CHAPTER 7
FIRE AND SMOKE PROTECTION FEATURES

SECTION 718.1
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SECTION 718
CONCEALED SPACES

718.1 General. Fireblocking and draftstopping shall be installed in combustible concealed locations in accordance with this section. Fireblocking shall comply with Section 718.2. Draftstopping in floor/ceiling spaces and attic spaces shall comply with Sections 718.3 and 718.4, respectively. The permitted use of combustible materials in concealed spaces of buildings of Type I or II construction shall be limited to the applications indicated in Section 718.5.

718.2 Fireblocking. In combustible construction, fireblocking shall be installed to cut off concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal) and shall form an effective barrier between floors, between a top story and a roof or attic space. Fireblocking shall be installed in the locations specified in Sections 718.2.2 through 718.2.7.

718.2.2 Concealed wall spaces. Fireblocking shall be provided in concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions, including furred spaces, and parallel rows of studs or staggered studs, as follows:

1. Vertically at the ceiling and floor levels.
2. Horizontally at intervals not exceeding 10 feet (3048mm).

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

SECTION 603
COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL IN TYPE I AND II CONSTRUCTION

603.1 Allowable materials. Combustible materials shall be permitted in buildings of Type I or II construction in the following applications and in accordance with Sections 603.1.1 through 603.1.3:

1. Fire-retardant-treated wood shall be permitted in:
   1.1. Nonbearing partitions where the required fire resistance rating is 2 hours or less.
   1.2. Nonbearing exterior walls where fire-resistant rated construction is not required.
   1.3. Roof construction, including girders, trusses, framing and decking.

Exception: In buildings of Type IA construction exceeding two stories above grade plane, fire-retardant-treated wood is not permitted in roof construction where the vertical distance from the upper floor to the roof is less than 20 feet (6096 mm).

Items 2 thru 5 not shown.

SECTION 703
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS AND FIRE TESTS

703.5.1 Elementary materials. Materials required to be noncombustible shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E 136.

Q: Fire-retardant-treated plywood is being used as the interior finish and installed directly on the metal studs of a nonbearing partition with a fire-resistance rating of 2 hours or less of a Type IIB building. Is fireblocking required in the concealed wall space?
A: Yes.

Fireblocking is required in combustible concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions regardless of the type of construction. Section 603 permits combustible materials in specific applications in Type I and II construction. Section 603.1 Number 1 item #1.1 permits fire-retardant-treated plywood for nonbearing partitions with a fire-resistance rating of 2 hours or less in buildings of Type I or II construction.

Since fire-retardant-treated plywood has not passed the test procedure set forth in ASTM E136, it is considered to be combustible.

As such, a combustible concealed space is formed and fireblocking is required.