

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 4 SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BASED ON USE AND OCCUPANCY

SECTION 414 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

[F] 414.1 General.

The provisions of [Sections 414.1](#) through [414.6](#) shall apply to buildings and structures occupied for the manufacturing, processing, dispensing, use or storage of *hazardous materials*.

[F] 414.1.1 Other provisions.

Buildings and structures with an occupancy in Group H shall comply with this section and the applicable provisions of [Section 415](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.1.2 Materials.

The safe design of hazardous material occupancies is material dependent. Individual material requirements are found in [Sections 307](#) and [415](#), the [International Mechanical Code](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.1.2.1 Aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products.

Level 2 and 3 aerosol products, [aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products](#) shall be stored and displayed in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#). See [Section 311.2](#) and the [International Fire Code](#) for occupancy group requirements.

[F] 414.1.3 Information required.

A report shall be submitted to the *building official* identifying the maximum expected quantities of *hazardous materials* to be stored, used in a *closed system* and used in an *open system*, and subdivided to separately address *hazardous material* classification categories based on [Tables 307.1\(1\)](#) and [307.1\(2\)](#). The methods of protection from such hazards, including but not limited to *control areas*, fire protection systems and Group H occupancies shall be indicated in the report and on the *construction documents*. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified person, firm or corporation *approved* by the *building official* and provided without charge to the enforcing agency.

For buildings and structures with an occupancy in Group H, separate floor plans shall be submitted identifying the locations of anticipated contents and processes so as to reflect the nature of each occupied portion of every building and structure.

[F] 414.2 Control areas.

Control areas shall comply with [Sections 414.2.1](#) through [414.2.5](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).

Exception: *Higher education laboratories* in accordance with [Section 428](#) and [Chapter 38](#) of the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.2.1 Construction requirements.

Control areas shall be separated from each other by *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#) or *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with [Section 711](#), or both.

[F] 414.2.2 Percentage of maximum allowable quantities.

The percentage of maximum allowable quantities of *hazardous materials* per *control area* permitted at each floor level within a building shall be in accordance with [Table 414.2.2](#).

[F] TABLE 414.2.2
DESIGN AND NUMBER OF CONTROL AREAS

STORY		PERCENTAGE OF THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA ^a	NUMBER OF CONTROL AREAS PER STORY	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING FOR FIRE BARRIERS IN HOURS ^b
Above grade plane	Higher than 9	5	1	2
	7–9	5	2	2
	6	12.5	2	2
	5	12.5	2	2
	4	12.5	2	2
	3	50	2	1
	2	75	3	1
	1	100	4	1

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Below grade plane	1	75	3	1
	2	50	2	1
	Lower than 2	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

- Percentages shall be of the maximum allowable quantity per control area shown in [Tables 307.1\(1\)](#) and [307.1\(2\)](#), with all increases allowed in the notes to those tables.
- Separation shall include fire barriers and horizontal assemblies as necessary to provide separation from other portions of the building.

[F] 414.2.3 Number.

The maximum number of *control areas* within a building shall be in accordance with [Table 414.2.2](#). For the purposes of determining the number of *control areas* within a building, each portion of a building separated by one or more fire walls complying with [Section 706](#) shall be considered a separate building.

[F] 414.2.4 Fire-resistance rating requirements.

The required *fire-resistance rating* for *fire barriers* shall be in accordance with [Table 414.2.2](#). The floor assembly of the *control area* and the construction supporting the floor of the *control area* shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 2 hours.

Exception: The floor assembly of the *control area* and the construction supporting the floor of the *control area* are allowed to be 1-hour fire-resistance-rated in buildings of Types IIA, IIIA, IV and VA construction, provided that both of the following conditions exist:

- The building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).
- The building is three or fewer *stories above grade plane*.

[F] 414.2.5 Hazardous material in Group M display and storage areas and in Group S storage areas.

Hazardous materials located in Group M and Group S occupancies shall be in accordance with [Sections 414.2.5.1](#) through [414.2.5.3](#).

[F] TABLE 414.2.5(1)

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CONTROL AREA IN GROUP M AND S OCCUPANCIES OF NONFLAMMABLE SOLIDS AND NONFLAMMABLE AND NONCOMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS^{d, e, f}

CONDITION		MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA	
Material ^a	Class	Solids (pounds)	Liquids (gallons)
A. Health-hazard materials—nonflammable and noncombustible solids and liquids			
1. Corrosives ^{b, c}	Not Applicable	9,750	975
2. Highly toxics	Not Applicable	20 ^{b, c}	2 ^{b, c}
3. Toxics ^{b, c}	Not Applicable	1,000 ^k	100
B. Physical-hazard materials—nonflammable and noncombustible solids and liquids			
1. Oxidizers ^{b, c}	4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
	3	1,350 ^g	115
	2	2,250 ^h	225
	1	18,000 ^{i, j}	1,800 ^{i, j}
2. Unstable (reactives) ^{b, c}	4	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
	3	550	55
	2	1,150	115
	1	Not Limited	Not Limited
3. Water reactives	3 ^{b, c}	550	55
	2 ^{b, c}	1,150	115
	1	Not Limited	Not Limited

For SI: 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 gallon = 3.785 L.

- Hazard categories are as specified in the [International Fire Code](#).
- Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings that are sprinklered in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#). Where Note c also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.

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- c. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent where stored in approved storage cabinets, in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#). Where Note b also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.
- d. See [Table 414.2.2](#) for design and number of control areas.
- e. Allowable quantities for other hazardous material categories shall be in accordance with [Section 307](#).
- f. Maximum quantities shall be increased 100 percent in outdoor control areas.
- g. Maximum amounts shall be increased to 2,250 pounds where individual packages are in the original sealed containers from the manufacturer or packager and do not exceed 10 pounds each.
- h. Maximum amounts shall be increased to 4,500 pounds where individual packages are in the original sealed containers from the manufacturer or packager and do not exceed 10 pounds each.
- i. The permitted quantities shall not be limited in a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).
- j. Quantities are unlimited in an outdoor control area.
- k. Maximum allowable quantities of consumer products shall be increased to 10,000 pounds where individual packages are in the original, sealed containers from the manufacturer and the toxic classification is exclusively based on the LC threshold and no other hazardous materials classifications apply.

[F] TABLE 414.2.5(2)
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY OF FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SALES OCCUPANCIES PER CONTROL AREA^a

TYPE OF LIQUID	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA (gallons)		
	Sprinklered in accordance with Note b densities and arrangements	Sprinklered in accordance with Tables 5704.3.6.3(4) through 5704.3.6.3(8) and 5704.3.7.5.1 of the <i>International Fire Code</i>	N o n s p r i n k l e r e d
Class IA	60	60	30
Class IB, IC, II and IIIA	7,500 ^c	15,000 ^c	1,600
Class IIIB	Unlimited	Unlimited	13,200

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m², 1 gallon = 3.785 L, 1 gallon per minute per square foot = 40.75 L/min/m².

- a. Control areas shall be separated from each other by not less than a 1-hour *fire barrier wall*.
- b. To be considered as sprinklered, a building shall be equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system with a design providing minimum densities as follows:
 1. For uncartoned commodities on shelves 6 feet or less in height where the ceiling height does not exceed 18 feet, quantities are those permitted with a minimum sprinkler design density of Ordinary Hazard Group 2.
 2. For cartoned, palletized or racked commodities where storage is 4 feet 6 inches or less in height and where the ceiling height does not exceed 18 feet, quantities are those permitted with a minimum sprinkler design density of 0.21 gallon per minute per square foot over the most remote 1,500-square-foot area.
- c. Where wholesale and retail sales or storage areas exceed 50,000 square feet in area, the maximum allowable quantities are allowed to be increased by 2 percent for each 1,000 square feet of area in excess of 50,000 square feet, up to not more than 100 percent of the table amounts. A control area separation is not required. The cumulative amounts, including amounts attained by having an additional control area, shall not exceed 30,000 gallons.

[F] 414.2.5.1 Nonflammable solids and nonflammable and noncombustible liquids.

The aggregate quantity of nonflammable solid and nonflammable or noncombustible liquid hazardous materials permitted within a single *control area* of a Group M display and storage area, a Group S storage area or an outdoor *control area* is permitted to exceed the maximum allowable quantities per *control area* specified in [Tables 307.1\(1\)](#) and [307.1\(2\)](#) without classifying the building or use as a Group H occupancy, provided that the materials are displayed and stored in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#) and quantities do not exceed the maximum allowable specified in [Table 414.2.5\(1\)](#).

[F] 414.2.5.2 Flammable and combustible liquids.

In Group M occupancy wholesale and retail sales uses, indoor storage of *flammable and combustible liquids* shall not exceed the maximum allowable quantities per *control area* as indicated in [Table 414.2.5\(2\)](#), provided that the materials are displayed and stored in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.2.5.3 Aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products or plastic aerosol 3 products.

The maximum quantity of *aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products or plastic aerosol 3 products* in Group M occupancy retail display areas, storage areas adjacent to retail display areas and retail storage areas shall be in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.3 Ventilation.

Rooms, areas or spaces in which *explosive, corrosive, combustible, flammable or highly toxic* dusts, mists, fumes, vapors or gases are or have the potential to be emitted due to the processing, use, handling or storage of materials shall be mechanically ventilated where required by this code, the [International Fire Code](#) or the [International Mechanical Code](#).

Emissions generated at workstations shall be confined to the area in which they are generated as specified in the [International Fire Code](#) and the [International Mechanical Code](#).

[F] 414.4 Hazardous material systems.

Systems involving *hazardous materials* shall be suitable for the intended application. Controls shall be designed to prevent materials from entering or leaving process or reaction systems at other than the intended time, rate or path. *Automatic* controls, where provided, shall be designed to be fail safe.

[F] 414.5 Inside storage, dispensing and use.

The inside storage, dispensing and use of *hazardous materials* shall be in accordance with [Sections 414.5.1 through 414.5.3](#) of this code and the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.5.1 Explosion control.

Explosion control shall be provided in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#) as required by [Table 414.5.1](#) where quantities of *hazardous materials* specified in that table exceed the maximum allowable quantities in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#) or

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where a structure, room or space is occupied for purposes involving *explosion* hazards as required by [Section 415](#) or the *International Fire Code*.

[F] TABLE 414.5.1
EXPLOSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS^{a, h}

MATERIAL	CLASS	EXPLOSION CONTROL METHODS	
		Barricade construction	Explosion (deflagration) venting or explosion (deflagration) prevention systems ^b
HAZARD CATEGORY			
Combustible dusts ^c	—	Not Required	Required
Cryogenic flammables	—	Not Required	Required
Explosives	Division 1.1	Required	Not Required
	Division 1.2	Required	Not Required
	Division 1.3	Not Required	Required
	Division 1.4	Not Required	Required
	Division 1.5	Required	Not Required
	Division 1.6	Required	Not Required
Flammable gas	Gaseous	Not Required	Required
	Liquefied	Not Required	Required
Flammable liquid	IA ^d	Not Required	Required
	IB ^e	Not Required	Required
Organic peroxides	U	Required	Not Permitted
	I	Required	Not Permitted
Oxidizer liquids and solids	4	Required	Not Permitted
Pyrophoric gas	—	Not Required	Required
Unstable (reactive)	4	Required	Not Permitted
	3 Detonable	Required	Not Permitted
	3 Nondetonable	Not Required	Required
Water-reactive liquids and solids	3	Not Required	Required
	2 ^g	Not Required	Required
SPECIAL USES			
Acetylene generator rooms	—	Not Required	Required
Electrochemical energy storage system ⁱ	—	Not Required	Required
Energy storage system ⁱ	—	Not Required	Required
Grain processing	—	Not Required	Required
Liquefied petroleum gas-distribution facilities	—	Not Required	Required
Where explosion hazards exist ^f	Detonation	Required	Not Permitted
	Deflagration	Not Required	Required

- a. See [Section 414.1.3](#).
- b. See the *International Fire Code*.
- c. Combustible dusts where manufactured, generated or used in such a manner that the concentration and conditions create a fire or explosion hazard based on information prepared in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#) of the *International Fire Code*. See definition of “Combustible dust” in Chapter 2.
- d. Storage or use.
- e. In open use or dispensing.
- f. Rooms containing dispensing and use of hazardous materials where an explosive environment can occur because of the characteristics or nature of the hazardous materials or as a result of the dispensing or use process.

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- g. A method of explosion control shall be provided where Class 2 water-reactive materials can form potentially explosive mixtures.
- h. Explosion venting is not required for Group H-5 fabrication areas complying with [Section 415.11.1](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).
- i. [Where explosion control is required in Section 1207 of the International Fire Code.](#)

[F] 414.5.2 Emergency or standby power.

Where required by the [International Fire Code](#) or this code, mechanical *ventilation*, treatment systems, temperature control, alarm, detection or other electrically operated systems shall be provided with emergency or standby power in accordance with [Section 2702](#). For storage and use areas for *highly toxic or toxic* materials, see [Sections 6004.2.2.8](#) and [6004.3.4.2](#) of the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.5.2.1 Exempt applications.

Emergency or standby power is not required for the mechanical *ventilation* systems provided for any of the following:

1. Storage of Class IB and IC flammable and combustible liquids in closed containers not exceeding 6.5 gallons (25 L) capacity.
2. Storage of Class 1 and 2 oxidizers.
3. Storage of Class II, III, IV and V organic peroxides.
4. Storage of asphyxiant, irritant and radioactive gases.

[F] 414.5.2.2 Fail-safe engineered systems.

Standby power for mechanical ventilation, treatment systems and temperature control systems shall not be required where an approved fail-safe engineered system is installed.

[F] 414.5.3 Spill control, drainage and containment.

Rooms, buildings or areas occupied for the storage of solid and liquid *hazardous materials* shall be provided with a means to control spillage and to contain or drain off spillage and fire protection water discharged in the storage area where required in the [International Fire Code](#). The methods of spill control shall be in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.6 Outdoor storage, dispensing and use.

The outdoor storage, dispensing and use of *hazardous materials* shall be in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 414.6.1 Weather protection.

Where weather protection is provided for sheltering outdoor *hazardous material* storage or use areas, such areas shall be considered outdoor storage or use where the weather protection structure complies with [Sections 414.6.1.1](#) through [414.6.1.3](#).

[F] 414.6.1.1 Walls.

Walls shall not obstruct more than one side of the structure.

Exception: Walls shall be permitted to obstruct portions of multiple sides of the structure, provided that the obstructed area is not greater than 25 percent of the structure's perimeter.

[F] 414.6.1.2 Separation distance.

The distance from the structure to buildings, *lot lines*, *public ways* or *means of egress* to a *public way* shall be not less than the distance required for an outside *hazardous material* storage or use area without weather protection.

[F] 414.6.1.3 Noncombustible construction.

The overhead structure shall be of *approved* noncombustible construction with a maximum area of 1,500 square feet (140 m²).

Exception: The maximum area is permitted to be increased as provided by [Section 506](#).

414.6.2 Other regulations.

The installation, repair, upgrade, and closure of underground and aboveground storage tanks subject to the Virginia State Water Control Board regulations 9VAC25-91 and 9VAC25-580 shall be governed by those regulations, which are hereby incorporated by reference to be an enforceable part of this code. Where differences occur between the provisions of this code and the incorporated provisions of the State Water Control Board regulations, the provisions of the State Water Control Board regulations shall apply. Provisions of the [International Fire Code](#) addressing closure of such tanks that are subject to the Virginia State Water Control Board regulations 9VAC25-91 and 9VAC25-580 shall not be applicable.

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