

**CHAPTER 7
FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION**

SECTION 705.2
IBC Interpretation No. 31-07
2006 Edition
Issued: 09-26-2007
BU_06_31_07_BAL_01

705.2 Structural stability. Fire walls shall have sufficient structural stability under fire conditions to allow collapse of construction on either side without collapse of the wall for the duration of time indicated by the required fire-resistance rating.



Q: Are building elements, such as plumbing piping, HVAC ducts, and fire sprinkler piping, that are permitted to penetrate a fire wall required to be designed for compliance with the provisions of Section 705.2 for structural stability?

A: Yes. A fire wall must remain wholly intact for the time duration specified. Building elements that are permitted to penetrate a fire wall must be designed and installed such that failure of any building element on either side of a fire wall will not cause premature failure of the fire wall, neither in its entirety or in part.
