

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2013-20 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2013  
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

**Date Approved:** October 16, 2020

**Request from:** Jason Ostapchuk, City of Ottawa Building Code Services, 255 Centrum Blvd., Ottawa, Ontario K1E 2K5.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2013, Section 5.4.3.4 Exception 6, regarding entrance vestibules.

**Background:** A 1 story commercial strip mall with multiple suites (units) each with their own entrance door to the exterior. The Exception #6 listed in 5.4.3.4 to omit a vestibule from each entrance seems to imply 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> for the entire building. We want to know if the 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> exemption is related to the building area or the area of each suite.

**Interpretation:** The 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> exemption listed in Exemption # 6 in Section 5.4.3.4 can be applied to a suite that is less than 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> in a building more than 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** No, Exception #6 is for buildings less than 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (100m<sup>2</sup>) located in climate zones 4 thru 8.

**Comments:** However, Exception #7 can be applied to an exterior door (entrance door as opposed to a rear exit or loading dock door) to a 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> (300m<sup>2</sup>) suite in a building with a gross floor area greater than 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> (300m<sup>2</sup>). Also, see the definition of building entrance, which in the case of the tenant suite you describe would be the “entrance” to each space.