

# 2021 Virginia Construction Code

## CHAPTER 31 SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

### SECTION 3105 AWNINGS AND CANOPIES

#### 3105.1 General.

*Awnings* and *canopies* shall comply with the requirements of [Sections 3105.2](#) and [3105.3](#) and other applicable sections of this code.

#### 3105.2 Design and construction.

*Awnings* and *canopies* shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind or other lateral loads and live loads as required by [Chapter 16](#) with due allowance for shape, open construction and similar features that relieve the pressures or loads. Structural members shall be protected to prevent deterioration. *Awnings* shall have frames of noncombustible material, fire-retardant-treated wood, heavy timber complying with [Section 2304.11](#), or 1-hour construction with combustible or noncombustible covers and shall be either fixed, retractable, folding or collapsible.

#### 3105.3 Awnings and canopy materials.

*Awnings* and *canopies* shall be provided with an approved covering that complies with one of the following:

1. The fire propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of [NFPA 701](#).
2. Has a flame spread index not greater than 25 when tested in accordance with [ASTM E84](#) or [UL 723](#).
3. Meets all of the following criteria when tested in accordance with [NFPA 286](#):
  - 3.1. During the 40 kW exposure, flames shall not spread to the ceiling.
  - 3.2. Flashover, as defined in [NFPA 286](#), shall not occur.
  - 3.3. The flame shall not spread to the outer extremity of the sample on any wall or ceiling.
  - 3.4. The peak heat release rate throughout the test shall not exceed 800 kW.

**Exception:** The fire propagation performance and flame spread index requirements shall not apply to awnings installed on detached one- and two-family dwellings.