

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 17 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS

SECTION 1705 REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS

1705.1 General.

Special inspections and tests of elements and nonstructural components of buildings and structures shall meet the applicable requirements of this section.

1705.1.1 Special cases.

Special inspections and tests shall be required for proposed work that is, in the opinion of the *building official*, unusual in its nature, such as, but not limited to, the following examples:

1. Construction materials and systems that are alternatives to materials and systems prescribed by this code.
2. Unusual design applications of materials described in this code.
3. Materials and systems required to be installed in accordance with additional manufacturer's instructions that prescribe requirements not contained in this code or in standards referenced by this code.

1705.2 Steel construction.

The *special inspections* and nondestructive testing of steel construction in buildings, structures, and portions thereof shall be in accordance with this section.

Exception: *Special inspections* of the steel fabrication process shall not be required where the fabrication process for the entire building or structure does not include any welding, thermal cutting or heating operation of any kind. In such cases, the fabricator shall be required to submit a detailed procedure for material control that demonstrates the fabricator's ability to maintain suitable records and procedures such that, at any time during the fabrication process, the material specification and grade for the main stress-carrying elements are capable of being determined. Mill test reports shall be identifiable to the main stress-carrying elements where required by the *approved construction documents*.

1705.2.1 Structural steel.

Special inspections and nondestructive testing of *structural steel elements* in buildings, structures and portions thereof shall be in accordance with the quality assurance inspection requirements of [AISC 360](#).

Exception: *Special inspection* of railing systems composed of *structural steel elements* shall be limited to welding inspection of welds at the base of cantilevered rail posts.

1705.2.2 Cold-formed steel deck.

Special inspections and qualification of weldings *special inspectors* for cold-formed steel floor and *roof deck* shall be in accordance with the quality assurance inspection requirements of [SDI QA/QC](#).

1705.2.3 Open-web steel joists and joist girders.

Special inspections of open-web *steel joists* and joist girders in buildings, structures and portions thereof shall be in accordance with [Table 1705.2.3](#).

**TABLE 1705.2.3
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS OF OPEN-WEB STEEL JOISTS AND JOIST GIRDERS**

TYPE	CONTINU OUS SPECIAL INSPECTI ON	PERIODI C SPECIAL INSPECTI ON	REFERENCED STANDARD ^a
1. Installation of open-web steel joists and joist girders.			
a. End connections – welding or bolted.	—	X	SJI specifications listed in Section 2207.1 .
b. Bridging – horizontal or diagonal.	—	—	—
1. Standard bridging.	—	X	SJI specifications listed in Section 2207.1 .
2. Bridging that differs from the SJI specifications listed in Section 2207.1 .	—	X	—

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For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

- a. Where applicable, see [Section 1705.13](#).

1705.2.4 Cold-formed steel trusses spanning 60 feet or greater.

Where a cold-formed steel truss clear span is 60 feet (18 288 mm) or greater, the *special inspector* shall verify that the temporary installation restraint/bracing and the permanent *individual truss member* restraint/bracing are installed in accordance with the *approved truss submittal package*.

1705.3 Concrete construction.

Special inspections and tests of concrete construction shall be performed in accordance with this section and [Table 1705.3](#).

Exceptions: *Special inspections* and tests shall not be required for:

1. Isolated spread concrete footings of buildings three stories or less above *grade plane* that are fully supported on earth or rock.
2. Continuous concrete footings supporting walls of buildings three stories or less above *grade plane* that are fully supported on earth or rock where:
 - 2.1. The footings support walls of *light-frame construction*.
 - 2.2. The footings are designed in accordance with [Table 1809.7](#).
 - 2.3. The structural design of the footing is based on a specified compressive strength, f_c , not more than 2,500 pounds per square inch (psi) (17.2 MPa), regardless of the compressive strength specified in the *approved construction documents* or used in the footing construction.
3. *Nonstructural concrete* slabs supported directly on the ground, including prestressed slabs on grade, where the effective prestress in the concrete is less than 150 psi (1.03 MPa).
4. Concrete foundation walls constructed in accordance with [Table 1807.1.6.2](#).
5. Concrete patios, driveways and sidewalks, on grade.

**TABLE 1705.3
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS OF CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION**

TYPE	CONTINUOUS SPECIAL INSPECTION	PERIODIC SPECIAL INSPECTION	REFERENCE STANDARD ^a	IBC REFERENCE
1. Inspect reinforcement, including prestressing tendons, and verify placement.	—	X	ACI 318 : Ch. 20, 25.2, 25.3, 26.6.1-26.6.3	—
2. Reinforcing bar welding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Verify weldability of reinforcing bars other than ASTM A706; b. Inspect single-pass fillet welds, maximum $\frac{5}{16}$"; and c. Inspect all other welds. 	— — X	X X —	AWS D1.4 ACI 318 : 26.6.4	—
3. Inspect anchors cast in concrete.	—	X	ACI 318 : 17.8.2	—
4. Inspect anchors post-installed in hardened concrete members ^b <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adhesive anchors installed in horizontally or upwardly inclined orientations to resist sustained tension loads. b. Mechanical anchors and adhesive anchors not defined in 4.a. 	X —	— X	ACI 318 : 17.8.2.4 ACI 318 : 17.8.2	—
5. Verify use of required design mix.	—	X	ACI 318 : Ch. 19, 26.4.3, 26.4.4	1904.1 , 1904.2

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6. Prior to concrete placement, fabricate specimens for strength tests, perform slump and air content tests, and determine the temperature of the concrete.	X	—	ASTM C31 ASTM C172 ACI 318: 26.5, 26.12	—
7. Inspect concrete and shotcrete placement for proper application techniques.	X	—	ACI 318: 26.5	—
8. Verify maintenance of specified curing temperature and techniques.	—	X	ACI 318: 26.5.3- 26.5.5	—
9. Inspect prestressed concrete for: a. Application of prestressing forces; and b. Grouting of bonded prestressing tendons.	X X	— —	ACI 318: 26.10	—
10. Inspect erection of precast concrete members.	—	X	ACI 318: 26.9	—
11. For precast concrete diaphragm connections or reinforcement at joints classified as moderate or high deformability elements (MDE or HDE) in structures assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F, inspect such connections and reinforcement in the field for: a. Installation of the embedded parts b. Completion of the continuity of reinforcement across joints. c. Completion of connections in the field.	X X X	— — —	ACI 318: 26.13.1.3 ACI 550.5	—
12. Inspect installation tolerances of precast concrete diaphragm connections for compliance with ACI 550.5.	—	X	ACI 318: 26.13.1.3	—
13. Verify in-situ concrete strength, prior to stressing of tendons in post-tensioned concrete and prior to removal of shores and forms from beams and structural slabs.	—	X	ACI 318: 26.11.2	—
14. Inspect formwork for shape, location and dimensions of the concrete member being formed, shoring and reshoring.	—	X	ACI 318: 26.11.1.2(b)	—

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

- a. Where applicable, see [Section 1705.13](#).
- b. Specific requirements for special inspection shall be included in the research report for the anchor issued by an approved source in accordance with 17.8.2 in [ACI 318](#), or other qualification procedures. Where specific requirements are not provided, special inspection requirements shall be specified by the registered design professional and shall be approved by the building official prior to the commencement of the work.

1705.3.1 Welding of reinforcing bars.

Special inspections of welding and qualifications of *special inspectors* for reinforcing bars shall be in accordance with the requirements of [AWS D1.4](#) for *special inspection* and of [AWS D1.4](#) for *special inspector* qualification.

1705.3.2 Material tests.

In the absence of sufficient data or documentation providing evidence of conformance to quality standards for materials in Chapters 19 and 20 of [ACI 318](#), the *building official* shall require testing of materials in accordance with the appropriate standards and criteria for the material in Chapters 19 and 20 of [ACI 318](#).

1705.4 Masonry construction.

Special inspections and tests of masonry construction shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance program requirements of [TMS 402](#) and [TMS 602](#).

Exception: *Special inspections* and tests shall not be required for:

1. Empirically designed masonry, *glass unit masonry* or masonry *veneer* designed in accordance with [Section 2109](#), [Section 2110](#) or [Chapter 14](#), respectively, where they are part of a structure classified as *Risk Category* I, II or III.

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2. Masonry foundation walls constructed in accordance with [Table 1807.1.6.3\(1\)](#), [1807.1.6.3\(2\)](#), [1807.1.6.3\(3\)](#) or [1807.1.6.3\(4\)](#).
3. Masonry fireplaces, masonry heaters or masonry chimneys installed or constructed in accordance with [Section 2111](#), [2112](#) or [2113](#), respectively.

1705.4.1 Glass unit masonry and masonry veneer in Risk Category IV.

Special inspections and tests for glass unit masonry or masonry veneer designed in accordance with [Section 2110](#) or [Chapter 14](#), respectively, where they are part of a structure classified as *Risk Category IV* shall be performed in accordance with [TMS 602](#) Level 2.

1705.4.2 Vertical masonry foundation elements.

Special inspections and tests of vertical masonry foundation elements shall be performed in accordance with [Section 1705.4](#).

1705.5 Wood construction.

Special inspections of prefabricated wood structural elements and assemblies shall be in accordance with [Section 1704.2.5](#). *Special inspections* of site-built assemblies shall be in accordance with this section.

1705.5.1 High-load diaphragms.

High-load *diaphragms* designed in accordance with [Section 2306.2](#) shall be installed with *special inspections* as indicated in [Section 1704.2](#). The *special inspector* shall inspect the wood structural panel sheathing to ascertain whether it is of the grade and thickness shown on the *approved* construction documents. Additionally, the *special inspector* must verify the *nominal size* of framing members at adjoining panel edges, the nail or staple diameter and length, the number of fastener lines and that the spacing between fasteners in each line and at edge margins agrees with the *approved construction documents*.

1705.5.2 Metal-plate-connected wood trusses spanning 60 feet or greater.

Where a truss clear span is 60 feet (18 288 mm) or greater, the *special inspector* shall verify that the temporary installation restraint/bracing and the permanent individual truss member restraint/bracing are installed in accordance with the approved truss submittal package.

1705.5.3 Mass timber construction.

Special inspections of mass timber elements in Types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C construction shall be in accordance with [Table 1705.5.3](#).

**TABLE 1705.5.3
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS OF MASS TIMBER CONSTRUCTION**

TYPE		CONTINUOUS SPECIAL INSPECTION	PERIODIC SPECIAL INSPECTION
1	Inspection of anchorage and connections of mass timber construction to timber deep foundation systems.	—	X
2	Inspect erection of mass timber construction.	—	X
3	Inspection of connections where installation methods are required to meet design loads.		
Threaded fasteners	Verify use of proper installation equipment.	—	X
	Verify use of pre-drilled holes where required.	—	X
	Inspect screws, including diameter, length, head type, spacing, installation angle and depth.	—	X
Adhesive anchors installed in horizontal or upwardly inclined orientation to resist sustained tension loads.		X	—
Adhesive anchors not defined in preceding cell.		—	X
Bolted connections.		—	X
Concealed connections.		—	X

1705.6 Soils.

Special inspections and tests of existing site soil conditions, fill placement and load-bearing requirements shall be performed in accordance with this section and [Table 1705.6](#). The *approved* geotechnical report and the *construction documents* prepared by the *registered design professionals* shall be used to determine compliance.

Exception: Where [Section 1803](#) does not require reporting of materials and procedures for fill placement, the *special inspector* shall verify that the in-place dry density of the compacted fill is not less than 90 percent of the maximum dry density at optimum moisture content determined in accordance with [ASTM D1557](#).

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**TABLE 1705.6
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS OF SOILS**

TYPE	CONTINUOUS SPECIAL INSPECTION	PERIODIC SPECIAL INSPECTION
1. Verify materials below shallow foundations are adequate to achieve the design bearing capacity.	—	X
2. Verify excavations are extended to proper depth and have reached proper material.	—	X
3. Perform classification and testing of compacted fill materials.	—	X
4. During fill placement, verify use of proper materials and procedures in accordance with the provisions of the approved geotechnical report. Verify densities and lift thicknesses during placement and compaction of compacted fill.	X	—
5. Prior to placement of compacted fill, inspect subgrade and verify that site has been prepared properly.	—	X

1705.7 Driven deep foundations.

Special inspections and tests shall be performed during installation of driven *deep foundation* elements as specified in [Table 1705.7](#). The approved geotechnical report and the construction documents prepared by the *registered design professionals* shall be used to determine compliance.

**TABLE 1705.7
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS OF DRIVEN DEEP FOUNDATION ELEMENTS**

TYPE	CONTINUOUS SPECIAL INSPECTION	PERIODIC SPECIAL INSPECTION
1. Verify element materials, sizes and lengths comply with the requirements.	X	—
2. Determine capacities of test elements and conduct additional load tests, as required.	X	—
3. Inspect driving operations and maintain complete and accurate records for each element.	X	—
4. Verify placement locations and plumbness, confirm type and size of hammer, record number of blows per foot of penetration, determine required penetrations to achieve design capacity, record tip and butt elevations and document any damage to foundation element.	X	—
5. For steel elements, perform additional special inspections in accordance with Section 1705.2 .	In accordance with Section 1705.2	
6. For concrete elements and concrete-filled elements, perform tests and additional special inspections in accordance with Section 1705.3 .	In accordance with Section 1705.3	
7. For specialty elements, perform additional inspections as determined by the registered design professional in responsible charge.	In accordance with Statement of Special Inspections	

1705.8 Cast-in-place deep foundations.

Special inspections and tests shall be performed during installation of cast-in-place *deep foundation* elements as specified in [Table 1705.8](#). The *approved* geotechnical report and the *construction documents* prepared by the *registered design professionals* shall be used to determine compliance.

**TABLE 1705.8
REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTS OF CAST-IN-PLACE DEEP FOUNDATION ELEMENTS**

TYPE	CONTINUOUS SPECIAL INSPECTION	PERIODIC SPECIAL INSPECTION
1. Inspect drilling operations and maintain complete and accurate records for each element.	X	—
2. Verify placement locations and plumbness, confirm element diameters, bell diameters (if applicable), lengths, embedment into bedrock (if applicable) and adequate end-bearing strata capacity. Record concrete or grout volumes.	X	—
3. For concrete elements, perform tests and additional <i>special inspections</i> in accordance with Section 1705.3 .	In accordance with Section 1705.3	

1705.9 Helical pile foundations.

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Continuous special inspections shall be performed during installation of *helical pile* foundations. The information recorded shall include installation equipment used, pile dimensions, tip elevations, final depth, final installation torque and other pertinent installation data as required by the *registered design professional* in responsible charge. The *approved* geotechnical report and the *construction documents* prepared by the *registered design professional* shall be used to determine compliance.

1705.10 Structural integrity of deep foundation elements.

Whenever there is a reasonable doubt as to the structural integrity of a *deep foundation* element, an engineering assessment shall be required. The engineering assessment shall include tests for defects performed in accordance with [ASTM D4945](#), [ASTM D5882](#), [ASTM D6760](#) or [ASTM D7949](#), or other *approved method*.

1705.11 Fabricated items.

Special inspections of fabricated items shall be performed in accordance with [Section 1704.2.5](#).

1705.12 Special inspections for wind resistance.

Special inspections for wind resistance specified in [Sections 1705.12.1](#) through [1705.12.3](#), unless exempted by the exceptions to [Section 1704.2](#), are required for buildings and structures constructed in the following areas:

1. In wind Exposure Category B, where V is 150 miles per hour (67 m/sec) or greater.
2. In wind Exposure Category C or D, where V is 140 mph (62.6 m/sec) or greater.

1705.12.1 Structural wood.

Continuous special inspection is required during field gluing operations of elements of the *main windforce-resisting system*. *Periodic special inspection* is required for nailing, bolting, anchoring and other fastening of elements of the *main windforce-resisting system*, including wood *shear walls*, wood *diaphragms*, *drag struts*, braces and *hold-downs*.

Exception: *Special inspections* are not required for wood *shear walls*, shear panels and *diaphragms*, including nailing, bolting, anchoring and other fastening to other elements of the *main windforce-resisting system*, where the [lateral resistance is provided by structural sheathing and the](#) specified fastener spacing at panel edges is more than 4 inches (102 mm) on center.

1705.12.2 Cold-formed steel light-frame construction.

Periodic special inspection is required for welding operations of elements of the *main windforce-resisting system*. *Periodic special inspection* is required for screw attachment, bolting, anchoring and other fastening of elements of the *main windforce-resisting system*, including shear walls, braces, *diaphragms*, *collectors* (*drag struts*) and *hold-downs*.

Exception: *Special inspections* are not required for cold-formed steel light-frame shear walls and *diaphragms*, including screwing, bolting, anchoring and other fastening to components of the windforce-resisting system, where either of the following applies:

1. The sheathing is *gypsum board* or *fiberboard*.
2. The sheathing is wood *structural panel* or steel sheets on only one side of the *shear wall*, shear panel or *diaphragm* assembly and the [specified](#) fastener spacing at the [panel or sheet edges](#) is more than 4 inches (102 mm) on center (o.c.).

1705.12.3 Wind-resisting components.

Periodic special inspection is required for fastening of the following systems and components:

1. *Roof covering*, *roof deck* and roof framing connections.
2. Exterior wall covering and wall connections to roof and floor *diaphragms* and framing.

1705.13 Special inspections for seismic resistance.

Special inspections for seismic resistance shall be required as specified in [Sections 1705.13.1](#) through [1705.13.9](#), unless exempted by the exceptions of [Section 1704.2](#).

Exception: The *special inspections* specified in [Sections 1705.13.1](#) through [1705.13.9](#) are not required for structures designed and constructed in accordance with one of the following:

1. The structure consists of *light-frame construction*; the design spectral response acceleration at short periods, S_{DS} , as determined in [Section 1613.2.4](#), does not exceed 0.5; and the *building height* of the structure does not exceed 35 feet (10 668 mm).
2. The *seismic force-resisting system* of the structure consists of *reinforced masonry* or reinforced concrete; the design spectral response acceleration at short periods, S_{DS} , as determined in [Section 1613.2.4](#), does not exceed 0.5; and the *building height* of the structure does not exceed 25 feet (7620 mm).
3. The structure is a detached one- or two-family dwelling not exceeding two *stories above grade plane* and does not have any of the following horizontal or vertical irregularities in accordance with Section 12.3 of [ASCE 7](#):
 - 3.1. Torsional or extreme torsional irregularity.

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- 3.2. Nonparallel systems irregularity.
- 3.3. Stiffness-soft story or stiffness-extreme soft story irregularity.
- 3.4. Discontinuity in lateral strength-weak story irregularity.

1705.13.1 Structural steel.

Special inspections for seismic resistance shall be in accordance with [Section 1705.13.1.1](#) or [1705.13.1.2](#), as applicable.

1705.13.1.1 Seismic force-resisting systems.

Special inspections of structural steel in the *seismic force-resisting* systems in buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* B, C, D, E or F shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of [AISC 341](#).

Exceptions:

1. In buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* B or C, *special inspections* are not required for structural steel *seismic force-resisting* systems where the response modification coefficient, *R*, designated for "Steel systems not specifically detailed for seismic resistance, excluding cantilever column systems" in [ASCE 7](#), Table 12.2-1, has been used for design and detailing.
2. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* D, E, or F, *special inspections* are not required for structural steel *seismic force-resisting* systems where design and detailing in accordance with [AISC 360](#) is permitted by [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1.

1705.13.1.2 Structural steel elements.

Special inspections of structural steel elements in the *seismic force-resisting* systems of buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* B, C, D, E or F other than those covered in [Section 1705.13.1.1](#), including struts, collectors, chords and foundation elements, shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of [AISC 341](#).

Exceptions:

1. In buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* B or C, *special inspections* of structural steel elements are not required for *seismic force-resisting* systems with a response modification coefficient, *R*, of 3 or less.
2. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* D, E, or F, *special inspections* of structural steel elements are not required for *seismic force-resisting* systems where design and detailing other than [AISC 341](#) is permitted by [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1. *Special inspection* shall be in accordance with the applicable referenced standard listed in [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1.

1705.13.2 Structural wood.

For the *seismic force-resisting* systems of structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* C, D, E or F:

1. *Continuous special inspection* shall be required during field gluing operations of elements of the *seismic force-resisting* system.
2. *Periodic special inspection* shall be required for nailing, bolting, anchoring and other fastening of elements of the *seismic force-resisting* system, including wood *shear walls*, wood *diaphragms*, *drag struts*, braces, shear panels and *hold-downs*.

Exception: *Special inspections* are not required for wood *shear walls*, shear panels and diaphragms, including nailing, bolting, anchoring and other fastening to other elements of the *seismic force-resisting* system, where the [lateral resistance is provided by structural sheathing, and the specified fastener spacing at the panel edges](#) is more than 4 inches (102 mm) on center.

1705.13.3 Cold-formed steel light-frame construction.

For the *seismic force-resisting* systems of structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category* C, D, E or F, *periodic special inspection* shall be required for both:

1. Welding operations of elements of the *seismic force-resisting* system.
2. Screw attachment, bolting, anchoring and other fastening of elements of the *seismic force-resisting* system, including shear walls, braces, *diaphragms*, *collectors* (*drag struts*) and *hold-downs*.

Exception: *Special inspections* are not required for cold-formed steel light-frame shear walls and *diaphragms*, including screw installation, bolting, anchoring and other fastening to components of the *seismic force-resisting* system, where either of the following applies:

1. The sheathing is gypsum board or *fiberboard*.
2. The sheathing is wood structural panel or steel sheets on only one side of the *shear wall*, shear panel or *diaphragm* assembly and the [specified fastener spacing at the panel or sheet edge](#) is more than 4 inches (102 mm) on center.

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1705.13.4 Designated seismic systems.

For structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F*, the *special inspector* shall examine *designated seismic systems* requiring seismic qualification in accordance with Section 13.2.2 of [ASCE 7](#) and verify that the label, anchorage and mounting conform to the *certificate of compliance*.

1705.13.5 Architectural components.

Periodic special inspection is required for the erection and fastening of exterior cladding, interior and exterior nonbearing walls and interior and exterior *veneer* in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E or F*.

Exception: *Periodic special inspection* is not required for the following:

1. Exterior cladding, interior and exterior nonbearing walls and interior and exterior *veneer* 30 feet (9144 mm) or less in height above grade or walking surface.
2. Exterior cladding and interior and exterior *veneer* weighing 5 psf (0.24 kN/m²) or less.
3. Interior nonbearing walls weighing 15 psf (0.72 kN/m²) or less.

1705.13.5.1 Access floors.

Periodic special inspection is required for the anchorage of access floors in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E or F*.

1705.13.6 Plumbing, mechanical and electrical components.

Periodic special inspection of plumbing, mechanical and electrical components shall be required for the following:

1. Anchorage of electrical equipment for emergency and standby power systems in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F*.
2. Anchorage of other electrical equipment in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category E or F*.
3. Installation and anchorage of piping systems designed to carry hazardous materials and their associated mechanical units in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F*.
4. Installation and anchorage of ductwork designed to carry hazardous materials in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F*.
5. Installation and anchorage of vibration isolation systems in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F* where the *approved construction documents* require a nominal clearance of ¹/₄ inch (6.4 mm) or less between the equipment support frame and restraint.
6. Installation of mechanical and electrical equipment, including duct work, piping systems and their structural supports, where automatic sprinkler systems are installed in structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F* to verify one of the following:
 - 6.1. Minimum clearances have been provided as required by Section 13.2.3 [ASCE/SEI 7](#).
 - 6.2. A nominal clearance of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) has been provided between *automatic* sprinkler system drops and sprigs and: structural members not used collectively or independently to support the sprinklers; equipment attached to the building structure; and other systems' piping.

Where flexible sprinkler hose fittings are used, *special inspection* of minimum clearances is not required.

1705.13.7 Storage racks.

Steel storage racks and steel cantilevered storage racks that are 8 feet (2438 mm) in height or greater and assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E or F* shall be provided with periodic special inspection as required by [Table 1705.13.7](#).

**TABLE 1705.13.7
REQUIRED INSPECTIONS OF STORAGE RACK SYSTEMS**

TYPE	CONTINUOUS INSPECTION	PERIODIC INSPECTION	REFERENCE STANDARD	IBC REFERENCE
1. Materials used, to verify compliance with one or more of the material test reports in accordance with the approved construction documents.	—	X	—	—
2. Fabricated storage rack elements.	—	X	—	Section 1704.2.5
3. Storage rack anchorage installation.	—	X	ANSI/MH16.1 Section 7.3.2	—
4. Completed storage rack system, to indicate compliance with the approved construction documents.	—	X	—	—

1705.13.8 Seismic isolation systems.

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Periodic special inspection shall be provided for seismic isolation systems in seismically isolated structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B, C, D, E or F* during the fabrication and installation of isolator units and energy dissipation devices.

1705.13.9 Cold-formed steel special bolted moment frames.

Periodic special inspection shall be provided for the installation of cold-formed steel special bolted moment frames in the *seismic force-resisting systems* of structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E or F*.

1705.14 Testing for seismic resistance.

Testing for seismic resistance shall be required as specified in [Sections 1705.14.1](#) through [1705.14.4](#), unless exempted from *special inspections* by the exceptions of [Section 1704.2](#).

1705.14.1 Structural steel.

Nondestructive testing for seismic resistance shall be in accordance with [Section 1705.14.1.1](#) or [1705.14.1.2](#), as applicable.

1705.14.1.1 Seismic force-resisting systems.

Nondestructive testing of structural steel in the *seismic force-resisting systems* in buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B, C, D, E or F* shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of [AISC 341](#).

Exceptions:

1. In buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B or C*, nondestructive testing is not required for structural steel *seismic force-resisting systems* where the response modification coefficient, *R*, designated for “Steel systems not specifically detailed for seismic resistance, excluding cantilever column systems” in [ASCE 7](#), Table 12.2-1, has been used for design and detailing.
2. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E, or F*, nondestructive testing is not required for structural steel *seismic force-resisting systems* where design and detailing in accordance with [AISC 360](#) is permitted by [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1.

1705.14.1.2 Structural steel elements.

Nondestructive testing of *structural steel elements* in the *seismic force-resisting systems* of buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B, C, D, E or F* other than those covered in [Section 1705.14.1.1](#), including struts, *collectors*, chords and foundation elements, shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of [AISC 341](#).

Exceptions:

1. In buildings and structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B or C*, nondestructive testing of *structural steel elements* is not required for *seismic force-resisting systems* with a response modification coefficient, *R*, of 3 or less.
2. In structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category D, E or F*, nondestructive testing of *structural steel elements* is not required for *seismic force-resisting systems* where design and detailing other than [AISC 341](#) is permitted by [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1. Nondestructive testing of *structural steel elements* shall be in accordance with the applicable referenced standard listed in [ASCE 7](#), Table 15.4-1.

1705.14.2 Nonstructural components.

For structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B, C, D, E or F*, where the requirements of Section 13.2.1 of [ASCE 7](#) for nonstructural components, supports or attachments are met by seismic qualification as specified in Item 2 therein, the *registered design professional* shall specify on the *approved construction documents* the requirements for seismic qualification by analysis, testing or experience data. *Certificates of compliance* for the seismic qualification shall be submitted to the *building official* as specified in [Section 1704.5](#).

1705.14.3 Designated seismic systems.

For structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F* and with *designated seismic systems* that are subject to the requirements of Section 13.2.2 of [ASCE 7](#) for certification, the *registered design professional* shall specify on the *approved construction documents* the requirements to be met by analysis, testing or experience data as specified therein. *Certificates of compliance* documenting that the requirements are met shall be submitted to the *building official* as specified in [Section 1704.5](#).

1705.14.4 Seismic isolation systems.

Seismic isolation systems in seismically isolated structures assigned to *Seismic Design Category B, C, D, E or F* shall be tested in accordance with Section 17.8 of [ASCE 7](#).

[BF] 1705.15 Sprayed fire-resistant materials.

Special inspections and tests of sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to floor, roof and wall assemblies and structural

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members shall be performed in accordance with [Sections 1705.15.1 through 1705.15.6](#). *Special inspections* shall be based on the fire-resistance design as designated in the *approved construction documents*. The tests set forth in this section shall be based on samplings from specific floor, roof and wall assemblies and structural members. *Special inspections* and tests shall be performed [during construction with an additional visual inspection](#) after the rough installation of electrical, automatic sprinkler, mechanical and plumbing systems and suspension systems for ceilings, [and before concealment](#) where applicable. [The required sample size shall not exceed 110 percent of that specified by the referenced standards in Sections 1705.15.4.1 through 1705.15.4.9.](#)

[BF] 1705.15.1 Physical and visual tests.

The *special inspections* and tests shall include the following to demonstrate compliance with the listing and the *fire-resistance rating*:

1. Condition of substrates.
2. Thickness of application.
3. Density in pounds per cubic foot (kg/m³).
4. Bond strength adhesion/cohesion.
5. Condition of finished application.

[BF] 1705.15.2 Structural member surface conditions.

The surfaces shall be prepared in accordance with the *approved* fire-resistance design and the written instructions of *approved* manufacturers. The prepared surface of structural members to be sprayed shall be inspected by the *special inspector* before the application of the sprayed fire-resistant material.

[BF] 1705.15.3 Application.

The substrate shall have a minimum ambient temperature before and after application as specified in the written instructions of *approved* manufacturers. The area for application shall be ventilated during and after application as required by the written instructions of *approved* manufacturers.

[BF] 1705.15.4 Thickness.

Not more than 10 percent of the thickness measurements of the sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to floor, roof and wall assemblies and structural members shall be less than the thickness required by the *approved* fire-resistance design, and none shall be less than the minimum allowable thickness required by [Section 1705.15.4.1](#).

[BF] 1705.15.4.1 Minimum allowable thickness.

For design thicknesses 1 inch (25 mm) or greater, the minimum allowable individual thickness shall be the design thickness minus 1/4 inch (6.4 mm). For design thicknesses less than 1 inch (25 mm), the minimum allowable individual thickness shall be the design thickness minus 25 percent. Thickness shall be determined in accordance with [ASTM E605](#). Samples of the sprayed fire-resistant materials shall be selected in accordance with [Sections 1705.15.4.2 and 1705.15.4.3](#).

[BF] 1705.15.4.2 Floor, roof and wall assemblies.

The thickness of the sprayed fire-resistant material applied to floor, roof and wall assemblies shall be determined in accordance with [ASTM E605](#), making not less than four measurements for each 1,000 square feet (93 m²) of the sprayed area, or portion thereof, in each story.

[BF] 1705.15.4.3 Cellular decks.

Thickness measurements shall be selected from a square area, 12 inches by 12 inches (305 mm by 305 mm) in size. Not fewer than four measurements shall be made, located symmetrically within the square area.

[BF] 1705.15.4.4 Fluted decks.

Thickness measurements shall be selected from a square area, 12 inches by 12 inches (305 mm by 305 mm) in size. Not fewer than four measurements shall be made, located symmetrically within the square area, including one each of the following: valley, crest and sides. The average of the measurements shall be reported.

[BF] 1705.15.4.5 Structural members.

The thickness of the sprayed fire-resistant material applied to structural members shall be determined in accordance with [ASTM E605](#). Thickness testing shall be performed on not less than 25 percent of the structural members on each floor.

[BF] 1705.15.4.6 Beams and girders.

At beams and girders thickness measurements shall be made at nine locations around the beam or girder at each end of a 12-inch (305 mm) length.

[BF] 1705.15.4.7 Joists and trusses.

At joists and trusses, thickness measurements shall be made at seven locations around the joist or truss at each end of a 12-inch (305 mm) length.

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[BF] 1705.15.4.8 Wide-flanged columns.

At wide-flanged columns, thickness measurements shall be made at 12 locations around the column at each end of a 12-inch (305 mm) length.

[BF] 1705.15.4.9 Hollow structural section and pipe columns.

At hollow structural section and pipe columns, thickness measurements shall be made at not fewer than four locations around the column at each end of a 12-inch (305 mm) length.

[BF] 1705.15.5 Density.

The density of the sprayed fire-resistant material shall be not less than the density specified in the *approved* fire-resistance design. Density of the sprayed fire-resistant material shall be determined in accordance with [ASTM E605](#). The test samples for determining the density of the sprayed fire-resistant materials shall be selected as follows:

1. From each floor, roof and wall assembly at the rate of not less than one sample for every 2,500 square feet (232 m²) or portion thereof of the sprayed area in each story.
2. From beams, girders, trusses and columns at the rate of not less than one sample for each type of structural member for each 2,500 square feet (232 m²) of floor area or portion thereof in each story.

[BF] 1705.15.6 Bond strength.

The cohesive/adhesive bond strength of the cured sprayed fire-resistant material applied to floor, roof and wall assemblies and structural members shall be not less than 150 pounds per square foot (psf) (7.18 kN/m²). The cohesive/adhesive bond strength shall be determined in accordance with the field test specified in [ASTM E736](#) by testing in-place samples of the sprayed fire-resistant material selected in accordance with [Sections 1705.15.6.1 through 1705.15.6.3](#).

[BF] 1705.15.6.1 Floor, roof and wall assemblies.

The test samples for determining the cohesive/adhesive bond strength of the sprayed fire-resistant materials shall be selected from each floor, roof and wall assembly at the rate of not less than one sample for every 2,500 square feet (232 m²) of the sprayed area, or portion thereof, in each story.

[BF] 1705.15.6.2 Structural members.

The test samples for determining the cohesive/adhesive bond strength of the sprayed fire-resistant materials shall be selected from beams, girders, trusses, columns and other structural members at the rate of not less than one sample for each type of structural member for each 2,500 square feet (232 m²) of floor area or portion thereof in each story.

[BF] 1705.15.6.3 Primer, paint and encapsulant bond tests.

Bond tests to qualify a primer, paint or encapsulant shall be conducted where the sprayed fire-resistant material is applied to a primed, painted or encapsulated surface for which acceptable bond-strength performance between these coatings and the fire-resistant material has not been determined. A bonding agent *approved* by the SFRM manufacturer shall be applied to a primed, painted or encapsulated surface where the bond strengths are found to be less than required values.

[BF] 1705.16 Mastic and intumescent fire-resistant coatings.

Special inspections and tests for mastic and *intumescent fire-resistant coatings* applied to structural elements and decks shall be performed in accordance with [AWCI 12-B](#). *Special inspections* and tests shall be based on the fire-resistance design as designated in the *approved construction documents*. *Special inspections and tests shall be performed during construction. Additional visual inspection shall be performed after the rough installation and, where applicable, prior to the concealment of electrical, automatic sprinkler, mechanical and plumbing systems.*

1705.17 Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS).

Special inspections shall be required for all EIFS applications.

Exceptions:

1. *Special inspections* shall not be required for EIFS applications installed over a water-resistive barrier with a means of draining moisture to the exterior.
2. *Special inspections* shall not be required for EIFS applications installed over masonry or concrete walls.

1705.17.1 Water-resistive barrier coating.

A *water-resistive barrier* coating complying with [ASTM E2570](#) requires *special inspection* of the *water-resistive barrier* coating where installed over a sheathing substrate.

[BF] 1705.18 Fire-resistant penetrations and joints.

(Section deleted.)

[BF] 1705.18.1 Penetration firestops.

(Section deleted.)

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[BF] 1705.18.2 Fire-resistant joint systems.

(Section deleted.)

[F] 1705.19 Testing for smoke control.

Smoke control systems shall be tested by a *special inspector*.

[F] 1705.19.1 Testing scope.

The test scope shall be as follows:

1. During erection of ductwork and prior to concealment for the purposes of leakage testing and recording of device location.
2. Prior to occupancy and after sufficient completion for the purposes of pressure difference testing, flow measurements and detection and control verification.

[F] 1705.19.2 Qualifications.

Approved agencies for smoke control testing shall have expertise in fire protection engineering, mechanical engineering and certification as air balancers.

1705.20 Sealing of mass timber.

Periodic *special inspections* of sealants or adhesives shall be conducted where sealant or adhesive required by Section 703.7 is applied to *mass timber building elements* as designated in the *approved* construction documents.