

that is not part of a fire-resistance-rated assembly. A wall is not required in *attic* or ceiling spaces above tenant separation walls.

5. Fireblocking or draftstopping is not required at the partition line in Group R-2 buildings that do not exceed four *stories above grade plane*, provided the *attic* space is subdivided by draftstopping into areas not exceeding 3,000 square feet (279 m²) or above every two *dwelling units*, whichever is smaller.

6. Fireblocking or draftstopping is not required at the partition line in buildings equipped with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, provided that automatic sprinklers are installed in combustible floor/ceiling and roof/ceiling spaces.

7. A fire-resistance rating of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour shall be permitted in R-3 occupancies containing not more than two dwelling units which are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13D.

8. Wall assemblies in R-3 occupancies which contain not more than two dwelling units need not extend through *attic* spaces when the ceiling is protected by not less than $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum board and an *attic* draft stop constructed as specified in section 717.3.1 is provided above and along the wall assembly separating the *dwelling*s. The structural framing supporting the ceiling shall also be protected by not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board or equivalent.

709.5 Exterior walls. Where *exterior walls* serve as a part of a required fire-resistance-rated separation, such walls shall comply with the requirements of Section 705 for *exterior walls*, and the fire-resistance-rated separation requirements shall not apply.

Exception: *Exterior walls* required to be fire-resistance rated in accordance with Section 1019.2 for exterior egress balconies, Section 1022.6 for *exit* enclosures and Section 1026.6 for exterior *exit* ramps and *stairways*.

709.6 Openings. Openings in a *fire partition* shall be protected in accordance with Section 715.

709.7 Penetrations. Penetrations of *fire partitions* shall comply with Section 713.

709.8 Joints. Joints made in or between *fire partitions* shall comply with Section 714.

709.9 Ducts and air transfer openings. Penetrations in a *fire partition* by ducts and air transfer openings shall comply with Section 716.

SECTION 710 SMOKE BARRIERS

710.1 General. *Smoke barriers* shall comply with this section.

710.2 Materials. *Smoke barriers* shall be of materials permitted by the building type of construction.

710.3 Fire-resistance rating. A 1-hour *fire-resistance rating* is required for *smoke barriers*.

Exception: *Smoke barriers* constructed of minimum 0.10-inch-thick (2.5 mm) steel in Group I-3 buildings.