

## SECTION 706 FIRE WALLS

**706.1 General.** Each portion of a building separated by one or more *fire walls* that comply with the provisions of this section shall be considered a separate building. The extent and location of such *fire walls* shall provide a complete separation. Where a *fire wall* also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a *fire barrier wall*, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply.

**706.1.1 Party walls.** Any wall located on a *plot line* between adjacent buildings, which is used or adapted for joint service between the two buildings, shall be constructed as a *fire wall* in accordance with Section 706. Party walls shall be constructed without openings and shall create separate buildings.

**Exception:** Openings in a party wall separating an *anchor building* and a mall shall be in accordance with Section 402.7.3.1.

**706.2 Structural stability.** *Fire walls* shall have sufficient structural stability under fire conditions to allow collapse of construction on either side without collapse of the wall for the duration of time indicated by the required *fire-resistance rating*.

**706.3 Materials.** *Fire walls* shall be of any *approved* noncombustible materials.

**Exception:** Buildings of Type V construction.

**706.4 Fire-resistance rating.** *Fire walls* shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than that required by Table 706.4.

**TABLE 706.4 FIRE WALL FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS**

GROUP	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)
A, B, E, H-4, I, R-1, R-2, U	3 <sup>a</sup>
F-1, H-3 <sup>b</sup> , H-5, M, S-1	3
H-1, H-2	4 <sup>b</sup>
F-2, S-2, R-3, R-4	2

a. In Type II or V construction, walls shall be permitted to have a 2-hour fire-resistance rating.

b. For Group H-1, H-2 or H-3 buildings, also see Sections 415.4 and 415.5.

**706.5 Horizontal continuity.** *Fire walls* shall be continuous from *exterior wall* to *exterior wall* and shall extend at least 18 inches (457 mm) beyond the exterior surface of *exterior walls*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Fire walls* shall be permitted to terminate at the interior surface of combustible exterior sheathing or siding provided the *exterior wall* has a *fire-resistance rating* of at least 1 hour for a horizontal distance of at least 4 feet (1220 mm) on both sides of the *fire wall*. Openings within such *exterior walls* shall be protected by opening protectives having a *fire protection rating* of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.