

FOCUS:

Terminated Stops on Door Frames of Fire Door Assemblies

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Past editions of the IBC were silent as to where door frames with terminated stops (i.e. sanitary stops or hospital stops) were permitted and/or prohibited. The 2021 IBC addresses specific locations where door frames with terminated stops are prohibited: in several applications related to elevator lobby doors and elevator hoistway doors. This clarifies that terminated stops are allowed in other locations where they are not specifically prohibited by the code, including frames that are part of fire door assemblies.

Interior door frames in many buildings have terminated stops, especially – but not only in – health care facilities. Some interior door frames in business occupancies, and other occupancies, may also have terminated stops. However, the IBC did not specifically address whether door assemblies are required to meet the testing requirements of UL1784 when tested without an artificial bottom seal—as required in IBC Sections 405.4.3, 3006.3(3), 3007.6.3, and 3008.6.3—should be prohibited from using door frames with terminated stops.

The 2021 IBC took care of that oversight. By explicitly identifying where door frames with terminated stops are prohibited, door frames with terminated stops would be permitted in other applications. Also, the 2021 IBC defines terminated stops: “Factory feature of a door frame where the stops of the door frame are terminated not more than 6 inches from the bottom of the door frame. Terminated stops are also known as ‘hospital stops’ or ‘sanitary stops’.”

The purpose of terminated stops is to make it easier to clean that area of the floor without the extra corners to catch debris or pathogens, and to avoid getting moveable items caught on the stop.



Door frame with terminated stop.

The applications where door frames with terminated stops are prohibited are:

- IBC 405.4.3 – Doorways in enclosed elevator lobbies of underground buildings
- IBC 3006.3 Item 3 – Doors at elevator hoistway door openings
- IBC 3007.6.3 – Doorways of enclosed fire service access elevator lobbies
- IBC 3008.6.3 – Doorways to occupant evacuation elevator lobbies

DISCLAIMER: BHMA provides this information as a service. Refer to the jurisdiction's building codes and the project requirements. If questions, consult the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).