



OKLAHOMA

Uniform Building Code Commission Staff Comment Form - [BEBF 32](#)

BEBF Technical Committee

Review of the 2021 Editions of the International Building Code® (IBC®), International Existing Building Code® (IEBC®), International Fire Code®

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Code Change Information

Originating Committee: BEBF 2018

Code Modified: 2018 IBC and 2018 IFC

Original Comment Form Number: SCF-115

Rule Number: 748:20-2-15 (1) & (6); 748:20-4-15 (1) and (6)

Which area of the code (Section, Table, Figure) was revised?

IBC & IFC Chapter 10, Section 1003.4 & 1015.34

Page Number: 2021 IBC 10-2 and 10-30; and 2021 IFC 10-2 and 10-31

Previous change:

1003.4 ~~Slip-resistant surface~~ Floor surface. Circulation paths of the means of egress shall have a slip-resistant surface and be securely attached. Floor surfaces that are a part of a means of egress shall have a solid surface. A floor for this purpose is also defined as the space between a floor surface and a guard if it projects beyond the edge of a floor. Exceptions:

(A) Where approved by the Building Official, openings in floor surfaces shall be a size that does not permit the passage of 1/2-inch-diameter (12.7 mm) sphere. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

(B) Where approved by the Building Official in Group F, H and S occupancies, other than areas of parking structures accessible to the public, openings in the floor surface shall not be prohibited provided a sphere with a diameter of 1 1/8 inches (29 mm) cannot pass through the opening.

1015.4 Opening limitations. Required guards shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter from the walking surface to the required guard height. The 4-inch sphere allowable opening permitted by this section only applies to openings in a vertical plane not openings in floors or similar horizontal surfaces. **Exceptions:**

(A) From a height of 36 inches (914 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm), guards shall not have openings that allow passages of a sphere 4 3/8 inches (111 mm) in diameter.

(B) The triangular openings at the open sides of a stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail shall not allow the passage of a sphere 6 inches (152 mm) in diameter.

(C) At elevated walking surfaces for access to and use of electrical, mechanical or plumbing systems or equipment, guards shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.

(D) In areas that are not open to the public within occupancies in Group I-3, F, H or S, and for alternating tread devices and ship's ladders, guards shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.

(E) In assembly seating areas, guards required at the end of aisles in accordance with Section 1029.17.4 shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter up to a height of 26 inches (660 mm). From a height of 26 inches (660 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent walking surfaces, guards shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 8 inches (203 mm) in diameter.

(F) Within individual dwelling units and sleeping units in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, guards on the open sides of stairs shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere 4 3/8 inches (111 mm) in diameter.

Historical information:

This change was made by the 2018 BEBF committee. The submitter stated the code likely intended to restrict floor openings to any degree but was largely silent on the issue. He noted the stair section had outlined when an opening in a floor surface could exist and he used that language and allowed the AHJ to utilize it if they see fit and it strengthened the concept that a floor surface should be solid. After discussion by the committee on the change that included gaps in the perimeter of the floor where a rail met the floor and that object dropped through it could hurt others below, OSHA toe kick requirements, if there was ever an interpretation issued by ICC, and that the changes would keep a child or someone in a wheelchair from getting stuck in the gap, they decided to approve the proposed language.

The added language is not included in the 2021 code. Staff recommendation is to review and determine if the change should be kept as written, modified and kept or deleted from the code.