

Code Question: Expert Staff Opinions

International Fire Code  
Chapter 10—Means of Egress

SECTION [B] 1003.4  
IBC Interpretation No. 16-08  
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**[B] 1003.4 Floor surface.** Walking surfaces of the means of egress shall have a slip-resistant surface and be securely attached.

RELATED SECTION:

**[B] 1002.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

**EXIT DISCHARGE.** That portion of a means of egress system between the termination of an exit and a public way.

**MEANS OF EGRESS.** A continuous and unobstructed path of vertical and horizontal egress travel from any occupied portion of a building or structure to a public way. A means of egress consists of three separate and distinct parts: the exit access, the exit and the exit discharge.

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**Q:** Do the requirements of Section 1003.4 of the *International Building Code*, for the "Walking surfaces of the means of egress..." apply to the exit discharge?

**A:** Yes. The means of egress includes three separate and distinct parts: the exit access, the exit, and the exit discharge. Therefore, the provisions for the walking surface, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1003.4 of the *International Building Code*, are applicable to all three parts of the means of egress system, including the exit discharge portion.