

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 26 PLASTIC

SECTION 2613 FIBER-REINFORCED POLYMER

2613.1 General.

The provisions of this section shall govern the requirements and uses of *fiber-reinforced polymer* in and on buildings and structures.

2613.2 Labeling and identification.

Packages and containers of *fiber-reinforced polymer* and their components delivered to the job site shall bear the *label* of an *approved agency* showing the manufacturer's name, product listing, product identification and information sufficient to determine that the end use will comply with the code requirements.

2613.3 Interior finishes.

Fiber-reinforced polymer used as *interior finishes, decorative materials or trim* shall comply with [Chapter 8](#).

2613.3.1 Foam plastic cores.

Fiber-reinforced polymer used as *interior finish* and that contains foam plastic cores shall comply with [Chapter 8](#) and this chapter.

2613.4 Light-transmitting materials.

Fiber-reinforced polymer used as light-transmitting materials shall comply with [Sections 2606](#) through [2611](#) as required for the specific application.

2613.5 Exterior use.

Fiber-reinforced polymer shall be permitted to be installed on the *exterior walls* of buildings of any type of construction where such polymers meet the requirements of [Section 2603.5](#). *Fireblocking* shall be installed in accordance with [Section 718](#).

Exceptions:

1. Compliance with [Section 2603.5](#) is not required where all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1.1. The *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall not exceed an aggregate total of 20 percent of the area of the specific wall to which it is attached, and single architectural elements shall not exceed 10 percent of the area of the specific wall to which it is attached, and no contiguous sets of architectural elements shall not exceed 10 percent of the area of the specific wall to which they are attached.
 - 1.2. The *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall have a *flame spread index* of 25 or less. The *flame spread index* requirement shall not be required for coatings or paints having a thickness of less than 0.036 inch (0.9 mm) that are applied directly to the surface of the *fiber-reinforced polymer*.
 - 1.3. *Fireblocking* complying with [Section 718.2.6](#) shall be installed.
 - 1.4. The *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall be installed directly to a noncombustible substrate or be separated from the *exterior wall* by one of the following materials: corrosion-resistant steel having a minimum base metal thickness of 0.016 inch (0.41 mm) at any point, aluminum having a minimum thickness of 0.019 inch (0.5 mm) or other approved noncombustible material.
2. Compliance with [Section 2603.5](#) is not required where the *fiber-reinforced polymer* is installed on buildings that are 40 feet (12 190 mm) or less above grade and the following conditions are met:
 - 2.1. The *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall meet the requirements of [Section 1405.1](#).
 - 2.2. Where the *fire separation distance* is 5 feet (1524 mm) or less, the area of the fiber-reinforced polymer shall not exceed 10 percent of the wall area. Where the *fire separation distance* is greater than 5 feet (1524 mm), the area of the *exterior wall* coverage using *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall not be limited.
 - 2.3. The *fiber-reinforced polymer* shall have a *flame spread index* of 200 or less. The *flame spread index* requirements do not apply to coatings or paints having a thickness of less than 0.036 inch (0.9 mm) that are applied directly to the surface of the *fiber-reinforced polymer*.
 - 2.4. *Fireblocking* complying with [Section 718.2.6](#) shall be installed.

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