



University of Maryland
Fire Marshal's Office
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Stairwell, Corridor and Means of Egress Requirements

The Maryland State Fire Prevention Code COMAR 29.06.01.08 requires that means of egress be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency (NFPA 1 Section 14.4.1). This requirement is enforced by the UMD Fire Marshal's Office in the following manner:

Placement of any item in a corridor on a permanent or temporary basis shall be approved by the UMD Fire Marshal's Office.

Storage or placement of any items in stairwells is strictly prohibited.

The following are prohibited in all corridors and elevator lobbies and will not be considered for approval:

1. Any item which obstructs fire emergency equipment (fire alarm pull stations, sprinklers, fire extinguishers, etc.)
2. Any item which obstructs utility panels, utility valves, or electrical receptacles.
3. Any item that restricts the width of an exit corridor to less than 44 inches.
4. Laboratory procedures which involve transfer or processing of an infectious agent, potentially infectious agent, radioactive material or chemical.
5. Storage or manipulation of ALL chemicals.
6. Manipulation of biological agents or toxins which are assigned to Biosafety Level 2 or higher.
7. Storage or use of compressed gas cylinders and cryogenics vessels.
8. Equipment which would present significant hazards under routine or emergency conditions, such as equipment that uses volatile materials or hazardous chemicals, equipment that may produce steam, excessive heat or aerosols, or equipment with unguarded belts, pulleys and/or gears. Examples of this type of equipment include: scintillation counters, electrophoresis equipment, autoclaves, pumps, incubators, and centrifuges
9. Unapproved workstations (including copiers, office equipment, coffee stations, desks), break areas and waiting areas.
10. Furniture that contains polyurethane foam or other types of combustible padding or stuffing.
11. Combustible materials outside of enclosed cabinets. This includes journals, papers, books and boxes.