



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS


Public Safety Services



**INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2013-06**

To: All Life Safety and Property Protection Contractors  
LA Licensed Architects  
LA Licensed Engineers  
All Fire Prevention Bureaus  
Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst Secretary/Plan Review, OSFM  
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Fire Marshal Enforcement/Emergency Services, OSFM  
Stephen Gogreve, Manager, OSFM  
Pat Aronstein, Manager, OSFM  
Boyd Petty, Assistant Chief, Licensing Section  
Plan Review Staff, OSFM

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal 

Date: June 27, 2013

**RE: HORIZONTAL-SLIDING DOOR ASSEMBLIES**

Horizontal-sliding door assemblies are permitted in the means of egress under specific operational provisions prescribed by code. These doors are required to be tested and listed for the appropriate fire rating when intended for installation in fire barrier walls. NFPA 101 permits fire rated door installations in fire barriers where the total combined area of opening protective assemblies does not exceed 25 percent of the area of the fire barrier that is common with any room.

This memorandum is intended to clarify that proposed fire rated horizontal-sliding door assemblies exceeding the 25% fire barrier limitation shall NOT be permitted for installation in fire barrier walls, except in accordance with one of the following conditions:

1. The proposed horizontal-sliding door assembly is evaluated from both directions as an interior "WALL" assembly and assigned a fire resistance rating based on the shorter duration obtained in accordance with ASTM E 119, *Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials*, or ANSI/UL 263, *Standard for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials*, and the horizontal-sliding door assembly is installed in accordance with its listing and the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.
2. The proposed horizontal-sliding door assembly is evaluated for equivalency by FORMAL APPEAL and receives official acceptance for uniquely identified locations. (*Appeal considerations could include, but are not limited to; door size, system activation, closure initiation, emergency power, additional sprinkler protection, signage, automatic and manual emergency operation, egress opening width, operational obstructions, operational tests and record keeping*).

DZ/FLF