

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 15 ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

SECTION 1503 WEATHER PROTECTION

1503.1 General.

Roof decks shall be covered with *approved roof coverings* secured to the building or structure in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. *Roof coverings* shall be designed in accordance with this code, and installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's *approved* instructions.

1503.2 Flashing.

Flashing shall be installed in such a manner so as to prevent water from entering the wall and roof through joints in copings, through moisture-permeable materials and at intersections with *parapet walls* and other penetrations through the roof plane.

1503.2.1 Locations.

Flashing shall be installed at wall and roof intersections, at gutters, wherever there is a change in roof slope or direction and around roof openings. Where flashing is of metal, the metal shall be corrosion resistant with a thickness of not less than 0.019 inch (0.483 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet).

1503.3 Parapet walls.

Parapet walls shall be [coped or covered in accordance with Sections 1503.3.1 and 1503.3.2](#). The top surface of the *parapet wall* shall provide positive drainage.

1503.3.1 Fire-resistance-rated parapet walls.

Parapet walls required by [Section 705.11](#) shall be coped or covered with weatherproof materials of a width not less than the thickness of the *parapet wall* such that the *fire-resistance rating* of the wall is not decreased.

1503.3.2 Other parapet walls.

Parapet walls meeting one of the exceptions in [Section 705.11](#) shall be coped or covered with weatherproof materials of a width not less than the thickness of the *parapet wall*.

1503.4 Attic and rafter ventilation.

Intake and exhaust vents shall be provided in accordance with [Section 1202.2](#) and the vent product manufacturer's installation instructions.

1503.5 Crickets and saddles.

A cricket or saddle shall be installed on the ridge side of any chimney or penetration greater than 30 inches (762 mm) wide as measured perpendicular to the slope. Cricket or saddle coverings shall be sheet metal or of the same material as the *roof covering*.

Exception: *Unit skylights* installed in accordance with [Section 2405.5](#) and flashed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted to be installed without a cricket or saddle.