* identification.
7. The signs shall identify floor levels, *stairs* and *ramps* by one or more characters, using a designation that is consistent with the floor level, *stair* and *ramp* designations used throughout the building.
8. Characters and their background shall have a non-glare finish. Characters shall contrast with their background, with either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background.

9. The sign shall be of an approved design, and shall be durable and of a material that complies with other sections of the *Construction Codes*. Unless painted on the wall, the sign shall be securely fastened to the structure.

1023.9.2.2 Floor-level signs. In addition to the *stairway* identification sign, a floor-level sign in visual characters, raised characters and braille complying with ICC A117.1 shall be located at each floor-level landing adjacent to the door leading from the *interior exit stairway* and *ramp* into the *corridor* or other building space to identify the floor level.

1023.9.2.3 Exit discharge signs. A sign stating "EXIT" in visual characters, raised characters and braille shall be located adjacent to the door to the *exit discharge* in accordance with Section 1013.4 of the *Building Code*.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 67 DCR 5690 (May 29, 2020 – Part 2).

The *District of Columbia Building Code (2017)*, referred to as the “*Building Code*,” consists of the 2015 edition of the *International Building Code (International Building Code)*, published by the International Code Council (ICC), as amended by the *Building Code Supplement of 2017 (12-A DCMR)*. The *International Building Code* is copyrighted by the ICC and therefore is not republished here. However, a copy of the text may be obtained at: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/document/IBC2015>.