

## 2021 Virginia Construction Code

### CHAPTER 4 SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BASED ON USE AND OCCUPANCY

#### SECTION 412 AIRCRAFT-RELATED OCCUPANCIES

##### 412.1 General.

Aircraft-related occupancies shall comply with [Sections 412.1](#) through [412.7](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).

##### 412.2 Airport traffic control towers.

The provisions of [Sections 412.2.1](#) through [412.2.6](#) shall apply to airport traffic control towers occupied only for the following uses:

1. Airport traffic control cab.
2. Electrical and mechanical equipment rooms.
3. Airport terminal radar and electronics rooms.
4. Office spaces incidental to the tower operation.
5. Lounges for employees, including sanitary facilities.

##### 412.2.1 Construction.

The construction of airport traffic control towers shall comply with the provisions of [Sections 412.2.1.1](#) through [412.2.1.3](#).

##### 412.2.1.1 Type of construction.

Airport traffic control towers shall be constructed to comply with the height limitations of [Table 412.2.1.1](#).

**TABLE 412.2.1.1  
HEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS**

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	HEIGHT <sup>a</sup> (feet)
IA	Unlimited
IB	240
IIA	100
IIB	85
IIIA	65

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. Height to be measured from *grade plane* to cab floor.

##### [BS] 412.2.1.2 Structural integrity of interior exit stairways and elevator hoistway enclosures.

Enclosures for *interior exit stairways* and elevator hoistway enclosures shall comply with [Section 403.2.2](#) in airport traffic control towers where the control cab is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

##### 412.2.1.3 Sprayed fire-resistant materials (SFRM).

The bond strength of the SFRM installed in airport traffic control towers shall be in accordance with [Section 403.2.3](#) where the control cab is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

##### 412.2.2 Means of egress and evacuation.

The *means of egress* in airport traffic control towers shall comply with [Sections 412.2.2.1](#) through [412.2.2.3](#).

##### 412.2.2.1 Stairways.

*Stairways* in airport traffic control towers shall be in accordance with [Section 1011](#). *Exit stairways* shall be *smokeproof enclosures* complying with one of the alternatives provided in [Section 909.20](#).

**Exception:** *Stairways* in airport traffic control towers are not required to comply with [Section 1011.12](#).

##### 412.2.2.2 Exit access.

From observation levels, airport traffic control towers shall be permitted to have a single means of *exit access* for a distance of travel not greater than 100 feet (30 480 mm). *Exit access stairways* from the observation level need not be enclosed.

##### 412.2.2.3 Number of exits.

Not less than one *exit stairway* shall be permitted for airport traffic control towers of any height provided that the *occupant load* per floor is not greater than 15 and the area per floor does not exceed 1,500 square feet (140 m<sup>2</sup>).

##### 412.2.2.3.1 Interior finish.

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Where an airport traffic control tower is provided with only one *exit stairway, interior wall and ceiling finishes* shall be either Class A or Class B.

#### **412.2.2.3.2 Exit separation.**

Where an airport traffic control tower is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) and two *exits* are required, the exit separation distance required by [Section 1007](#) shall be not less than one-fourth of the length of the maximum overall dimension of the area served.

#### **[F] 412.2.3 Emergency systems.**

The detection, alarm and emergency systems of airport traffic control towers shall comply with [Sections 412.2.3.1](#) through [412.2.3.3](#).

##### **[F] 412.2.3.1 Automatic smoke detection systems.**

Airport traffic control towers shall be provided with an *automatic* smoke detection system installed in accordance with [Section 907.2.22](#).

##### **[F] 412.2.3.2 Fire command center.**

A *fire command center* shall be provided in airport traffic control towers where the control cab is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. The *fire command center* shall comply with [Section 911](#).

##### **Exceptions:**

1. The *fire command center* shall be located in the airport control tower or an adjacent contiguous building where building functions are interdependent.
2. The room shall be not less than 150 square feet (14 m<sup>2</sup>) in area with a minimum dimension of 10 feet (3048 mm).
3. The following features shall not be required in an airport traffic control tower *fire command center*.
  - 3.1. Emergency voice/alarm control unit.
  - 3.2. Public address system.
  - 3.3. Status indicators and controls for the air distributions centers.
  - 3.4. Generator supervision devices, manual start and transfer features.
  - 3.5. Elevator emergency or standby power switches where emergency or standby power is provided.

##### **[F] 412.2.3.3 Smoke removal.**

Smoke removal in airport traffic control towers shall be provided in accordance with [Section 403.4.7](#).

#### **[F] 412.2.4 Automatic sprinkler system.**

Where an occupied floor is located more than 35 feet (10 668 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access, airport traffic control towers shall be equipped with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).

##### **[F] 412.2.4.1 Fire pump room.**

Fire pumps shall be located in rooms that are separated from all other areas of the building by 2-hour *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#) or 2-hour *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with [Section 711](#), or both.

**Exception:** Separation is not required for fire pumps physically separated in accordance with [NFPA 20](#).

#### **[F] 412.2.5 Protection of elevator wiring and cables.**

Wiring and cables serving elevators in airport traffic control towers shall be protected in accordance with [Section 3007.8.1](#).

##### **412.2.5.1 Elevators for occupant evacuation.**

Where provided in addition to an exit stairway, occupant evacuation elevators shall be in accordance with [Section 3008](#).

#### **412.2.6 Accessibility.**

Airport traffic control towers shall be *accessible* except as specified in [Section 1104.4](#).

#### **412.3 Aircraft hangars.**

Aircraft hangars shall be in accordance with [Sections 412.3.1](#) through [412.3.6](#).

##### **412.3.1 Exterior walls.**

*Exterior walls* located less than 30 feet (9144 mm) from *lot lines* or a *public way* shall have a *fire-resistance rating* not less than 2 hours.

##### **412.3.2 Basements.**

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Where hangars have *basements*, floors over *basements* shall be of Type IA construction and shall be made tight against seepage of water, oil or vapors. There shall not be openings or communication between *basements* and the hangar. Access to *basements* shall be from outside only.

#### 412.3.3 Floor surface.

Floors shall be graded and drained to prevent water or fuel from remaining on the floor. Floor drains shall discharge through an oil separator to the sewer or to an outside vented sump.

**Exception:** Aircraft hangars with individual lease spaces not exceeding 2,000 square feet (186 m<sup>2</sup>) each in which servicing, repairing or washing is not conducted and fuel is not dispensed shall have floors that are graded toward the door, but shall not require a separator.

#### 412.3.4 Heating equipment.

Heating equipment shall be placed in another room separated by 2-hour *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#) or *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with [Section 711](#), or both. Entrance shall be from the outside or by means of a vestibule providing a two-doorway separation.

##### Exceptions:

1. Unit heaters and vented infrared radiant heating equipment suspended not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) above the upper surface of wings or engine enclosures of the highest aircraft that are permitted to be housed in the hangar need not be located in a separate room provided that they are mounted not less than 8 feet (2438 mm) above the floor in shops, offices and other sections of the hangar communicating with storage or service areas.
2. Entrance to the separated room shall be permitted by a single interior door provided that the sources of ignition in the appliances are not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor.

#### 412.3.5 Finishing.

The process of “doping,” involving use of a volatile flammable solvent, or of painting, shall be carried on in a separate *detached building* equipped with *automatic fire-extinguishing equipment* in accordance with [Section 903](#).

#### [F] 412.3.6 Fire suppression.

Aircraft hangars shall be provided with a fire suppression system designed in accordance with [NFPA 409](#), based on the classification for the hangar given in [Table 412.3.6](#).

**Exception:** Where a *fixed base operator* has separate repair facilities on site, Group II hangars operated by a *fixed base operator* used for storage of *transient aircraft* only shall have a fire suppression system, but the system is exempt from foam requirements.

**[F] TABLE 412.3.6**  
**HANGAR FIRE SUPPRESSION REQUIREMENTS<sup>a, b, c</sup>**

MAXIMUM SINGLE FIRE AREA (square feet)	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION								
	IA	IB	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IV	VA	VB
≥ 40,001	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I	Group I
40,000	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II
30,000	Group III	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II
20,000	Group III	Group III	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II	Group II
15,000	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group II	Group III	Group II	Group III	Group II	Group II
12,000	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group II	Group II
8,000	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group II
5,000	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III	Group III

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. Aircraft hangars with a door height greater than 28 feet shall be provided with fire suppression for a Group I hangar regardless of maximum fire area.
- b. Groups shall be as classified in accordance with [NFPA 409](#).
- c. Membrane structures complying with [Section 3102](#) shall be classified as a Group IV hangar.

#### [F] 412.3.6.1 Hazardous operations.

Any Group III aircraft hangar according to [Table 412.3.6](#) that contains hazardous operations including, but not limited to,

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the following shall be provided with a Group I or II fire suppression system in accordance with [NFPA 409](#) as applicable:

1. Doping.
2. Hot work including, but not limited to, welding, torch cutting and torch soldering.
3. Fuel transfer.
4. Fuel tank repair or maintenance not including defueled tanks in accordance with [NFPA 409](#), inerted tanks or tanks that have never been fueled.
5. Spray finishing operations.
6. Total fuel capacity of all aircraft within the unsprinklered single *fire area* in excess of 1,600 gallons (6057 L).
7. Total fuel capacity of all aircraft within the maximum single *fire area* in excess of 7,500 gallons (28 390 L) for a hangar with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).

**[F] 412.3.6.2 Separation of maximum single fire areas.**

Maximum single *fire areas* established in accordance with hangar classification and construction type in [Table 412.3.6](#) shall be separated by 2-hour *fire walls* constructed in accordance with [Section 706](#). In determining the maximum single *fire area* as set forth in [Table 412.3.6](#), ancillary uses that are separated from aircraft servicing areas by a *fire barrier* of not less than 1 hour, constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#), shall not be included in the area.

**412.4 Residential aircraft hangars.**

*Residential aircraft hangars* shall comply with [Sections 412.4.1](#) through [412.4.5](#).

**412.4.1 Fire separation.**

A hangar shall not be attached to a *dwelling* unless separated by a *fire barrier* having a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour. Such separation shall be continuous from the foundation to the underside of the roof and unpierced except for doors leading to the *dwelling unit*. Doors into the *dwelling unit* shall be equipped with *self-closing* devices and conform to the requirements of [Section 716](#) with a noncombustible raised sill not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height. Openings from a hangar directly into a room used for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted.

**412.4.2 Egress.**

A hangar shall provide two *means of egress*. One of the doors into the dwelling shall be considered as meeting only one of the two *means of egress*.

**[F] 412.4.3 Smoke alarms.**

*Smoke alarms* shall be provided within the hangar in accordance with [Section 907.2.22](#).

**412.4.4 Independent systems.**

Electrical, mechanical and plumbing drain, waste and vent (DWV) systems installed within the hangar shall be independent of the systems installed within the dwelling. Building sewer lines shall be permitted to be connected outside the structures.

**Exception:** *Smoke detector* wiring and feed for electrical subpanels in the hangar.

**412.4.5 Height and area limits.**

*Residential aircraft hangars* shall be not greater than 2,000 square feet (186 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and 20 feet (6096 mm) in *building height*.

**[F] 412.5 Aircraft paint hangars.**

Aircraft painting operations shall be conducted in an aircraft paint hangar that complies with the provisions of [Sections 412.5.1](#) through [412.5.8](#). Buildings and structures, or parts thereof, used for the application of flammable finishes shall comply with the applicable provisions of [Section 416](#).

**[F] 412.5.1 Occupancy classification.**

Aircraft paint hangars shall be classified in accordance with the provisions of [Section 307.1](#). Aircraft paint hangars shall comply with the applicable requirements of this code and the [International Fire Code](#) for such occupancy.

**412.5.2 Construction.**

Aircraft paint hangars shall be of Type I or II construction.

**[F] 412.5.3 Spray equipment cleaning operations.**

Spray equipment cleaning operations shall be conducted in a liquid use, dispensing and mixing room.

**[F] 412.5.4 Operations.**

Only those *flammable liquids* necessary for painting operations shall be permitted in quantities less than the maximum allowable quantities per *control area* in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#). Spray equipment cleaning operations exceeding the maximum allowable quantities per *control area* in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#) shall be conducted in a liquid use, dispensing and mixing room.

**[F] 412.5.5 Storage.**

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Storage of *flammable or combustible liquids* exceeding the maximum allowable quantities per control area in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#) shall be in a *liquid storage room*.

**[F] 412.5.6 Fire suppression.**

Aircraft paint hangars shall be provided with fire suppression as required by [NFPA 409](#).

**[F] 412.5.7 Ventilation.**

Aircraft paint hangars shall be provided with *ventilation* as required in the [International Mechanical Code](#).

**[F] 412.5.8 Electrical.**

Electrical equipment and devices within the aircraft paint hangar shall comply with [NFPA 70](#).

**[F] 412.5.8.1 Class I, Division I hazardous locations.**

The area within 10 feet (3048 mm) horizontally from aircraft surfaces and from the floor to 10 feet (3048 mm) above the aircraft surface shall be classified as a Class I, Division I location.

**[F] 412.5.8.2 Class I, Division 2 hazardous locations.**

The area horizontally from aircraft surfaces between 10 feet (3048 mm) and 30 feet (9144 mm) and from the floor to 30 feet (9144 mm) above the aircraft surface shall be classified as a Class I, Division 2 location.

**412.6 Aircraft manufacturing facilities.**

In buildings used for the manufacturing of aircraft, *exit access* travel distances indicated in [Section 1017.1](#) shall be increased in accordance with the following:

1. The building shall be of Type I or II construction.
2. *Exit access* travel distance shall not exceed the distances given in [Table 412.6](#).

**TABLE 412.6  
AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING EXIT ACCESS TRAVEL DISTANCE**

HEIGHT (feet) <sup>b</sup>	MANUFACTURING AREA (square feet) <sup>a</sup>					
	≥ 150,000	≥ 200,000	≥ 250,000	≥ 500,000	≥ 750,000	≥ 1,000,000
≥ 25	400	450	500	500	500	500
≥ 50	400	500	600	700	700	700
≥ 75	400	500	700	850	1,000	1,000
≥ 100	400	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Contiguous floor area of the aircraft manufacturing facility having the indicated height.
- b. Minimum height from finished floor to bottom of ceiling or roof slab or deck.

**412.6.1 Ancillary areas.**

Rooms, areas and spaces ancillary to the primary manufacturing area shall be permitted to egress through such area having a minimum height as indicated in [Table 412.6](#). *Exit access* travel distance within the ancillary room, area or space shall not exceed that indicated in [Table 1017.2](#) based on the occupancy classification of that ancillary area. Total *exit access* travel distance shall not exceed that indicated in [Table 412.6](#).

**[F] 412.7 Heliports and helistops.**

*Heliports* and *helistops* shall be permitted to be erected on buildings or other locations where they are constructed in accordance with [Sections 412.7.1](#) through [412.7.5](#).

**[F] 412.7.1 Size.**

The landing area for helicopters less than 3,500 pounds (1588 kg) shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) in length and width. The landing area shall be surrounded on all sides by a clear area having an average width at roof level of 15 feet (4572 mm), and all widths shall be not less than 5 feet (1524 mm).

**[F] 412.7.2 Design.**

Helicopter landing areas and the supports thereof on the roof of a building shall be noncombustible construction. Landing areas shall be designed to confine any flammable liquid spillage to the landing area itself and provisions shall be made to drain such spillage away from any *exit* or *stairway* serving the helicopter landing area or from a structure housing such *exit* or *stairway*. For structural design requirements, see [Section 1607.6](#).

**412.7.3 Means of egress.**

The *means of egress* from *heliports* and *helistops* shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 10](#). Landing areas located

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on buildings or structures shall have two or more [exits or access to exits](#). For landing areas less than 60 feet (18 288 mm) in length or less than 2,000 square feet (186 m<sup>2</sup>) in area, the second *means of egress* is permitted to be a fire escape, *alternating tread device* or ladder leading to the floor below.

**[F] 412.7.4 Rooftop heliports and helistops.**

Rooftop *heliports* and *helistops* shall comply with [NFPA 418](#).

**[F] 412.7.5 Standpipe system.**

In buildings equipped with a *standpipe system*, the standpipe shall extend to the roof level in accordance with [Section 905.3.6](#).