

CHAPTER 7 FIRE AND SMOKE PROTECTION FEATURES

SECTION 718.1 2012 Edition IBC Interpretation 18-16 Issued 8-4-2016 BU_12_18_16

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 *fireresistance rating* is 2 hours or less.
 - 1.2. Nonbearing *exterior walls* where fire-resistance 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 combustibile concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions regardless of the type of construction. Section 603 permits combustibile 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 combustibile.

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