

## DEFINITIONS

**[BS] PANEL (PART OF A STRUCTURE).** The section of a floor, wall or roof comprised between the supporting frame of two adjacent rows of columns and girders or column bands of floor or roof construction.

**[BE] PANIC HARDWARE.** A door-latching assembly incorporating a device that releases the latch upon the application of a force in the direction of egress travel. See “Fire exit hardware.”

**[BS] PARTICLEBOARD.** A generic term for a panel primarily composed of cellulosic materials (usually wood), generally in the form of discrete pieces or particles, as distinguished from fibers. The cellulosic material is combined with synthetic resin or other suitable bonding system by a process in which the interparticle bond is created by the bonding system under heat and pressure.

**[BF] PENETRATION FIRESTOP.** A through-penetration firestop or a *membrane-penetration firestop*.

**[BG] PENTHOUSE.** An enclosed, unoccupied rooftop structure used for sheltering mechanical and electrical equipment, tanks, elevators and related machinery, and vertical *shaft* openings.

**[BS] PERFORMANCE CATEGORY.** A designation of wood structural panels as related to the panel performance used in Chapter 23.

**[A] PERMIT.** An official document or certificate issued by the *building official* that authorizes performance of a specified activity.

**[A] PERSON.** An individual, heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, and also includes a firm, partnership or corporation, its or their successors or assigns, or the agent of any of the aforesaid.

**[BG] PERSONAL CARE SERVICE.** The care of persons who do not require *medical care*. Personal care involves responsibility for the safety of the persons while inside the building

**[BE] PHOTOLUMINESCENT.** Having the property of emitting light that continues for a length of time after excitation by visible or invisible light has been removed.

**[BS] PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE.** A complete, environmentally protected unit consisting of solar cells, optics and other components, exclusive of tracker, designed to generate DC power when exposed to sunlight.

**[BS] PHOTOVOLTAIC PANEL.** A collection of modules mechanically fastened together, wired and designed to provide a field-installable unit.

**[BS] PHOTOVOLTAIC PANEL SYSTEM.** A system that incorporates discrete photovoltaic panels, that converts solar radiation into electricity, including rack support systems.

**[BS] PHOTOVOLTAIC SHINGLES.** A *roof covering* resembling shingles that incorporates photovoltaic modules.

**[F] PHYSICAL HAZARD.** A chemical for which there is evidence that it is a *combustible liquid*, *cryogenic fluid*, *explosive*, *flammable (solid, liquid or gas)*, *organic peroxide (solid or liquid)*, *oxidizer (solid or liquid)*, *oxidizing gas*, *pyrophoric (solid, liquid or gas)*, *unstable (reactive) material*

(*solid, liquid or gas*) or *water-reactive material (solid or liquid)*.

**[F] PHYSIOLOGICAL WARNING THRESHOLD LEVEL.** A concentration of airborne contaminants, normally expressed in parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m<sup>3</sup>), that represents the concentration at which persons can sense the presence of the contaminant due to odor, irritation or other quick-acting physiological response. When used in conjunction with the permissible exposure limit (PEL) the physiological warning threshold levels are those consistent with the classification system used to establish the PEL. See the definition of “Permissible exposure limit (PEL)” in the *International Fire Code*.

**PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.** See “Religious worship, place of.”

**[BF] PLASTIC, APPROVED.** Any thermoplastic, thermosetting or reinforced thermosetting plastic material that conforms to combustibility classifications specified in the section applicable to the application and plastic type.

**[BF] PLASTIC COMPOSITE.** A generic designation that refers to wood/plastic composites, plastic lumber and similar materials.

**[BF] PLASTIC GLAZING.** Plastic materials that are glazed or set in a frame or sash.

**[BF] PLASTIC LUMBER.** A manufactured product made primarily of plastic materials (filled or unfilled) which is generally rectangular in cross section.

**[BG] PLATFORM.** A raised area within a building used for worship, the presentation of music, plays or other entertainment; the head table for special guests; the raised area for lecturers and speakers; boxing and wrestling rings; theater-in-the-round *stages*; and similar purposes wherein, other than horizontal sliding curtains, there are no overhead hanging curtains, drops, scenery or stage effects other than lighting and sound. A temporary platform is one installed for not more than 30 days.

**[BF] POLYPROPYLENE SIDING.** A shaped material, made principally from polypropylene homopolymer, or copolymer, which in some cases contains fillers or reinforcements, that is used to clad *exterior walls* of buildings.

**[BS] PORCELAIN TILE.** Tile that conforms to the requirements of ANSI A137.1.3, Section 3.0 for ceramic tile having an absorption of 0.5 percent or less in accordance with ANSI A137.1, Section 4.1 and Section 6.1 Table 10.

**[BS] POSITIVE ROOF DRAINAGE.** The drainage condition in which consideration has been made for all loading deflections of the *roof deck*, and additional slope has been provided to ensure drainage of the roof within 48 hours of precipitation.

**[BE] POWER-ASSISTED DOOR.** Swinging door which opens by reduced pushing or pulling force on the door-operating hardware. The door closes automatically after the pushing or pulling force is released and functions with decreased forces. See “Low-energy power-operated door” and “Power-operated door.”

**[BE] POWER-OPERATED DOOR.** Swinging, sliding, or folding door which opens automatically when approached by