Remediation Interpretation Bulletin – 6.8.1 (Door Swing)

Scope
This interpretation clarifies the application of door swing requirements in section 6.8.1 in the Alliance Fire Safety and Structural Integrity Standard (version 1.1) for factories inspected by the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, its staff, and designated Qualified Assessment Firms and their employees.

Purpose
This interpretation addresses situations in small offices, meeting rooms and other accessory spaces of low hazard use are provided with sliding doors for noise control or privacy.

Alliance Requirements
All doors in a means of egress shall be of the side-hinged swinging type. Roll-down and sliding gates and shutters shall not be allowed. Doors serving an occupant load greater than 50 shall swing in the direction of egress travel. (Section 6.8.1)

Background
Small office areas and meeting rooms located in or near production areas are often equipped with glazed partitions or non-load bearing screens to reduce noise or ensure privacy. Due to space limitations, these enclosures often incorporate sliding doors.

Discussion
Although technically part of the exit access, these doors do not unduly delay, hinder, impede, or obstruct egress when such spaces serve a small number of occupants, typically less than 10. The use of sliding doors in such locations may also prevent the obstruction of aisles or other access ways used by people in adjacent areas having a higher occupant load.

Instructions
1. Confirm spaces served by sliding doors have an occupant load less than 10 people.
2. Verify that people occupying spaces served by sliding doors can ascertain the way of egress travel without opening the door.

Changes
1. Corrected reference to “Quality Assurance Firms” in Scope to read “Qualified Assessment Firms.”

Authority

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