

within such *exterior walls* shall be protected by opening protectives having a fire-protection rating of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.

**706.6 Vertical continuity.** *Fire walls* shall extend from the foundation to a termination point at least 30 inches (762 mm) above both adjacent roofs.

**Exceptions:**

1. Stepped buildings in accordance with Section 706.6.1.
2. Two-hour fire-resistance-rated walls shall be permitted to terminate at the underside of the roof sheathing, deck or slab, provided:
  - 2.1. The lower roof assembly within 4 feet (1220 mm) of the wall has not less than a 1-hour *fire-resistance rating* and the entire length and span of supporting elements for the rated roof assembly has a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour.
  - 2.2. Openings in the roof shall not be located within 4 feet (1220 mm) of the *fire wall*.
  - 2.3. Each building shall be provided with not less than a Class B roof covering.
3. Walls shall be permitted to terminate at the underside of noncombustible roof sheathing, deck or slabs where both buildings are provided with not less than a Class B roof covering. Openings in the roof shall not be located within 4 feet (1220 mm) of the *fire wall*.
4. In buildings of Type III, IV and V construction, walls shall be permitted to terminate at the underside of combustible roof sheathing or decks, provided:
  - 4.1. There are no openings in the roof within 4 feet (1220 mm) of the *fire wall*,
  - 4.2. The roof is covered with a minimum Class B roof covering, and
  - 4.3. The roof sheathing or deck is constructed of *fire-retardant-treated wood* for a distance of 4 feet (1220 mm) on both sides of the wall or the roof is protected with  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum board directly beneath the underside of the roof sheathing or deck, supported by a minimum of 2-inch (51 mm) nominal ledgers attached to the sides of the roof framing members for a minimum distance of 4 feet (1220 mm) on both sides of the *fire wall*.
5. In buildings designed in accordance with Section 509.2, *fire walls* located above the 3-hour *horizontal assembly* required by Section 509.2, Item 1 shall be permitted to extend from the top of this *horizontal assembly*.

**706.6.1 Stepped buildings.** Where a *fire wall* serves as an *exterior wall* for a building and separates buildings having different roof levels, such wall shall terminate at a point not less than 30 inches (762 mm) above the lower roof level, provided the *exterior wall* for a height of 15 feet (4572 mm) above the lower roof is not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction from both sides with openings protected by fire assemblies having a *fire protection rating* of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.

**Exception:** Where the *fire wall* terminates at the underside of the roof sheathing, deck or slab of the lower roof, provided:

1. The lower roof assembly within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the wall has not less than a 1-hour *fire-resistance rating* and the entire length and span of supporting elements for the rated roof assembly has a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour.
2. Openings in the lower roof shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the *fire wall*.