

18. Sprayed cementitious and mineral fiber fire-resistance-rated materials installed to comply with Section 1704.11.
19. Materials used to protect penetrations in fire-resistance-rated assemblies in accordance with Section 712.
20. Materials used to protect joints in fire-resistance-rated assemblies in accordance with Section 713.
21. Materials allowed in the concealed spaces of buildings of Type I and II construction in accordance with Section 717.5.
22. Materials exposed within plenums complying with Section 602 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

Q: Are combustible plumbing fixtures, such as water closets and shower and bathtub enclosures, permitted to be installed in buildings of Type I or II construction?

A: Yes. It is not the intent of the *International Building Code* that the combustibility or noncombustibility of plumbing fixtures be a factor that determines the type of construction classification. The *International Plumbing Code* specifies the requirements for plumbing fixtures. There is no distinction made for plumbing fixtures among the various construction types. The combustible plumbing fixtures that are most prevalent must conform to one of the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Z124 standards requiring fixtures to be impregnated with chemicals to retard the contributions that the fixtures would make to combustion.

Q: Are doors and windows that are constructed of combustible materials permitted in noncombustible types of construction?

A: Yes. Doors and windows are not among the elements required to be composed of noncombustible materials in Types I, II, III and IV construction, as described in Sections 602.2, 602.3 and 602.4. When a door or window is not required to be a protected opening, the code does not contain any requirements regulating the use of combustible versus noncombustible materials (see Table 704.8).

Q: Are untreated wood blocking or nailers used to support fixtures, railings, cabinets, interior and exterior finishes, etc., permitted within walls and partitions required to be of noncombustible construction?

A: Yes. Item 15 of Section 603.1 permits combustible nailers and blocking as stipulated in Section 803.4. Section 803.4.1 indicates that "furring strips not exceeding 1.75 inches (44 mm)" are permitted to be used in concrete or masonry construction for securing trim and finish. Although locating these combustible elements within noncombustible frame partitions is not specifically identified in this section, the presence of combustible nailers within noncombustible construction types, other than concrete and masonry, represents an equivalent circum-

stance. Therefore, it is the intent of the code to permit the use of combustible nailers and blocking within Types I and II construction.

Q: Do Items 4 and 15 of Section 603.1 allow the use of combustible wood structural panels or nailing/furring strips in the roof construction of noncombustible buildings for the purposes of fastening steep-slope or low-slope roof coverings?

A: Yes. In accordance with Section 602.2, the roofs of noncombustible buildings are required to be constructed of noncombustible materials. "Roof covering" is defined as the membrane covering the roof which provides weather resistance, fire resistance and appearance. Section 603.1 permits 22 building components to be of combustible materials within the roofs, floors and walls of buildings of noncombustible construction without altering the construction classification. As long as a noncombustible roof deck is provided as the structural element, foam plastic insulation, wood structural panels, nailing/furring strips and roof coverings may be applied.

Q: Can untreated wood studs be substituted for metal studs in a nonload-bearing interior partition of a Type I or II building?

A: No. Section 602.2 states that in buildings of Type I or II construction, the walls, partitions, structure elements, floors, ceilings, roofs and exits are to be composed of noncombustible materials. Exceptions are indicated by Section 603.1

Q: Can a wood frame load-bearing wall be constructed at the inside surface of a complying noncombustible exterior wall in Type III construction?

A: Yes. Section 602.3 permits interior load-bearing walls in Type III construction to be composed of combustible construction. Because the noncombustible exterior wall must develop its weather resistance, structural integrity and fire-resistance rating without relying on the wood frame wall, the code does not regulate the location of the wood frame load-bearing wall within the structure.