

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 21 MASONRY

SECTION 2101 GENERAL

2101.1 Scope.

This chapter shall govern the materials, design, construction and quality of masonry.

2101.2 Design methods.

Masonry shall comply with the provisions of [TMS 402](#), [TMS 403](#) or [TMS 404](#) as well as applicable requirements of this chapter.

2101.2.1 Masonry veneer.

Masonry *veneer* shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 14](#).

2101.3 Special inspection.

The *special inspection* of masonry shall be as defined in [Chapter 17](#), or an itemized testing and inspection program shall be provided that meets or exceeds the requirements of [Chapter 17](#).

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SECTION 2102 NOTATIONS

2102.1 General.

The following notations are used in the chapter:

NOTATIONS.

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| d_b | = | Diameter of reinforcement, inches (mm). |
| F_s | = | Allowable tensile or compressive stress in reinforcement, psi (MPa). |
| f_r | = | Modulus of rupture, psi (MPa). |
| f'_{AAC} | = | Specified compressive strength of AAC masonry, the minimum compressive strength for a class of AAC masonry as specified in TMS 602 , psi (MPa). |
| f'_m | = | Specified compressive strength of masonry at age of 28 days, psi (MPa). |
| f'_{mi} | = | Specified compressive strength of masonry at the time of prestress transfer, psi (MPa). |
| K | = | The lesser of the masonry cover, clear spacing between adjacent reinforcement, or five times d_b , inches (mm). |
| L_s | = | Distance between supports, inches (mm). |
| l_d | = | Required development length or lap length of reinforcement, inches (mm). |
| P | = | The applied load at failure, pounds (N). |
| S_t | = | Thickness of the test specimen measured parallel to the direction of load, inches (mm). |
| S_w | = | Width of the test specimen measured parallel to the loading cylinder, inches (mm). |

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SECTION 2103 MASONRY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

2103.1 Masonry units.

Concrete *masonry units*, clay or shale *masonry units*, stone *masonry units*, glass unit *masonry* and AAC *masonry units* shall comply with Article 2.3 of [TMS 602](#). Architectural cast stone shall conform to [ASTM C1364](#) and [TMS 504](#). Adhered manufactured stone masonry *veneer units* shall conform to [ASTM C1670](#).

Exception: *Structural clay tile* for nonstructural use in fireproofing of structural members and in wall furring shall not be required to meet the compressive strength specifications. The *fire-resistance rating* shall be determined in accordance with [ASTM E119](#) or [UL 263](#) and shall comply with the requirements of [Table 705.5](#).

2103.1.1 Second-hand units.

Second-hand *masonry units* shall not be reused unless they conform to the requirements of new units. The units shall be of whole, sound materials and free from cracks and other defects that will interfere with proper laying or use. Old *mortar* shall be cleaned from the unit before reuse.

2103.2 Mortar.

Mortar for masonry construction shall comply with [Section 2103.2.1](#), [2103.2.2](#), [2103.2.3](#) or [2103.2.4](#).

2103.2.1 Masonry mortar.

Mortar for use in masonry construction shall conform to Articles 2.1 and 2.6 A of [TMS 602](#).

2103.2.2 Surface-bonding mortar.

Surface-bonding mortar shall comply with [ASTM C887](#). Surface bonding of concrete *masonry units* shall comply with [ASTM C946](#).

2103.2.3 Mortars for ceramic wall and floor tile.

Portland cement *mortars* for installing ceramic wall and floor tile shall comply with [ANSI A108.1A](#) and [ANSI A108.1B](#) and be of the compositions indicated in [Table 2103.2.3](#).

TABLE 2103.2.3
CERAMIC TILE MORTAR COMPOSITIONS

| LOCATION | MORTAR | COMPOSITION |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| Walls | Scratchcoat | 1 cement; $\frac{1}{5}$ hydrated lime; 4 dry or 5 damp sand |
| | Setting bed and leveling coat | 1 cement; $\frac{1}{2}$ hydrated lime; 5 damp sand to 1 cement; 1 hydrated lime, 7 damp sand |
| Floors | Setting bed | 1 cement; $\frac{1}{10}$ hydrated lime; 5 dry or 6 damp sand; or 1 cement; 5 dry or 6 damp sand |
| Ceilings | Scratchcoat and sand bed | 1 cement; $\frac{1}{2}$ hydrated lime; $2\frac{1}{2}$ dry sand or 3 damp sand |

2103.2.3.1 Dry-set Portland cement mortars.

Premixed prepared Portland cement *mortars*, which require only the addition of water and are used in the installation of ceramic tile, shall comply with [ANSI A118.1](#). The shear bond strength for tile set in such *mortar* shall be as required in accordance with [ANSI A118.1](#). Tile set in dry-set Portland cement *mortar* shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.5](#).

2103.2.3.2 Latex-modified Portland cement mortar.

Latex-modified Portland cement thin-set *mortars* in which latex is added to dry-set *mortar* as a replacement for all or part of the gauging water that are used for the installation of ceramic tile shall comply with [ANSI A118.4](#). Tile set in latex-modified Portland cement shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.5](#).

2103.2.3.3 Epoxy mortar.

Ceramic tile set and grouted with chemical-resistant epoxy shall comply with [ANSI A118.3](#). Tile set and grouted with epoxy shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.6](#).

2103.2.3.4 Furan mortar and grout.

Chemical-resistant furan *mortar* and grout that are used to install ceramic tile shall comply with [ANSI A118.5](#). Tile set and grouted with furan shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.8](#).

2103.2.3.5 Modified epoxy-emulsion mortar and grout.

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Modified epoxy-emulsion *mortar* and grout that are used to install ceramic tile shall comply with [ANSI A118.8](#). Tile set and grouted with modified epoxy-emulsion *mortar* and grout shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.9](#).

2103.2.3.6 Organic adhesives.

Water-resistant organic adhesives used for the installation of ceramic tile shall comply with [ANSI A136.1](#). The shear bond strength after water immersion shall be not less than 40 psi (275 kPa) for Type I adhesive and not less than 20 psi (138 kPa) for Type II adhesive when tested in accordance with [ANSI A136.1](#). Tile set in organic adhesives shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.4](#).

2103.2.3.7 Portland cement grouts.

Portland cement grouts used for the installation of ceramic tile shall comply with [ANSI A118.6](#). Portland cement grouts for tile work shall be installed in accordance with [ANSI A108.10](#).

2103.2.4 Mortar for adhered masonry veneer.

Mortar for use with *adhered masonry veneer* shall conform to [ASTM C270](#) for Type N or S, or shall comply with [ANSI A118.4](#) for latex-modified Portland cement *mortar*.

2103.3 Grout.

Grout shall comply with Article 2.2 of [TMS 602](#).

2103.4 Metal reinforcement and accessories.

Metal reinforcement and accessories shall conform to Article 2.4 of [TMS 602](#). Where unidentified reinforcement is *approved* for use, not less than three tension and three bending tests shall be made on representative specimens of the reinforcement from each shipment and grade of reinforcing steel proposed for use in the work.

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SECTION 2104 CONSTRUCTION

2104.1 Masonry construction.

Masonry construction shall comply with the requirements of [Sections 2104.1.1](#) and [2104.1.2](#) and with the requirements of either [TMS 602](#) or [TMS 604](#).

2104.1.1 Support on wood.

Masonry shall not be supported on wood girders or other forms of wood construction except as permitted in [Section 2304.13](#).

2104.1.2 Molded cornices.

Unless structural support and anchorage are provided to resist the overturning moment, the center of gravity of projecting masonry or molded *cornices* shall lie within the middle one-third of the supporting wall. Terra cotta and metal *cornices* shall be provided with a structural frame of *approved* noncombustible material anchored in an *approved* manner.

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SECTION 2105 QUALITY ASSURANCE

2105.1 General.

A quality assurance program shall be used to ensure that the constructed masonry is in compliance with the *approved construction documents*.

The quality assurance program shall comply with the inspection and testing requirements of [Chapter 17](#) and [TMS 602](#).

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SECTION 2106 SEISMIC DESIGN

2106.1 Seismic design requirements for masonry.

Masonry structures and components shall comply with the requirements in Chapter 7 of [TMS 402](#) depending on the structure's *seismic design category*.

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SECTION 2107 ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN

2107.1 General.

The design of masonry structures using *allowable stress design* shall comply with [Section 2106](#) and the requirements of Chapters 1 through 8 of [TMS 402](#) except as modified by [Sections 2107.2](#) through [2107.3](#).

2107.2 TMS 402, Section 6.1.6.1.1, lap splices.

As an alternative to Section 6.1.6.1.1, it shall be permitted to design lap splices in accordance with [Section 2107.2.1](#).

2107.2.1 Lap splices.

The minimum length of lap splices for reinforcing bars in tension or compression/ d , shall be:

$$l_d = 0.002d_b f_s$$

(Equation 21-1)

For SI: $l_d = 0.29d_b f_s$

but not less than 12 inches (305 mm). The length of the lapped splice shall be not less than 40 bar diameters.

where:

d_b = Diameter of reinforcement, inches (mm)

f_s = Computed stress in reinforcement due to design loads, psi (MPa).

In regions of moment where the design tensile stresses in the reinforcement are greater than 80 percent of the allowable steel tension stress, F_s , the lap length of splices shall be increased not less than 50 percent of the minimum required length, but need not be greater than 72 d_b . Other equivalent means of stress transfer to accomplish the same 50 percent increase shall be permitted. Where epoxy coated bars are used, lap length shall be increased by 50 percent.

2107.3 TMS 402, Section 6.1.6.1, splices of reinforcement.

Modify Section 6.1.6.1 as follows:

6.1.6.1 – Splices of reinforcement. Lap splices, welded splices or mechanical splices are permitted in accordance with the provisions of this section. Welding shall conform to [AWS D1.4](#). Welded splices shall be of [ASTM A706](#) steel reinforcement. Reinforcement larger than No. 9 (M #29) shall be spliced using mechanical connections in accordance with Section 6.1.6.1.3.

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SECTION 2108 STRENGTH DESIGN OF MASONRY

2108.1 General.

The design of masonry structures using strength design shall comply with [Section 2106](#) and the requirements of Chapters 1 through 7 and Chapter 9 of [TMS 402](#), except as modified by [Sections 2108.2](#) through [2108.3](#).

Exception: AAC masonry shall comply with the requirements of Chapters 1 through 7 and Chapter 11 of [TMS 402](#).

2108.2 TMS 402, Section 6.1.5.1.1, development.

Modify the second paragraph of Section 6.1.5.1.1 as follows:

The required development length of reinforcement shall be determined by Equation (6-1), but shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) and need not be greater than $72 d_b$.

2108.3 TMS 402, Section 6.1.6.1.1, splices.

Modify Sections 6.1.6.1.2 and 6.1.6.1.3 as follows:

6.1.6.1.2 – A welded splice shall have the bars butted and welded to develop not less than 125 percent of the yield strength, f_y , of the bar in tension or compression, as required. Welded splices shall be of [ASTM A706](#) steel reinforcement. Welded splices shall not be permitted in plastic hinge zones of intermediate or special reinforced walls.

6.1.6.1.3 – Mechanical splices shall be classified as Type 1 or 2 in accordance with Section 18.2.7.1 of [ACI 318](#). Type 1 mechanical splices shall not be used within a plastic hinge zone or within a beam-column joint of intermediate or special reinforced masonry shear walls. Type 2 mechanical splices are permitted in any location within a member.

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SECTION 2109 EMPIRICAL DESIGN OF ADOBE MASONRY

2109.1 General.

Empirically designed adobe masonry shall conform to the requirements of Appendix A of [TMS 402](#), except where otherwise noted in this section.

2109.1.1 Limitations.

The use of empirical design of adobe masonry shall be limited as noted in Section A.1.2 of [TMS 402](#). In buildings that exceed one or more of the limitations of Section A.1.2 of [TMS 402](#), masonry shall be designed in accordance with the engineered design provisions of [Section 2101.2](#) or the foundation wall provisions of [Section 1807.1.5](#).

Section A.1.2.2 of [TMS 402](#) shall be modified as follows:

A.1.2.2 – *Wind*. Empirical requirements shall not apply to the design or construction of masonry for buildings, parts of buildings, or other structures to be located in areas where V_{asd} as determined in accordance with [Section 1609.3.1](#) of the *International Building Code* exceeds 110 mph.

2109.2 Adobe construction.

Adobe construction shall comply with this section and shall be subject to the requirements of this code for Type V construction, Appendix A of [TMS 402](#), and this section.

2109.2.1 Unstabilized adobe.

Unstabilized adobe shall comply with [Sections 2109.2.1.1](#) through [2109.2.1.4](#).

2109.2.1.1 Compressive strength.

Adobe units shall have an average compressive strength of 300 psi (2068 kPa) when tested in accordance with [ASTM C67](#). Five samples shall be tested and individual units are not permitted to have a compressive strength of less than 250 psi (1724 kPa).

2109.2.1.2 Modulus of rupture.

Adobe units shall have an average modulus of rupture of 50 psi (345 kPa) when tested in accordance with the following procedure. Five samples shall be tested and individual units shall not have a modulus of rupture of less than 35 psi (241 kPa).

2109.2.1.2.1 Support conditions.

A cured unit shall be simply supported by 2-inch-diameter (51 mm) cylindrical supports located 2 inches (51 mm) in from each end and extending the full width of the unit.

2109.2.1.2.2 Loading conditions.

A 2-inch-diameter (51 mm) cylinder shall be placed at midspan parallel to the supports.

2109.2.1.2.3 Testing procedure.

A vertical *load* shall be applied to the cylinder at the rate of 500 pounds per minute (37 N/s) until failure occurs.

2109.2.1.2.4 Modulus of rupture determination.

The modulus of rupture shall be determined by the equation:

$$f_r = 3 PL_s / [2 S_w (S_t^3)]$$

where, for the purposes of this section only:

(Equation 21-2)

S_w = Width of the test specimen measured parallel to the loading cylinder, inches (mm).

f_r = Modulus of rupture, psi (MPa).

L_s = Distance between supports, inches (mm).

S_t = Thickness of the test specimen measured parallel to the direction of load, inches (mm).

P = The applied *load* at failure, pounds (N).

2109.2.1.3 Moisture content requirements.

Adobe units shall have a moisture content not exceeding 4 percent by weight.

2109.2.1.4 Shrinkage cracks.

Adobe units shall not contain more than three shrinkage cracks and any single shrinkage crack shall not exceed 3 inches (76 mm) in length or $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3.2 mm) in width.

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2109.2.2 Stabilized adobe.

Stabilized adobe shall comply with [Section 2109.2.1](#) for *unstabilized adobe* in addition to [Sections 2109.2.2.1](#) and [2109.2.2.2](#).

2109.2.2.1 Soil requirements.

Soil used for *stabilized adobe* units shall be chemically compatible with the stabilizing material.

2109.2.2.2 Absorption requirements.

A 4-inch (102 mm) cube, cut from a *stabilized adobe* unit dried to a constant weight in a ventilated oven at 212°F to 239°F (100°C to 115°C), shall not absorb more than 1½ percent moisture by weight when placed on a constantly water-saturated, porous surface for seven days. Not fewer than five specimens shall be tested and each specimen shall be cut from a separate unit.

2109.2.3 Allowable stress.

The allowable compressive stress based on gross cross-sectional area of adobe shall not exceed 30 psi (207 kPa).

2109.2.3.1 Bolts.

Bolt values shall not exceed those set forth in [Table 2109.2.3.1](#).

**TABLE 2109.2.3.1
ALLOWABLE SHEAR ON BOLTS IN ADOBE MASONRY**

| DIAMETER OF BOLTS (inches) | MINIMUM EMBEDMENT (inches) | SHEAR (pounds) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1/2 | — | — |
| 5/8 | 12 | 200 |
| 3/4 | 15 | 300 |
| 7/8 | 18 | 400 |
| 1 | 21 | 500 |
| 1 1/8 | 24 | 600 |

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound = 4.448 N.

2109.2.4 Detailed requirements.

Adobe construction shall comply with [Sections 2109.2.4.1](#) through [2109.2.4.9](#).

2109.2.4.1 Number of stories.

Adobe construction shall be limited to buildings not exceeding onestory, except that two-story construction is allowed where designed by a *registered design professional*.

2109.2.4.2 Mortar.

Mortar for *adobe construction* shall comply with [Sections 2109.2.4.2.1](#) and [2109.2.4.2.2](#).

2109.2.4.2.1 General.

Mortar for adobe units shall be in accordance with [Section 2103.2.1](#), or be composed of adobe soil of the same composition and stabilization as the adobe brick units. *Unstabilized adobe* soil mortar is permitted in conjunction with *unstabilized adobe* brick units.

2109.2.4.2.2 Mortar joints.

Adobe units shall be laid with full head and *bed joints* and in full *running bond*.

2109.2.4.3 Parapet walls.

Parapet walls constructed of adobe units shall be waterproofed.

2109.2.4.4 Wall thickness.

The minimum thickness of *exterior walls* in one-story buildings shall be 10 inches (254 mm). The walls shall be laterally supported at intervals not exceeding 24 feet (7315 mm). The minimum thickness of interior *load-bearing walls* shall be 8 inches (203 mm). The unsupported height of any wall constructed of adobe units shall not exceed 10 times the thickness of such wall.

2109.2.4.5 Foundations.

Foundations for *adobe construction* shall be in accordance with [Sections 2109.2.4.5.1](#) and [2109.2.4.5.2](#).

2109.2.4.5.1 Foundation support.

Walls and partitions constructed of adobe units shall be supported by foundations or footings that extend not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above adjacent ground surfaces and are constructed of *solid masonry* (excluding adobe) or concrete. Footings and foundations shall comply with [Chapter 18](#).

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2109.2.4.5.2 Lower course requirements.

Stabilized adobe units shall be used in adobe walls for the first 4 inches (102 mm) above the finished first-floor elevation.

2109.2.4.6 Isolated piers or columns.

Adobe units shall not be used for isolated piers or columns in a load-bearing capacity. Walls less than 24 inches (610 mm) in length shall be considered to be isolated piers or columns.

2109.2.4.7 Tie beams.

Exterior walls and *interior load-bearing walls* constructed of adobe units shall have a continuous tie beam at the level of the floor or roof bearing and meeting the following requirements.

2109.2.4.7.1 Concrete tie beams.

Concrete tie beams shall be 6 inches (152 mm) or more in depth and 10 inches (254 mm) or more in width. Concrete tie beams shall be continuously reinforced with not fewer than two No. 4 reinforcing bars. The specified compressive strength of concrete shall be not less than 2,500 psi (17.2 MPa).

2109.2.4.7.2 Wood tie beams.

Wood tie beams shall be solid or built up of lumber having a nominal thickness of not less than 1 inch (25 mm), and shall have a depth of not less than 6 inches (152 mm) and a width of not less than 10 inches (254 mm). Joints in wood tie beams shall be spliced not less than 6 inches (152 mm). Splices shall not be allowed within 12 inches (305 mm) of an opening. Wood used in tie beams shall be *approved* naturally decayresistant or *preservative-treated wood*.

2109.2.4.8 Exterior finish.

Exterior finishes applied to adobe masonry walls shall be of any type permitted by this section or Chapter 14, except where stated otherwise in this section.

2109.2.4.8.1 Where required.

Unstabilized adobe masonry walls shall receive a weather protective exterior finish in accordance with Section 2109.2.4.8.

2109.2.4.8.2 Vapor permeance.

Plaster and finish assemblies shall have a vapor permeance of not less than 5 perms.

Exception: Insulation products applied to the exterior of *stabilized adobe* masonry walls in Climate Zones 2B, 3B, 4B and 5B shall not have a vapor permeance requirement.

2109.2.4.8.3 Plaster thickness and coats.

Plaster applied to adobe masonry shall be not less than $\frac{7}{8}$ inch (22 mm) and not greater than 2 inches (51 mm) thick. Plaster shall be applied in not less than two coats.

2109.2.4.8.4 Plaster application.

Where plaster is applied directly to adobe masonry walls, no intermediate membrane shall be used.

2109.2.4.8.5 Lath for plaster.

Lath shall be provided for all plasters, except where not required elsewhere in Section 2109.2.4.8. Fasteners shall be corrosion resistant and spaced at a maximum of 16 inches (406 mm) on center with a minimum $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (38 mm) penetration into the adobe wall. Metal lath shall comply with ASTM C1063, as modified by this section, and shall be corrosion resistant. Plastic lath shall comply with ASTM C1788, as modified by this section. Wood substrates shall be protected with No. 15 asphalt felt, an approved wood preservative or other protective coating prior to lath application.

2109.2.4.8.6 Cement plaster.

Cement plaster shall conform to ASTM C926 and shall comply with Chapter 25, except that the proportion of lime in plaster coats shall be not less than 1 part lime to 4 parts cement. The combined thickness of *cement plaster* coats shall not exceed 1 inch (25 mm).

2109.2.4.8.7 Lime plaster.

Lime plaster is any plaster with a binder composed of calcium hydroxide, including Type N or S hydrated lime, hydraulic lime, natural hydraulic lime, or slaked quicklime. Hydrated lime shall comply with ASTM C206. Hydraulic lime shall comply with ASTM C1707. Natural hydraulic lime shall comply with ASTM C141 and EN 459. Quicklime shall comply with ASTM C5.

2109.2.4.8.8 Cement-lime plaster.

Cement-lime plaster shall be any plaster mix type CL, F or FL, as described in ASTM C926.

2109.2.4.8.9 Clay plaster.

Clay plaster shall comply with this section.

2109.2.4.8.9.1 General.

Clay plaster shall be any plaster having a clay or clay subsoil binder. Such plaster shall contain sufficient clay to fully bind

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the aggregate and shall be permitted to contain reinforcing fibers. Acceptable reinforcing fibers include chopped straw, sisal, and animal hair.

2109.2.4.8.9.2 Clay subsoil requirements.

The suitability of clay subsoil shall be determined in accordance with the Figure 2 Ribbon Test and the Figure 3 Ball Test in the appendix of ASTM E2392/E2392M.

2109.2.4.8.9.3 Weather-exposed locations.

Clay plaster exposed to water from direct or wind-driven rain or snow shall be finished with an approved erosion-resistant finish. The use of clay plasters shall not be permitted on weather-exposed parapets.

2109.2.4.8.9.4 Prohibited finish coat.

Plaster containing Portland cement shall not be permitted as a finish over clay plaster.

2109.2.4.8.9.5 Conditions where lathing is not required.

For *unstabilized adobe* walls finished with unstabilized clay plaster, lathing shall not be required.

2109.2.4.9 Lintels.

Lintels shall be considered to be structural members and shall be designed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 16.

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SECTION 2110 GLASS UNIT MASONRY

2110.1 General.

Glass unit masonry construction shall comply with Chapter 13 of [TMS 402](#) and this section.

2110.1.1 Limitations.

Solid or hollow *approved* glass block shall not be used in *fire walls*, party walls, fire barriers, *fire partitions* or *smoke barriers*, or for load-bearing construction. Such blocks shall be erected with *mortar* and reinforcement in metal channel-type frames, structural frames, masonry or concrete recesses, embedded panel anchors as provided for both exterior and interior walls or other *approved* joint materials. Wood strip framing shall not be used in walls required to have a *fire-resistance rating* by other provisions of this code.

Exceptions:

1. Glass-block assemblies having a *fire protection rating* of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ hour shall be permitted as opening protectives in accordance with [Section 716](#) in *fire barriers*, *fire partitions* and *smoke barriers* that have a required *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour or less and do not enclose exit stairways and ramps or exit passageways.
2. Glass-block assemblies as permitted in [Section 404.6](#), Exception 2.

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SECTION 2111 MASONRY FIREPLACES

2111.1 General.

The construction of masonry fireplaces, consisting of concrete or masonry, shall be in accordance with this section.

2111.2 Fireplace drawings.

The *construction documents* shall describe in sufficient detail the location, size and construction of masonry fireplaces. The thickness and characteristics of materials and the clearances from walls, partitions and ceilings shall be indicated.

2111.3 Footings and foundations.

Footings for masonry fireplaces and their chimneys shall be constructed of concrete or *solid masonry* not less than 12 inches (305 mm) thick and shall extend not less than 6 inches (153 mm) beyond the face of the fireplace or foundation wall on all sides. Footings shall be founded on natural undisturbed earth or engineered fill below frost depth. In areas not subjected to freezing, footings shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) below finished grade.

2111.3.1 Ash dump cleanout.

Cleanout openings, located within foundation walls below fireboxes, where provided, shall be equipped with ferrous metal or masonry doors and frames constructed to remain tightly closed, except when in use. Cleanouts shall be accessible and located so that ash removal will not create a hazard to combustible materials.

2111.4 Seismic reinforcement.

In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category A* or *B*, seismic reinforcement is not required. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C* or *D*, masonry fireplaces shall be reinforced and anchored in accordance with [Sections 2111.4.1](#), [2111.4.2](#) and [2111.5](#). In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category E* or *F*, masonry fireplaces shall be reinforced in accordance with the requirements of [Sections 2101](#) through [2108](#).

2111.4.1 Vertical reinforcing.

For fireplaces with chimneys up to 40 inches (1016 mm) wide, four No. 4 continuous vertical bars, anchored in the foundation, shall be placed in the concrete between *wythes* of *solid masonry* or within the *cells* of hollow unit masonry and grouted in accordance with [Section 2103.3](#). For fireplaces with chimneys greater than 40 inches (1016 mm) wide, two additional No. 4 vertical bars shall be provided for each additional 40 inches (1016 mm) in width or fraction thereof.

2111.4.2 Horizontal reinforcing.

Vertical reinforcement shall be placed enclosed within $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.4 mm) ties or other reinforcing of equivalent net cross-sectional area, spaced not to exceed 18 inches (457 mm) on center in concrete; or placed in the *bed joints* of unit masonry at not less than every 18 inches (457 mm) of vertical height. Two such ties shall be provided at each bend in the vertical bars.

2111.5 Seismic anchorage.

Masonry fireplaces and foundations shall be anchored at each floor, ceiling or roof line more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above grade with two $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch by 1-inch (4.8 mm by 25 mm) straps embedded not less than 12 inches (305 mm) into the chimney. Straps shall be hooked around the outer bars and extend 6 inches (152 mm) beyond the bend. Each strap shall be fastened to not fewer than four floor joists with two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (12.7 mm) bolts.

Exception: Seismic anchorage is not required for the following:

1. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category A* or *B*.
2. Where the masonry fireplace is constructed completely within the *exterior walls*.

2111.6 Firebox walls.

Masonry fireboxes shall be constructed of *solid masonry units*, hollow *masonry units* grouted solid, stone or concrete. Where a lining of firebrick not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in thickness or other *approved* lining is provided, the minimum thickness of back and sidewalls shall each be 8 inches (203 mm) of *solid masonry*, including the lining. The width of joints between firebricks shall be not greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6.4 mm). Where a lining is not provided, the total minimum thickness of back and sidewalls shall be 10 inches (254 mm) of *solid masonry*. Firebrick shall conform to [ASTM C27](#) or [ASTM C1261](#) and shall be laid with medium-duty refractory *mortar* conforming to [ASTM C199](#).

2111.6.1 Steel fireplace units.

Steel fireplace units are permitted to be installed with *solid masonry* to form a masonry fireplace provided that they are installed according to either the requirements of their listing or the requirements of this section. Steel fireplace units incorporating a steel firebox lining shall be constructed with steel not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6.4 mm) in thickness, and an air-circulating chamber that is ducted to the interior of the building. The firebox lining shall be encased with *solid masonry* to

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provide a total thickness at the back and sides of not less than 8 inches (203 mm), of which not less than 4 inches (102 mm) shall be of *solid masonry* or concrete. Circulating air ducts employed with steel fireplace units shall be constructed of metal or masonry.

2111.7 Firebox dimensions.

The firebox of a concrete or masonry fireplace shall have a minimum depth of 20 inches (508 mm). The throat shall be not less than 8 inches (203 mm) above the fireplace opening. The throat opening shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in depth. The cross-sectional area of the passageway above the firebox, including the throat, damper and smoke chamber, shall be not less than the cross-sectional area of the flue.

Exception: Rumford fireplaces shall be permitted provided that the depth of the fireplace is not less than 12 inches (305 mm) and not less than one-third of the width of the fireplace opening, and the throat is not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above the lintel, and not less than $\frac{1}{20}$ the cross-sectional area of the fireplace opening.

2111.8 Lintel and throat.

Masonry over a fireplace opening shall be supported by a lintel of noncombustible material. The minimum required bearing length on each end of the fireplace opening shall be 4 inches (102 mm). The *fireplace throat* or damper shall be located not less than 8 inches (203 mm) above the top of the fireplace opening.

2111.8.1 Damper.

Masonry fireplaces shall be equipped with a ferrous metal damper located not less than 8 inches (203 mm) above the top of the fireplace opening. Dampers shall be installed in the fireplace or at the top of the flue venting the fireplace, and shall be operable from the room containing the fireplace. Damper controls shall be permitted to be located in the fireplace.

2111.9 Smoke chamber walls.

Smoke chamber walls shall be constructed of solid *masonry units*, hollow *masonry units* grouted solid, stone or concrete. The total minimum thickness of front, back and sidewalls shall be 8 inches (203 mm) of *solid masonry*. The inside surface shall be parged smooth with refractory mortar conforming to [ASTM C199](#). Where a lining of firebrick not less than 2 inches (51 mm) thick, or a lining of vitrified clay not less than $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (15.9 mm) thick, is provided, the total minimum thickness of front, back and sidewalls shall be 6 inches (152 mm) of *solid masonry*, including the lining. Firebrick shall conform to [ASTM C1261](#) and shall be laid with refractory *mortar* conforming to [ASTM C199](#). Vitrified clay linings shall conform to [ASTM C315](#).

2111.9.1 Smoke chamber dimensions.

The inside height of the smoke chamber from the *fireplace throat* to the beginning of the flue shall be not greater than the inside width of the fireplace opening. The inside surface of the smoke chamber shall not be inclined more than 45 degrees (0.76 rad) from vertical where prefabricated smoke chamber linings are used or where the smoke chamber walls are rolled or sloped rather than corbeled. Where the inside surface of the smoke chamber is formed by corbeled masonry, the walls shall not be corbeled more than 30 degrees (0.52 rad) from vertical.

2111.10 Hearth and hearth extension.

Masonry fireplace hearths and hearth extensions shall be constructed of concrete or masonry, supported by noncombustible materials, and reinforced to carry their own weight and all imposed *loads*. Combustible material shall not remain against the underside of hearths or hearth extensions after construction.

2111.10.1 Hearth thickness.

The minimum thickness of fireplace hearths shall be 4 inches (102 mm).

2111.10.2 Hearth extension thickness.

The minimum thickness of hearth extensions shall be 2 inches (51 mm).

Exception: Where the bottom of the firebox opening is raised not less than 8 inches (203 mm) above the top of the hearth extension, a hearth extension of not less than $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-thick (9.5 mm) brick, concrete, stone, tile or other *approved* noncombustible material is permitted.

2111.11 Hearth extension dimensions.

Hearth extensions shall extend not less than 16 inches (406 mm) in front of, and not less than 8 inches (203 mm) beyond, each side of the fireplace opening. Where the fireplace opening is 6 square feet (0.557 m²) or larger, the hearth extension shall extend not less than 20 inches (508 mm) in front of, and not less than 12 inches (305 mm) beyond, each side of the fireplace opening.

2111.12 Fireplace clearance.

Any portion of a masonry fireplace located in the interior of a building or within the *exterior wall* of a building shall have a clearance to combustibles of not less than 2 inches (51 mm) from the front faces and sides of masonry fireplaces and not less than 4 inches (102 mm) from the back faces of masonry fireplaces. The airspace shall not be filled, except to provide

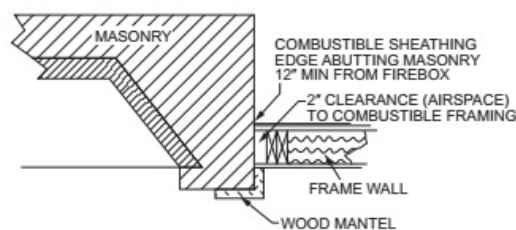
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fireblocking in accordance with [Section 2111.13](#).

Exceptions:

1. Masonry fireplaces *listed* and *labeled* for use in contact with combustibles in accordance with [UL 127](#) and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions are permitted to have combustible material in contact with their exterior surfaces.
2. Where masonry fireplaces are constructed as part of masonry or concrete walls, combustible materials shall not be in contact with the masonry or concrete walls less than 12 inches (306 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest firebox lining.
3. Exposed combustible *trim* and the edges of sheathing materials, such as wood siding, flooring and drywall, are permitted to abut the masonry fireplace sidewalls and hearth extension, in accordance with [Figure 2111.12](#), provided that such combustible *trim* or sheathing is not less than 12 inches (306 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest firebox lining.
4. Exposed combustible mantels or *trim* is permitted to be placed directly on the masonry fireplace front surrounding the fireplace opening, provided that such combustible materials shall not be placed within 6 inches (153 mm) of a fireplace opening. Combustible material directly above and within 12 inches (305 mm) of the fireplace opening shall not project more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3.2 mm) for each 1-inch (25 mm) distance from such opening. Combustible materials located along the sides of the fireplace opening that project more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (38 mm) from the face of the fireplace shall have an additional clearance equal to the projection.



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm

FIGURE 2111.12
ILLUSTRATION OF EXCEPTION TO FIREPLACE CLEARANCE PROVISION

2111.13 Fireplace fireblocking.

All spaces between fireplaces and floors and ceilings through which fireplaces pass shall be fireblocked with noncombustible material securely fastened in place. The *fireblocking* of spaces between wood joists, beams or headers shall be to a depth of 1 inch (25 mm) and shall only be placed on strips of metal or metal lath laid across the spaces between combustible material and the chimney.

2111.14 Exterior air.

Factory-built or masonry fireplaces covered in this section shall be equipped with an exterior air supply to ensure proper fuel combustion unless the room is mechanically ventilated and controlled so that the indoor pressure is neutral or positive.

2111.14.1 Factory-built fireplaces.

Exterior combustion air ducts for factory-built fireplaces shall be *listed* components of the fireplace, and installed according to the fireplace manufacturer's instructions.

2111.14.2 Masonry fireplaces.

Listed combustion air ducts for masonry fireplaces shall be installed according to the terms of their listing and manufacturer's instructions.

2111.14.3 Exterior air intake.

The exterior air intake shall be capable of providing all combustion air from the exterior of the *dwelling*. The exterior air intake shall not be located within a garage, *attic*, *basement* or crawl space of the *dwelling* nor shall the air intake be located at an elevation higher than the firebox. The exterior air intake shall be covered with a corrosion-resistant screen of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.4 mm) mesh.

2111.14.4 Clearance.

Unlisted combustion air ducts shall be installed with a minimum 1-inch (25 mm) clearance to combustibles for all parts of the duct within 5 feet (1524 mm) of the duct outlet.

2111.14.5 Passageway.

The combustion air passageway shall be not less than 6 square inches (3870 mm²) and not more than 55 square inches

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(0.035 m²), except that combustion air systems for *listed* fireplaces or for fireplaces tested for emissions shall be constructed according to the fireplace manufacturer's instructions.

2111.14.6 Outlet.

The exterior air outlet is permitted to be located in the back or sides of the firebox chamber or within 24 inches (610 mm) of the firebox opening on or near the floor. The outlet shall be closable and designed to prevent burning material from dropping into concealed combustible spaces.

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CHAPTER 21 MASONRY

SECTION 2112 MASONRY HEATERS

2112.1 Definition.

A masonry heater is a heating appliance constructed of concrete or *solid masonry*, hereinafter referred to as “masonry,” which is designed to absorb and store heat from a solid fuel fire built in the firebox by routing the exhaust gases through internal heat exchange channels in which the flow path downstream of the firebox includes flow in either a horizontal or downward direction before entering the chimney and which delivers heat by radiation from the masonry surface of the heater.

2112.2 Installation.

Masonry heaters shall be installed in accordance with this section and comply with one of the following:

1. Masonry heaters shall comply with the requirements of [ASTM E1602](#).
2. Masonry heaters shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 1482](#) or [EN 15250](#) and installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

2112.3 Footings and foundation.

The firebox floor of a masonry heater shall be a minimum thickness of 4 inches (102 mm) of noncombustible material and be supported on a noncombustible footing and foundation in accordance with [Section 2113.2](#).

2112.4 Seismic reinforcing.

In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* D, E or F, masonry heaters shall be anchored to the masonry foundation in accordance with [Section 2113.3](#). Seismic reinforcing shall not be required within the body of a masonry heater with a height that is equal to or less than 3.5 times its body width and where the masonry chimney serving the heater is not supported by the body of the heater. Where the masonry chimney shares a common wall with the facing of the masonry heater, the chimney portion of the structure shall be reinforced in accordance with [Section 2113](#).

2112.5 Masonry heater clearance.

Combustible materials shall not be placed within 36 inches (914 mm) or the distance of the allowed reduction method from the outside surface of a masonry heater in accordance with [NFPA 211](#), Section 12.6, and the required space between the heater and combustible material shall be fully vented to permit the free flow of air around all heater surfaces.

Exceptions:

1. Where the masonry heater wall thickness is not less than 8 inches (203 mm) of *solid masonry* and the wall thickness of the heat exchange channels is not less than 5 inches (127 mm) of *solid masonry*, combustible materials shall not be placed within 4 inches (102 mm) of the outside surface of a masonry heater. A clearance of not less than 8 inches (203 mm) shall be provided between the gas-tight capping slab of the heater and a combustible ceiling.
2. Masonry heaters *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 1482](#) or [EN 15250](#) and installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 21 MASONRY

SECTION 2113 MASONRY CHIMNEYS

2113.1 General.

The construction of masonry chimneys consisting of solid *masonry units*, hollow *masonry units* grouted solid, stone or concrete shall be in accordance with this section.

2113.2 Footings and foundations.

Footings for masonry chimneys shall be constructed of concrete or *solid masonry* not less than 12 inches (305 mm) thick and shall extend not less than 6 inches (152 mm) beyond the face of the foundation or support wall on all sides. Footings shall be founded on natural undisturbed earth or engineered fill below frost depth. In areas not subjected to freezing, footings shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) below finished grade.

2113.3 Seismic reinforcement.

In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category A* or *B*, seismic reinforcement is not required. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C* or *D*, masonry chimneys shall be reinforced and anchored in accordance with [Sections 2113.3.1](#), [2113.3.2](#) and [2113.4](#). In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category E* or *F*, masonry chimneys shall be reinforced in accordance with the requirements of [Sections 2101](#) through [2108](#) and anchored in accordance with [Section 2113.4](#).

2113.3.1 Vertical reinforcement.

For chimneys up to 40 inches (1016 mm) wide, four No. 4 continuous vertical bars anchored in the foundation shall be placed in the concrete between *wythes* of *solid masonry* or within the *cells* of hollow unit masonry and grouted in accordance with [Section 2103.3](#). Grout shall be prevented from bonding with the flue liner so that the flue liner is free to move with thermal expansion. For chimneys greater than 40 inches (1016 mm) wide, two additional No. 4 vertical bars shall be provided for each additional 40 inches (1016 mm) in width or fraction thereof.

2113.3.2 Horizontal reinforcement.

Vertical reinforcement shall be placed enclosed within $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.4 mm) ties, or other reinforcing of equivalent net cross-sectional area, spaced not to exceed 18 inches (457 mm) on center in concrete, or placed in the *bed joints* of unit masonry, at not less than every 18 inches (457 mm) of vertical height. Two such ties shall be provided at each bend in the vertical bars.

2113.4 Seismic anchorage.

Masonry chimneys and foundations shall be anchored at each floor, ceiling or roof line more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above grade with two $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch by 1-inch (4.8 mm by 25 mm) straps embedded not less than 12 inches (305 mm) into the chimney. Straps shall be hooked around the outer bars and extend 6 inches (152 mm) beyond the bend. Each strap shall be fastened to not less than four floor joists with two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (12.7 mm) bolts.

Exception: Seismic anchorage is not required for the following:

1. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category A* or *B*.
2. Where the masonry fireplace is constructed completely within the *exterior walls*.

2113.5 Corbeling.

Masonry chimneys shall not be corbeled more than half of the chimney's wall thickness from a wall or foundation, nor shall a chimney be corbeled from a wall or foundation that is less than 12 inches (305 mm) in thickness unless it projects equally on each side of the wall, except that on the second *story* of a two-story *dwelling*, corbeling of chimneys on the exterior of the enclosing walls is permitted to equal the wall thickness. The projection of a single course shall not exceed one-half the unit height or one-third of the unit bed depth, whichever is less.

2113.6 Changes in dimension.

The chimney wall or chimney flue lining shall not change in size or shape within 6 inches (152 mm) above or below where the chimney passes through floor components, ceiling components or roof components.

2113.7 Offsets.

Where a masonry chimney is constructed with a fireclay flue liner surrounded by one *wythe* of masonry, the maximum offset shall be such that the centerline of the flue above the offset does not extend beyond the center of the chimney wall below the offset. Where the chimney offset is supported by masonry below the offset in an *approved* manner, the maximum offset limitations shall not apply. Each individual corbeled masonry course of the offset shall not exceed the projection limitations specified in [Section 2113.5](#).

2113.8 Additional load.

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Chimneys shall not support *loads* other than their own weight unless they are designed and constructed to support the additional *load*. Masonry chimneys are permitted to be constructed as part of the masonry walls or concrete walls of the building.

2113.9 Termination.

Chimneys shall extend not less than 2 feet (610 mm) higher than any portion of the building within 10 feet (3048 mm), but shall be not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above the highest point where the chimney passes through the roof.

2113.9.1 Chimney caps.

Masonry chimneys shall have a concrete, metal or stone cap, sloped to shed water, a drip edge and a caulked bond break around any flue liners in accordance with [ASTM C1283](#).

2113.9.2 Spark arrestors.

Where a spark arrestor is installed on a masonry chimney, the spark arrestor shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. The net free area of the arrestor shall be not less than four times the net free area of the outlet of the chimney flue it serves.
2. The arrestor screen shall have heat and *corrosion resistance* equivalent to 19-gage galvanized steel or 24-gage stainless steel.
3. Openings shall not permit the passage of spheres having a diameter greater than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) nor block the passage of spheres having a diameter less than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (9.5 mm).
4. The spark arrestor shall be accessible for cleaning and the screen or chimney cap shall be removable to allow for cleaning of the chimney flue.

2113.9.3 Rain caps.

Where a masonry or metal rain cap is installed on a masonry chimney, the net free area under the cap shall be not less than four times the net free area of the outlet of the chimney flue it serves.

2113.10 Wall thickness.

Masonry chimney walls shall be constructed of concrete, solid *masonry units* or hollow *masonry units* grouted solid with not less than 4 inches (102 mm) nominal thickness.

2113.10.1 Masonry veneer chimneys.

Where masonry is used as *veneer* for a framed chimney, through flashing and weep holes shall be provided as required by [Chapter 14](#).

2113.11 Flue lining (material).

Masonry chimneys shall be lined. The lining material shall be appropriate for the type of appliance connected, according to the terms of the appliance listing and the manufacturer's instructions.

2113.11.1 Residential-type appliances (general).

Flue lining systems shall comply with one of the following:

1. Clay flue lining complying with the requirements of [ASTM C315](#).
2. *Listed* chimney lining systems complying with [UL 1777](#).
3. Factory-built chimneys or chimney units *listed* for installation within masonry chimneys.
4. Other *approved* materials that will resist corrosion, erosion, softening or cracking from flue gases and condensate at temperatures up to 1,800°F (982°C).

2113.11.1.1 Flue linings for specific appliances.

Flue linings other than those covered in [Section 2113.11.1](#) intended for use with specific appliances shall comply with [Sections 2113.11.1.2](#) through [2113.11.1.4](#), [2113.11.2](#) and [2113.11.3](#).

2113.11.1.2 Gas appliances.

Flue lining systems for gas appliances shall be in accordance with the [International Fuel Gas Code](#).

2113.11.1.3 Pellet fuel-burning appliances.

Flue lining and vent systems for use in masonry chimneys with pellet fuel-burning appliances shall be limited to flue lining systems complying with [Section 2113.11.1](#) and pellet vents *listed* for installation within masonry chimneys (see [Section 2113.11.1.5](#) for marking).

2113.11.1.4 Oil-fired appliances approved for use with L-vent.

Flue lining and vent systems for use in masonry chimneys with oil-fired appliances *approved* for use with Type L vent shall be limited to flue lining systems complying with [Section 2113.11.1](#) and *listed* chimney liners complying with [UL 641](#) (see [Section 2113.11.1.5](#) for marking).

2113.11.1.5 Notice of usage.

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When a flue is relined with a material not complying with [Section 2113.11.1](#), the chimney shall be plainly and permanently identified by a *label* attached to a wall, ceiling or other conspicuous location adjacent to where the connector enters the chimney. The *label* shall include the following message or equivalent language: "This chimney is for use only with (type or category of appliance) that burns (type of fuel). Do not connect other types of appliances."

2113.11.2 Concrete and masonry chimneys for medium-heat appliances.

Concrete and masonry chimneys for medium-heat appliances shall comply with [Sections 2113.11.2.1](#) through [2113.11.2.5](#).

2113.11.2.1 Construction.

Chimneys for medium-heat appliances shall be constructed of solid *masonry units* or of concrete with walls not less than 8 inches (203 mm) thick, or with stone masonry not less than 12 inches (305 mm) thick.

2113.11.2.2 Lining.

Concrete and masonry chimneys shall be lined with an *approved* medium-duty refractory brick not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches (114 mm) thick laid on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bed (114 mm) in an *approved* medium-duty refractory *mortar*. The lining shall start 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the lowest chimney connector entrance. Chimneys terminating 25 feet (7620 mm) or less above a chimney connector entrance shall be lined to the top.

2113.11.2.3 Multiple passageway.

Concrete and masonry chimneys containing more than one passageway shall have the liners separated by a minimum 4-inch-thick (102 mm) concrete or *solid masonry* wall.

2113.11.2.4 Termination height.

Concrete and masonry chimneys for medium-heat appliances shall extend not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) higher than any portion of any building within 25 feet (7620 mm).

2113.11.2.5 Clearance.

A minimum clearance of 4 inches (102 mm) shall be provided between the exterior surfaces of a concrete or masonry chimney for medium-heat appliances and combustible material.

2113.11.3 Concrete and masonry chimneys for high-heat appliances.

Concrete and masonry chimneys for high-heat appliances shall comply with [2113.11.3.1](#) through [2113.11.3.4](#).

2113.11.3.1 Construction.

Chimneys for high-heat appliances shall be constructed with double walls of solid *masonry units* or of concrete, each wall to be not less than 8 inches (203 mm) thick with a minimum airspace of 2 inches (51 mm) between the walls.

2113.11.3.2 Lining.

The inside of the interior wall shall be lined with an *approved* high-duty refractory brick, not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches (114 mm) thick laid on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bed (114 mm) in an *approved* high-duty refractory *mortar*. The lining shall start at the base of the chimney and extend continuously to the top.

2113.11.3.3 Termination height.

Concrete and masonry chimneys for high-heat appliances shall extend not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) higher than any portion of any building within 50 feet (15 240 mm).

2113.11.3.4 Clearance.

Concrete and masonry chimneys for high-heat appliances shall have *approved* clearance from buildings and structures to prevent overheating combustible materials, permit inspection and maintenance operations on the chimney and prevent danger of burns to persons.

2113.12 Clay flue lining (installation).

Clay flue liners shall be installed in accordance with [ASTM C1283](#) and extend from a point not less than 8 inches (203 mm) below the lowest inlet or, in the case of fireplaces, from the top of the smoke chamber to a point above the enclosing walls. The lining shall be carried up vertically, with a maximum slope not greater than 30 degrees (0.52 rad) from the vertical.

Clay flue liners shall be laid in medium-duty nonwatersoluble refractory *mortar* conforming to [ASTM C199](#) with tight *mortar* joints left smooth on the inside and installed to maintain an airspace or insulation not to exceed the thickness of the flue liner separating the flue liners from the interior face of the chimney masonry walls. Flue lining shall be supported on all sides. Only enough *mortar* shall be placed to make the joint and hold the liners in position.

2113.13 Additional requirements.

2113.13.1 Listed materials.

Listed materials used as flue linings shall be installed in accordance with the terms of their listings and the manufacturer's instructions.

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2113.13.2 Space around lining.

The space surrounding a chimney lining system or vent installed within a masonry chimney shall not be used to vent any other appliance.

Exception: This shall not prevent the installation of a separate flue lining in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

2113.14 Multiple flues.

Where two or more flues are located in the same chimney, masonry wythes shall be built between adjacent flue linings. The masonry wythes shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) thick and bonded into the walls of the chimney.

Exception: Where venting only one appliance, two flues are permitted to adjoin each other in the same chimney with only the flue lining separation between them. The joints of the adjacent flue linings shall be staggered not less than 4 inches (102 mm).

2113.15 Flue area (appliance).

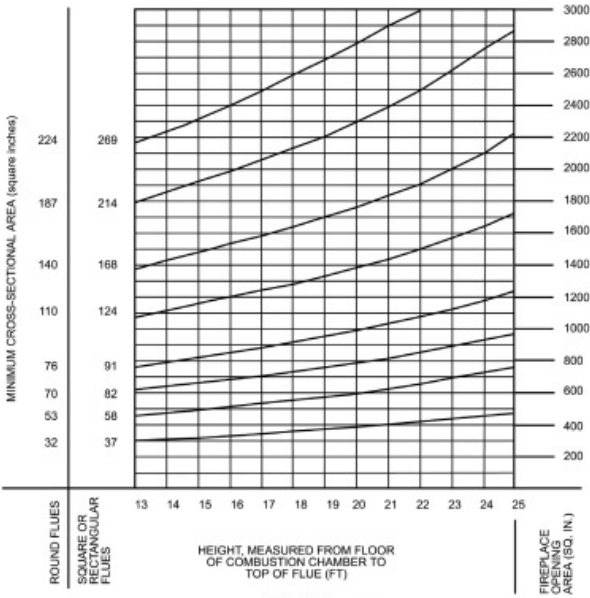
Chimney flues shall not be smaller in area than the area of the connector from the appliance. Chimney flues connected to more than one appliance shall be not less than the area of the largest connector plus 50 percent of the areas of additional chimney connectors.

Exceptions:

- 1. Chimney flues serving oil-fired appliances sized in accordance with NFPA 31.
- 2. Chimney flues serving gas-fired appliances sized in accordance with the International Fuel Gas Code.

2113.16 Flue area (masonry fireplace).

Flue sizing for chimneys serving fireplaces shall be in accordance with Section 2113.16.1 or 2113.16.2.



Note: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square inch = 645 mm².

FIGURE 2113.16
FLUE SIZES FOR MASONRY CHIMNEYS

TABLE 2113.16(1)
NET CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA OF ROUND FLUE SIZES^a

| FLUE SIZE, INSIDE DIAMETER (inches) | CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA (square inches) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 | 28 |
| 7 | 38 |
| 8 | 50 |
| 10 | 78 |
| 10 ³ / ₄ | 90 |
| 12 | 113 |
| 15 | 176 |

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For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square inch = 645.16 mm².

a. Flue sizes are based on [ASTM C315](#).

TABLE 2113.16(2)
NET CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA OF SQUARE AND RECTANGULAR FLUE SIZES

| FLUE SIZE, OUTSIDE NOMINAL DIMENSIONS (inches) | CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA (square inches) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 4.5 × 8.5 | 23 |
| 4.5 × 13 | 34 |
| 8 × 8 | 42 |
| 8.5 × 8.5 | 49 |
| 8 × 12 | 67 |
| 8.5 × 13 | 76 |
| 12 × 12 | 102 |
| 8.5 × 18 | 101 |
| 13 × 13 | 127 |
| 12 × 16 | 131 |
| 13 × 18 | 173 |
| 16 × 16 | 181 |
| 16 × 20 | 222 |
| 18 × 18 | 233 |
| 20 × 20 | 298 |
| 20 × 24 | 335 |
| 24 × 24 | 431 |

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square inch = 645.16 mm².

2113.16.1 Minimum area.

Round chimney flues shall have a minimum net cross-sectional area of not less than $\frac{1}{12}$ of the fireplace opening. Square chimney flues shall have a minimum net cross-sectional area of not less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of the fireplace opening. Rectangular chimney flues with an aspect ratio less than 2 to 1 shall have a minimum net cross-sectional area of not less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of the fireplace opening. Rectangular chimney flues with an aspect ratio of 2 to 1 or more shall have a minimum net cross-sectional area of not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ of the fireplace opening.

2113.16.2 Determination of minimum area.

The minimum net cross-sectional area of the flue shall be determined in accordance with [Figure 2113.16](#). A flue size providing not less than the equivalent net cross-sectional area shall be used. Cross-sectional areas of clay flue linings are as provided in [Tables 2113.16\(1\)](#) and [2113.16\(2\)](#) or as provided by the manufacturer or as measured in the field. The height of the chimney shall be measured from the firebox floor to the top of the chimney flue.

2113.17 Inlet.

Inlets to masonry chimneys shall enter from the side. Inlets shall have a thimble of fireclay, rigid refractory material or metal that will prevent the connector from pulling out of the inlet or from extending beyond the wall of the liner.

2113.18 Masonry chimney cleanout openings.

Cleanout openings shall be provided within 6 inches (152 mm) of the base of each flue within every masonry chimney. The upper edge of the cleanout shall be located not less than 6 inches (152 mm) below the lowest chimney inlet opening. The height of the opening shall be not less than 6 inches (152 mm). The cleanout shall be provided with a noncombustible cover.

Exception: Chimney flues serving masonry fireplaces, where cleaning is possible through the fireplace opening.

2113.19 Chimney clearances.

Any portion of a masonry chimney located in the interior of the building or within the *exterior wall* of the building shall have a minimum airspace clearance to combustibles of 2 inches (51 mm). Chimneys located entirely outside the *exterior walls* of the building, including chimneys that pass through the soffit or *cornice*, shall have a minimum airspace clearance of 1 inch (25 mm). The airspace shall not be filled, except to provide *fireblocking* in accordance with [Section 2113.20](#).

Exceptions:

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1. Masonry chimneys equipped with a chimney lining system *listed* and *labeled* for use in chimneys in contact with combustibles in accordance with [UL 1777](#), and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, are permitted to have combustible material in contact with their exterior surfaces.
2. Where masonry chimneys are constructed as part of masonry or concrete walls, combustible materials shall not be in contact with the masonry or concrete wall less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest flue lining.
3. Exposed combustible *trim* and the edges of sheathing materials, such as wood siding, are permitted to abut the masonry chimney sidewalls, in accordance with [Figure 2113.19](#), provided that such combustible *trim* or sheathing is not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest flue lining. Combustible material and *trim* shall not overlap the corners of the chimney by more than 1 inch (25 mm).

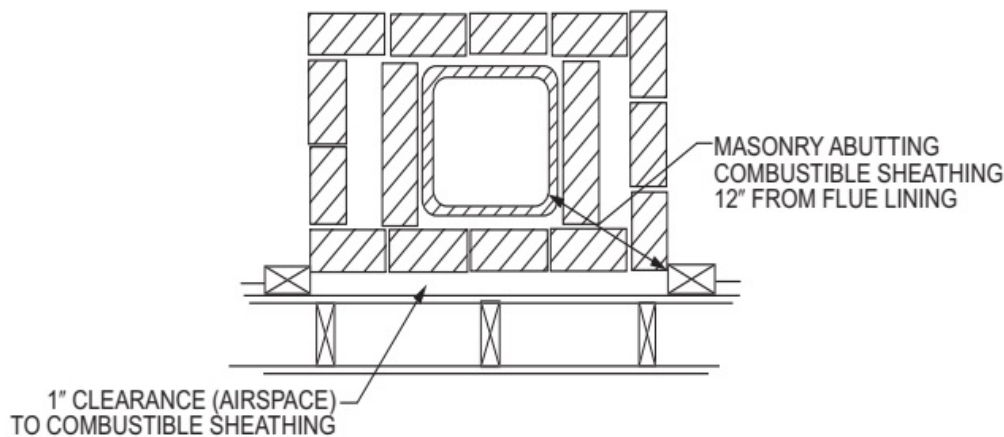


FIGURE 2113.19
ILLUSTRATION OF EXCEPTION THREE CHIMNEY CLEARANCE PROVISION

2113.20 Chimney fireblocking.

All spaces between chimneys and floors and ceilings through which chimneys pass shall be fireblocked with noncombustible material securely fastened in place. The *fireblocking* of spaces between wood joists, beams or headers shall be self-supporting or be placed on strips of metal or metal lath laid across the spaces between combustible material and the chimney.

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 21 MASONRY

SECTION 2114 DRY-STACK MASONRY

2114.1 General.

The design of dry-stack masonry structures shall comply with the requirements of Chapters 1 through 8 of [TMS 402](#) except as modified by [Sections 2114.2](#) through [2114.5](#).

2114.2 Limitations.

Dry-stack masonry shall be prohibited in *Risk Category* IV structures.

2114.3 Materials.

Concrete *masonry units* complying with [ASTM C90](#) shall be used.

2114.4 Strength.

Dry-stack masonry shall be of adequate strength and proportions to support all superimposed *loads* without exceeding the allowable stresses listed in [Table 2114.4](#). Allowable stresses not specified in [Table 2114.4](#) shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 8 of [TMS 402](#).

TABLE 2114.4
GROSS CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA ALLOWABLE STRESS FOR DRY-STACK MASONRY

| DESCRIPTION | MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE STRESS (psi) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Compression | 45 |
| Flexural tension | |
| Horizontal span | 30 |
| Vertical span | 18 |
| Shear | 10 |

For SI: 1 pound per square inch = 0.006895 MPa.

2114.5 Construction.

Construction of dry-stack masonry shall comply with [ASTM C946](#).