

Checklist to Determine the Fire Rating of an Assembly

By: the Fire- and Life-Safety Group (FLS)
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The following is a checklist to determine the fire rating of a wall before any penetration is made through the wall. Please fill in any blanks below to determine the fire-rating and to ensure that any penetration is correctly protected. The back side of this sheet contains applicable code sections to help answer questions and fill in blanks.

YES NO

1. Is there a fire rated door on the wall? (A fire rated door will usually have a label on the end of the door showing the fire-rating or a sticker near the door handles stating "BY ORDER OF THE FIRE MARSHAL THIS DOOR MUST REMAIN SHUT AT ALL TIMES". Another indication is that the door may be on a magnetic holder. Also, check to see if there is glass in the door and if the glass is fire rated, i.e., wired glass)
2. Is there a fire rating on any doors along the assembly? (The rating is located on the hinge side of the door jam and the rating of the assembly is usually more than the door rating) Door rating is _____ minutes. *
3. Are there any fire/smoke dampers present along the assembly? *
4. Are there walls that extend to the structure or ceiling with 1 ¼ inch sheet rock? *
5. For all new buildings refer to the Construction Drawings for the location and type of fire-rated assemblies. Is the building a new building and have the Construction Drawings been checked? *
6. Are any penetrations to be made through or into exit stairs or shaft enclosures? (No penetrations are allowed through an exit stair enclosure)
7. Are any penetrations to be made through exit passageways? (No penetrations are allowed through an exit passageway)
8. Have you determined the boundaries of exit stair enclosures and exit passageway enclosures? (Contact FLS for assistance if needed)
9. Are all penetrations proposed through fire walls, barriers and partitions protected according to IBC 713.3.1.1 and 713.3.1.2? (See code requirements on back)
10. Has the UL System firestopping proposed by the contractor or the design team been reviewed and approved by FLS? (This must occur before any penetration is made)
11. Has a visual inspection of the firestopping been completed by the contractor before calling for an inspection by CU?
12. Has the firestopping been verified as consistent with the submitted UL "System"? (This must occur before any penetration is made)
13. Has evidence, e.g. empty/used container, been gathered to ensure that the proper material, per UL listed system has been used? (This must occur before any penetration is made)
14. The fire rating of the assembly to be penetrated is _____ Hours.
15. If needed please contact FLS for technical assistance.

Note: "Yes" to any of the items marked with an asterisk (*) indicates that the assembly is fire rated.

Summary of Applicable Code Requirements for Fire-Rated Assemblies

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Required fire ratings per the 2009 edition of the *International Building Code* (IBC):

Assembly or Barrier	Required Rating	2009 IBC Reference
– Fire Wall separating a building from others (Parapet through the roof) . . .	3 Hour	Table 706.4
– Fire Barrier in a building assembly (Egress Routes, Stairwells)	2 Hour	Table 707.3.9
– Exit Enclosure – Three story building or less	1 Hour	Section 1022.1
– Exit Enclosure – Four story building or more	2 Hour	Section 1022.1
– Shaft Enclosure – Penetrations are only allowed by items necessary for the purpose of the shaft	2 Hour	Section 708.8.1
– Fire Partitions in a building assembly (Incidental Use)	1 Hour	Section 709.3
– Telephone Room to Corridor – Building Fully Sprinkled	Smoke Seal	Table 1018.1
– Telephone Room to Corridor – Non-sprinkled	1 Hour	Table 1018.1
– Corridor to Office – Building Fully Sprinkled	Smoke Seal	Table 1018.1
– Corridor to Office – Non-sprinkled	1 Hour	Table 1018.1
– Corridor to Dorm – Building Fully Sprinkled	30 Minute	Section 709.3
– Corridor to Dorm – Non-sprinkled	1 Hour	Section 709.3
– Sleeping Unit to Sleeping Unit – Building Fully Sprinkled	30 Minute	Section 709.3
– Sleeping Unit to Sleeping Unit – Non-sprinkled	1 Hour	Section 709.3

Notes:

1. Section 713.3.1.1 of the IBC states that penetrations are to be installed as tested in an approved fire-resistance-rated assembly.
2. Section 713.3.1.2 of the IBC states that through penetrations are to be protected by and approved penetration fire stop system installed and tested in accordance with ASTM E 814 or UL 1479. The firestop system is to have a fire rating of not less than the required fire-resistance rating of the wall penetrated.