

Britt/Makela Group, Inc

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Vestibules (Section 802.3.6)

802.3.6 Vestibules. *A door that separates conditioned space from the exterior shall be protected with an enclosed vestibule, with all doors opening into and out of the vestibule equipped with self-closing devices. Vestibules shall be designed so that in passing through the vestibule it is not necessary for the interior and exterior doors to open at the same time.*

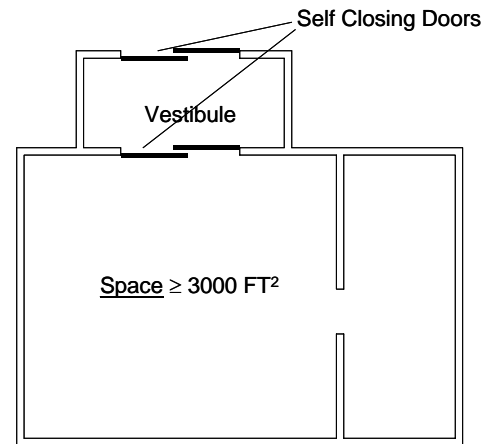
Exceptions:

1. *Buildings in Climate Zones 1a through 4b as indicated in Table 302.1.*
2. *Doors not intended to be used as a building entrance door, such as doors to mechanical or electrical equipment rooms.*
3. *Doors opening directly from a guestroom or dwelling unit.*
4. *Doors that open directly from a space less than 3,000 square feet (298 m²) in area.*
5. *Revolving doors.*
6. *Doors used primarily to facilitate vehicular movement or material handling and adjacent personnel doors.*

Vestibules are required on the primary entrance doors for spaces greater than or equal to 3000 ft². The definition of a “space” is somewhat ambiguous as the only portion of the code that defines a space is within the lighting provisions of the code. If the air from one space communicates directly with a connected space through an opening (as shown below) the square footage of each space can be added together to determine the 3000 square foot limit. This is an informal interpretation to this provision and needs to be clarified in the code.

Vestibules are exempt in the following cases:

- Doors from guest room or dwelling unit
- Revolving doors
- Doors used primarily for vehicular movement, material handling and adjacent personnel doors



Vestibule With Self-Closing Doors