

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 21 MASONRY

SECTION 2110 GLASS UNIT MASONRY

2110.1 General.

Glass unit masonry construction shall comply with Chapter 13 of [TMS 402](#) and this section.

2110.1.1 Limitations.

Solid or hollow *approved* glass block shall not be used in *fire walls*, party walls, fire barriers, *fire partitions* or *smoke barriers*, or for load-bearing construction. Such blocks shall be erected with *mortar* and reinforcement in metal channel-type frames, structural frames, masonry or concrete recesses, embedded panel anchors as provided for both exterior and interior walls or other *approved* joint materials. Wood strip framing shall not be used in walls required to have a *fire-resistance rating* by other provisions of this code.

Exceptions:

1. Glass-block assemblies having a *fire protection rating* of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ hour shall be permitted as opening protectives in accordance with [Section 716](#) in *fire barriers*, *fire partitions* and *smoke barriers* that have a required *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour or less and do not enclose exit stairways and ramps or exit passageways.
2. Glass-block assemblies as permitted in [Section 404.6](#), Exception 2.

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