

# 2021 Virginia Construction Code

## CHAPTER 14 EXTERIOR WALLS

### SECTION 1402 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### 1402.1 General.

The provisions of this section shall apply to exterior walls, wall coverings and components thereof.

#### 1402.2 Weather protection.

Exterior walls shall provide the building with a weather-resistant exterior wall envelope. The exterior wall envelope shall include flashing, as described in Section 1404.4. The exterior wall envelope shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to prevent the accumulation of water within the wall assembly by providing a water-resistive barrier behind the exterior veneer, as described in Section 1403.2, and a means for draining water that enters the assembly to the exterior. Protection against condensation in the exterior wall assembly shall be provided in accordance with Section 1404.3.

##### Exceptions:

1. A weather-resistant exterior wall envelope shall not be required over concrete or masonry walls designed in accordance with Chapters 19 and 21, respectively.
2. Compliance with the requirements for a means of drainage, and the requirements of Sections 1403.2 and 1404.4, shall not be required for an exterior wall envelope that has been demonstrated through testing to resist wind-driven rain, including joints, penetrations and intersections with dissimilar materials, in accordance with ASTM E331 under the following conditions:

The exterior wall envelope design shall be considered to resist wind-driven rain where the results of testing indicate that water did not penetrate control joints in the exterior wall envelope, joints at the perimeter of openings or intersections of terminations with dissimilar materials.

  - 2.1. Exterior wall envelope test assemblies shall include not fewer than one opening, one control joint, one wall/eave interface and one wall sill. Tested openings and penetrations shall be representative of the intended end-use configuration.
  - 2.2. Exterior wall envelope test assemblies shall be not less than 4 feet by 8 feet (1219 mm by 2438 mm) in size.
  - 2.3. Exterior wall envelope assemblies shall be tested at a minimum differential pressure of 6.24 pounds per square foot (0.297 kN/m<sup>2</sup>).
  - 2.4. Exterior wall envelope assemblies shall be subjected to a minimum test exposure duration of 2 hours.
3. Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) complying with Section 1407.4.1.

#### [BS] 1402.3 Structural.

Exterior walls, and the associated openings, shall be designed and constructed to resist safely the superimposed loads required by Chapter 16.

#### 1402.4 Fire resistance.

Exterior walls shall be fire-resistance rated as required by other sections of this code with opening protection as required by Chapter 7.

#### 1402.5 Water-resistive barriers.

(Section deleted.)

#### [BS] 1402.6 Flood resistance.

For buildings in flood hazard areas as established in Section 1612.3, exterior walls extending below the elevation required by Section 1612 shall be constructed with flood-damage-resistant materials.

#### [BS] 1402.7 Flood resistance for coastal high-hazard areas and coastal A zones.

For buildings in coastal high-hazard areas and coastal A zones as established in Section 1612.3, electrical, mechanical and plumbing system components shall not be mounted on or penetrate through exterior walls that are designed to break away under flood loads.

#### 1402.8 Air barriers.

The exterior wall envelope shall be designed and constructed by providing air barriers that comply with the International Energy Conservation Code.

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