

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 26 PLASTIC

SECTION 2607 LIGHT-TRANSMITTING PLASTIC WALL PANELS

2607.1 General.

Light-transmitting plastics shall not be used as wall panels in *exterior walls* in occupancies in Groups A-I, A-2, H, I-2 and I-3. In other groups, light-transmitting plastics shall be permitted to be used as wall panels in *exterior walls*, provided that the walls are not required to have a *fire-resistance rating* and the installation conforms to the requirements of this section. Such panels shall be erected and anchored on a foundation, waterproofed or otherwise protected from moisture absorption and sealed with a coat of mastic or other approved waterproof coating. Light-transmitting plastic wall panels shall comply with [Section 2606](#).

2607.2 Installation.

Exterior wall panels installed as provided for herein shall not alter the type of construction classification of the building.

2607.3 Height limitation.

Light-transmitting plastics shall not be installed more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above *grade plane*.

2607.4 Area limitation and separation.

The maximum area of a single wall panel and minimum vertical and horizontal separation requirements for exterior light-transmitting plastic wall panels shall be as provided for in [Table 2607.4](#). The maximum percentage of wall area of any story in light-transmitting plastic wall panels shall not exceed that indicated in [Table 2607.4](#) or the percentage of unprotected openings permitted by [Section 705.8](#), whichever is smaller.

Exceptions:

1. In structures provided with approved flame barriers extending 30 inches (760 mm) beyond the *exterior wall* in the plane of the floor, a vertical separation is not required at the floor except that provided by the vertical thickness of the flame barrier projection.
2. *Veneers* of approved weather-resistant light-transmitting plastics used as exterior siding in buildings of Type V construction in compliance with [Section 1405](#).
3. The area of light-transmitting plastic wall panels in *exterior walls* of *greenhouses* shall be exempt from the area limitations of [Table 2607.4](#) but shall be limited as required for unprotected openings in accordance with [Section 705.8](#).

TABLE 2607.4

AREA LIMITATION AND SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIGHT-TRANSMITTING PLASTIC WALL PANELS^a

FIRE SEPARATION DISTANCE (feet)	CLASS OF PLASTIC	MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE AREA OF EXTERIOR WALL IN PLASTIC WALL PANELS	MAXIMUM SINGLE AREA OF PLASTIC WALL PANELS (square feet)	MINIMUM SEPARATION OF PLASTIC WALL PANELS (feet)	
				Vertical	Horizontal
Less than 6	—	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	—	—
6 or more but less than 11	CC1	10	50	8	4
	CC2	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	—	—
11 or more but less than or equal to 30	CC1	25	90	6	4
	CC2	15	70	8	4
Over 30	CC1	50	Not Limited	3 ^b	0
	CC2	50	100	6 ^b	3

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- a. For combinations of plastic glazing and plastic wall panel areas permitted, see [Section 2607.6](#).
- b. For reductions in vertical separation allowed, see [Section 2607.4](#).

2607.5 Automatic sprinkler system.

Where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#), the maximum percentage area of *exterior wall* in any story in light-transmitting plastic wall panels and the maximum square footage of a single area given in [Table 2607.4](#) shall be increased 100 percent, but the area of light-transmitting plastic wall panels shall not exceed 50 percent of the wall area in any story, or the area permitted by [Section 705.8](#) for

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unprotected openings, whichever is smaller. These installations shall **not be installed more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above grade plane.**

2607.6 Combinations of glazing and wall panels.

Combinations of light-transmitting plastic glazing and light-transmitting plastic wall panels shall be subject to the area, height and percentage limitations and the separation requirements applicable to the class of light-transmitting plastic as prescribed for light-transmitting plastic wall panel installations.