

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT**

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 05-02

CODE REFERENCE:

NFPA 101 (2003) Section: 14.2.4 Number of Exits (Education Occupancy) and 7.5.4.1 Accessible Means of Egress.

BACKGROUND: Education occupancy requires two accessible exits. Portable classrooms (industrialized buildings) are relocated from school to school as needed by the community. Due to time constraints and site conditions the installation of ramps from each classroom is a hardship.

POLICY: Where each industrialized building is less than 1000 square feet in area with occupant load of less than 50 persons, a group of industrialized buildings shall be considered a single building for purposes of number of required exits. Each industrialized building (classroom) shall exit directly onto a common deck or other all-weather walking surface and shall meet a common path of travel of 75 feet to the choice of two exits from the deck. Two remote accessible exits shall be provided from the common deck. An "Exterior Area for Assisted Rescue" in accordance with IBC, Section 1007.8 (2003 edition) is permitted to be used as one of the accessible means of egress.

JUSTIFICATION: Group of clustered classrooms connected by a deck can be considered a single building thereby treating each industrialized building as a single exit classroom within a "larger building". The use of an "Exterior Area for Assisted Rescue" provides an accessible route to an area located at a temporary safe distance from the building with a reasonable expectation for assistance.

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DATE 7/26/05

FIRE MARSHAL Dk Michael Jone