

# OSFM INTERPRETATIONS

**NUMBER:** 02-24

**ADOPTION DATE:** July 10, 2002  
**REVISION DATE:**

**TITLE:** Vending Machines in School Corridors.

**RULE or CODE SECTION:**

Oregon Uniform Fire Code (1998 Edition), Article 12, Section 1203

**CONCERN or ISSUE:**

Many schools in the state are installing vending machines in the exit corridors. Is this an obstruction as per the Oregon Uniform Fire Code or may it be allowed?

**BACKGROUND:**

Vending machines are extremely popular in schools across the nation and provide a very important source of revenue to our schools. Some AHJs in the state have been interpreting Section 1203 to mean absolutely nothing can be placed in the means of egress and others interp this section to mean if it is not obstructing the REQUIRED WIDTH and it does not constitute a fire hazard, then it is acceptable. A request was made to the International Fire Code Institute to see if the original intent of Section 1203 could be obtained from their historical files. IFCI's response was jurisdictions are responsible for the interpretation of the code and are allowed to factor local considerations into their interpretations.

**CONCLUSION:**

If the vending machine does not constitute a fire hazard and the minimum width of the egress path is not diminished then the use may be permitted by the AHJ. Each installation must be reviewed and approved by the local AHJ on a case by case basis.

**Approved by:** R.L Garrison  
State Fire Marshal

**Date:** 09 – 12 – 02