



# OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## Code Interpretation 22-003

Issued: December 13, 2022

## Travel Distance for Catwalks on Sound Stages and Production Facilities

### OVERVIEW

**Code** California Fire Code (CFC) Section 4804.3, California Building Code  
**Section(s):** (CBC) Section 410.5.3.2  
**Edition:** 2019  
**Requested By:** Don Wood, PE, CASp, ICC  
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### QUESTION

Are catwalks, gridirons, and similar areas (defined as technical production areas in CBC Section 202) located within sound stages and approved production facilities subject to the 150-foot travel distance limitation per CFC Section 4804.3, or the 400-foot travel distance limitation prescribed by CBC Section 410.5.3.2 for buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system?

### ANSWER

The 400-foot (maximum) exit access travel distance is applicable to technical production areas located within sound stages and approved production facilities which are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system. Technical production areas are intended for authorized personnel to walk on and occupy for servicing and operating of systems and equipment.

The 150-foot exit access travel distance limitation in CFC Section 4804.3 applies to all occupied spaces in sound stages and approved production facilities that are not restricted to servicing and operating of systems and equipment.