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FAQ

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07-21-2009, 08:17 AM

#1

[lug-nut](#)

Architect

Join Date: Oct 2006

Location: black, unmarked helicopter, ,

Posts: 30,719

[Schematic Design \(3.1\) & Building Layout \(4.0\) FAQ](#)

Schematic Design (3.1) & Building Layout (4.0)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. The program calls for two rooms to be “near”. What is “near”?

A. Always consider the door to door distance. Same half of the same floor should be sufficient. Direct access is not a substitute for “near”.

Q. How many windows should I use, and how big should they be?

A. At least one, and you can add more if it's a large room. Typically 4' to 6' wide is sufficient.

Q. If the program does not specify which floor for a room, does it matter where it goes?

A. For some rooms it will not really matter. The program does require “sound design logic”, so rooms like EM and EE logically belong on the first floor.

Q. How do I achieve “visual control”?

A. Use interior windows, not doors to provide a line-of-sight control of a particular element.

Q. The program does not call for windows in some rooms. Should I add them anyway?

A. You can, but it won't help your score, and you risk adding them where they may be prohibited.

Q. Should I add exit doors from the larger rooms even though the code and program don't require them? I'm concerned about the room capacity.

A. No. The code provided is the only one that applies.

Q. I've seen sample passing solutions with double doors. Are they required?

A. No. Egress capacity is not in the scope of this vignette unless the program says otherwise (unlikely). Many sample passing solutions contain errors, just not fatal ones.

Q. I heard that the toilet rooms must be stacked. Is that true?

A. **No.** It's only a 2 story building. Stacking toilet rooms (developing a core layout) makes sense for multi-story buildings.

Q. Does the practice software have a timer like the real exam?

A. No.

Q. On the actual exam, do they still give the tabs for Codes and Tips, or is it just the Program?

A. The exam will provide codes, tips and the program in the same format as the practice exam. You do not have to memorize the code or tips. Note the real exam may not have the same code or tips. **Read everything provided to you.**

Q. Do door locations at stairs matter? Do I have to worry about headroom issues inside the stair?

A. **There is no sure way to know how NCARB grades door locations in stairs - if at all.** The late Prof. Norman Dorf recommended using a 10x20 stair for entry/exit at the same end and 12x18 for entry/exit at opposite ends. Given a lack of evidence either way, I tend to take a more conservative approach. Floor to floor heights are not given, so we don't really know how stairs would be configured. Since "sound design logic" is a program requirement, you should probably put the entry door to the stairs at the same end on each floor. The NCARB sample passing solution shows entry/exit at the same end, but that does not necessarily mean you have to show them that way. The attached diagram (ARE stair.pdf) explains further.

Q. The program says corridors may not exceed 25% of the program area. Does this include the lobby and stairs?

A. No. The lobby is circulation, but is not a corridor. The program is specific. Take it literally.

Q. I'm concerned about having a dead-end lobby. What if I have one end of my lobby that is more than 20' from an exit?

A. There is no such thing as a dead-end lobby. The code does not refer to dead-end circulation. The code only refers to dead-end corridors. Take the code literally.

Q. Can doorswings cross the building limit line?

A. Yes.

Common Mistakes:

1. **Doors swinging the wrong way.** Doors swing into rooms. Exit doors MUST swing in the direction of egress. If a room is required to have exit doors, **all** doors to the exterior or circulation MUST swing in the direction of egress.

2. Missing wall openings. To connect circulation elements, use the wall opening tool.


Omitting wall openings between circulation elements is likely fatal because it can create

illegal dead-ends.

3. Dead-ends exceeding 20'. Very likely a fatal error.
4. Trying to match the second floor outline to the first floor outline.
5. "island" roof. This is a first floor roof area completely surrounded by second floor elements. Placing a room or corridor there is recommended.

Links:All 4.0 ARE Study Guides

Attached Files

 [ARE_stair.pdf](#) (51.3 KB, 2109 views)

Last edited by lug-nut; 02-02-2011 at 08:13 PM.

 11-29-2009, 06:06 PM
#2 

Coach 
Member

Join Date: Mar 2008
Location: CA, USA
Posts: 20,496

Regarding stair diagram above:

Two assumptions that should not be applied:

- 1) 12" Structure. A 4" deck would suffice.
- 2) 5' CFA. Ncarb code has no such requirement. Only 4' width. Even if you think it unreasonable to go against this, if you merely flip the stair N-S you gain a tread on the lower run.

See: <http://www.areforum.org/forums/pictu...=1&pictureid=2>

Also, if 48" stair is used, and addition tread can be placed between runs.

There is no need to concern yourself over the stair. There's an entire vignette that deal with stairs and this isn't it.

 11-29-2009, 06:54 PM
#3 

lug-nut 
Architect

Join Date: Oct 2006
Location: black, unmarked helicopter, ,
Posts: 30,719

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Coach** 
Regarding stair diagram above:

Two assumptions that should not be applied:

1) 12" Structure. A 4" deck would suffice. A 4" deck is also an assumption. 12" is used in the stair vignette.

2) 5' CFA. Ncarb code has no such requirement. All pull side door clearances are 5' deep according to NCARB. Only 4' width. Even if you think it unreasonable to go against this, if you merely flip the stair N-S you gain a tread on the lower run. Providing 6'-7" clear under the landing.

See: <http://www.areforum.org/forums/pictu...=1&pictureid=2>

Also, if 48" stair is used, and addition tread can be placed between runs. Single treads on landings are a tripping hazard.

There is no need to concern yourself over the stair. There's an entire vignette that deal with stairs and this isn't it.



As stated above. We have no way of knowing if this even matters at all. I choose to take the most conservative approach. It's all opinions, and only NCARB knows what really counts.

11-29-2009, 09:02 PM


#4 



Coach
Member

Join Date: Mar 2008
Location: CA, USA
Posts: 20,496

Originally Posted by **lug-nut** 

Originally Posted by **Coach** 

A 4" deck would suffice.

A 4" deck is also an assumption. 12" is used in the stair vignette.

The stair vignette has nothing to do with this vignette.

2) 5' CFA. Ncarb code has no such requirement.

All pull side door clearances are 5' deep according to NCARB.

I don't see that in this vignette's code.

Only 4' width. Even if you think it unreasonable to go against this, if you merely flip the stair N-S you gain a tread on the lower run.

Providing 6'-7" clear under the landing.

No, providing 11" for landing structure which is more than enough to get the job done.

Also, if 48" stair is used, and addition tread can be placed between runs.

Single treads on landings are a tripping hazard.

Single riser, yes. Single tread (2 risers) is a different story. Regardless, it wouldn't be necessary.

There is no need to concern yourself over the stair. There's an entire vignette that deal with stairs and this isn't it.

As stated in the BL FAQ thread, we have no way of knowing if this even matters at all. I choose to take the most conservative approach. It's all opinions, and only NCARB knows what really counts.

True, but worrying about stair layout is unreasonable & unnecessary. That's reserved for BDCS.

11-29-2009, 09:31 PM

#5



lug-nut
Architect

Join Date: Oct 2006
Location: black, unmarked helicopter, ,
Posts: 30,719



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Coach**

Originally Posted by **lug-nut**

Originally Posted by **Coach**

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As stated in the BL FAQ thread, we have no way of knowing if this even matters at all. I choose to take the most conservative approach. It's all opinions, and only

NCARB knows what really counts.

True, but worrying about stair layout is unreasonable & unnecessary. That's reserved for BDCS.

Given a lack of evidence either way, I'd choose Dorf's recommendation and avoid the issue entirely. That way no assumptions are necessary at all.

Regardless of our differences in opinion, I am glad to have Coach here to review vignettes and help folks pass this exam.

Last edited by lug-nut; 12-27-2009 at 07:22 PM.



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