

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2010-25 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2010
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

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Request from: Branislav Cvijetinovic, Prism Engineering, 3605 Gilmore Way, Burnaby, BC V5G4X5.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010, Section 5.4.3.4, regarding vestibules.

Background: ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, Section 5.4.3.4, states requirements for vestibules in buildings and provides related exemptions. Previously, Interpretation IC 90.1-2007-10 clarified the requirements for an identical space either attached to a residential tower or as a stand-alone building. The 2500 ft² “tenant” space would not require a vestibule if attached to a building under Exemption g.

Example: A 13,000 ft² building consists solely of a single story of tenant spaces separated from each other with demising walls, with their own individual entrances, no access between spaces and a separate Roof Top Unit for each space. There are no additional sections to the building other than a Mechanical room and an Electrical room. The building is located in Climate Zone 5. Exemption *f* would not apply in this situation since the building is larger than 1000 ft²; therefore vestibules are required in all building entrances. However, all building entrances are either to “tenant” spaces or a mechanical/electrical room.

Interpretation: A tenant space in the building described above with total floor area less than 3000 ft² would not require a vestibule for its entrances as it falls under Exemption g to Section 5.4.3.4.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: No.

Comments: Exception g only applies to a door that is separate from the building entrance. The definition of a “building entrance” is a doorway that is ordinarily used to gain access to the building. Based on your description, each tenant space has a “building entrance” as it has a doorway that is ordinarily used to gain access to the building. (Note that a building can have multiple “building entrances”. A full block development could well have “building entrances” on all four sides.) Consequently, the entrances to each of the tenant spaces are required to have vestibules in the building which you described. These doors are “building entrances” (they are not “separate from the building entrance”). Thus, these doors do not qualify for exception g.