

1301:7-7-07**Fire-resistance-rated construction.****(A) Section 701 General**

(1) 701.1 Scope. The provisions of this rule shall specify the requirements for and the maintenance of fire-resistance-rated construction. New buildings shall comply with the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.

(2) 701.2 Unsafe conditions. Where any components in this rule are not maintained and do not function as intended or do not have the fire resistance required by the code under which the building was constructed, remodeled or altered, such component(s) or portion thereof shall be deemed an unsafe condition, in accordance with paragraph (J)(1)(a)(110.1.1) of rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code. Components or portions thereof determined to be unsafe shall be repaired or replaced to conform to that code under which the building was constructed, remodeled, altered or this rule, as deemed appropriate by the fire code official.

Where the extent of the conditions of components is such that any building, structure or portion thereof presents an imminent danger to the occupants of the building, structure or portion thereof, the fire code official shall act in accordance with paragraph (J)(2)(110.2) of rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code.

(B) Section 702 Definitions

(1) 702.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this rule and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

[B] "Draftstop." A material, device or construction installed to restrict the movement of air within open spaces of concealed areas of building components such as crawl spaces, floor/ceiling assemblies, roof/ceiling assemblies and attics.

[B] "Fire-resistant joint system." An assemblage of specific materials or products that are designed, tested and fire-resistance rated in accordance with either ASTM E 1966 or UL 2079 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code to resist for a prescribed period of time the passage of fire through joints made in or between fire-resistance-rated assemblies.

[B] "Fireblocking." Building materials, or materials approved for use as fireblocking, installed to resist the free passage of flame to other areas of the building through concealed spaces.

(C) Section 703 Fire-resistance-rated construction

(1) 703.1 Maintenance. The required fire-resistance rating of fire-resistance-rated

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construction (including walls, firestops, shaft enclosures, partitions, smoke barriers, fire-resistive coatings and sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to structural members and fire-resistant joint systems) shall be maintained. Such elements shall be visually inspected by the owner annually and properly repaired, restored or replaced when damaged, altered, breached or penetrated. Where concealed, such elements shall not be required to be visually inspected by the owner unless the concealed space is accessible by the removal or movement of a panel, access door, ceiling tile or similar movable entry to the space. Openings made therein for the passage of pipes, electrical conduit, wires, ducts, air transfer openings and holes made for any reason shall be protected with approved methods capable of resisting the passage of smoke and fire. Openings through fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be protected by self- or automatic-closing doors of approved construction meeting the fire protection requirements for the assembly.

(a) 703.1.1 Fireblocking and draftstopping. Required fireblocking and draftstopping in combustibile concealed spaces shall be maintained to provide continuity and integrity of the construction.

(b) 703.1.2 Smoke barriers and smoke partitions. Required smoke barriers and smoke partitions shall be maintained to prevent the passage of smoke. All openings protected with approved smoke barrier doors or smoke dampers shall be maintained in accordance with NFPA 105 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.

(2) 703.2 Opening protectives. Opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition in accordance with NFPA 80 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code. Fire doors and smoke barrier doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable. Fusible links shall be replaced promptly whenever fused or damaged. Fire door assemblies shall not be modified.

(a) 703.2.1 Signs. Where required by the fire code official, a sign shall be permanently displayed on or near each fire door in letters not less than 1 inch (25 mm) high to read as follows:

(i) For doors designed to be kept normally open: "FIRE DOOR-DO NOT BLOCK."

(ii) For doors designed to be kept normally closed: "FIRE DOOR-KEEP CLOSED."

(b) 703.2.2 Hold-open devices and closers. Hold-open devices and automatic door closers, where provided, shall be maintained. During the period that such device is out of service for repairs, the door it operates shall remain in the closed position.

(c) 703.2.3 Door operation. Swinging fire doors shall close from the full-open position and latch automatically. The door closer shall exert enough force to close and latch the door from any partially open position.

(3) 703.3 Ceilings. The hanging and displaying of salable goods and other decorative materials from acoustical ceiling systems that are part of a fire-resistance-rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly, shall be prohibited.

(4) 703.4 Testing. Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors shall be inspected and tested annually to confirm proper operation and full closure. A written record shall be maintained and be available to the fire code official.

(D) Section 704 Floor openings and shafts

(1) 704.1 Enclosure. Interior vertical shafts, including but not limited to stairways, elevator hoistways, service and utility shafts, that connect two or more stories of a building shall be enclosed or protected as required in rule 1301:7-7-46 of the Administrative Code. New floor openings in existing buildings shall comply with the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.

(2) 704.2 Opening protectives. When openings are required to be protected, opening protectives shall be maintained self-closing or automatic-closing by smoke detection. Existing fusible-link type automatic door-closing devices are permitted if the fusible link rating does not exceed 135°F (57°C).

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