Submitter: Technical Committee Means of Egress

Recommendation: **7.2.2.3.3** Stair treads shall be uniformly slip resistant over their depth and width.

Statement: This Committee Input is being floated as a trial balloon to solicit public input and permit the technical committee to revisit the issue at its Second Draft preparation meeting. The change is not proposed as a First Revision because a requirement for uniformity in slip resistance on a stair tread might not be practical to enforce strictly. Shortly after installation, and with some use of the tread, the slip resistance will not be uniform over the depth and width of the tread due to uneven wear of the tread surface.

The history of the provision is that the text was lost in editions of the Code subsequent to 1997 when a generalized walking surface provision and associated annex, currently shown as 7.1.6.4 and A.7.1.6.4, were written. Paragraph 7.1.6.4 is being revised to eliminate the need for uniformity in slip resistance of generalized walking surfaces. For stair treads, there’s agreement within the technical committee that the requirement for uniformity of slip resistance should be retained to some degree.

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Submitter: Technical Committee Means of Egress

Recommendation: **7.2.4.3.3** Where a fire barrier provides a horizontal exit in any story of a building, such fire barrier shall not be required on other stories, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

1. The stories on which the fire barrier is omitted are separated from the story with the horizontal exit by construction having a fire resistance rating at least equal to that of the horizontal exit fire barrier.
2. Vertical openings between the story with the horizontal exit and the open fire area story are enclosed with construction having a fire resistance rating at least equal to that of the horizontal exit fire barrier.
3. All required exits, other than horizontal exits, discharge directly to the outside.

Statement: If 7.2.4.3.3(3) is to be deleted, other compensating provisions will need to be added. The subject is presented as a Committee Input (or trial balloon) to solicit comment for the Second Revision preparation phase.

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Submitter: Technical Committee Means of Egress

Recommendation: **A.7.2.2.3.3.3** Regarding the slip resistance of treads, it should be recognized that, when walking up or down stairs, a person’s foot exerts a smaller horizontal force against treads than is exerted when walking on level floors. Therefore, materials used for floors that are acceptable as slip resistant (as described by ASTM F 1637, Standard Practice for Safe Walking Surfaces) provide adequate slip resistance where used for stair treads. Such slip resistance includes the important leading edges of treads, the part of the tread that the foot first contacts during descent, which is the most critical direction of travel. If stair treads are wet, there is an increased danger of slipping, just as there is an increased danger of slipping on wet floors of similar materials. A small wash or drainage slope on exterior stair treads is, therefore, recommended to shed water. (See Templer, J. A., The Staircase: Studies of Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1992.)

Statement: This Committee Input is being floated as a trial balloon to solicit public input and permit the technical committee to revisit the issue at its Second Draft preparation meeting. The text shown is in current A.7.1.6.4 and would be moved to become A.7.2.2.3.3.3 if a requirement for uniform slip resistance on stair treads is added as addressed by another Committee Input trial balloon associated with a new 7.2.2.3.3.3.