

CHAPTER 8

INTERIOR FINISHES

SECTION 801 GENERAL

801.1 Scope. Provisions of this chapter shall govern the use of materials used as interior finishes, trim and decorative materials.

801.1.1 Interior finishes. These provisions shall limit the allowable flame spread and smoke development based on location and occupancy classification.

Exceptions:

1. Materials having a thickness less than 0.036 inch (0.9 mm) applied directly to the surface of walls or ceilings.
2. Exposed portions of structural members complying with the requirements for buildings of Type IV construction in Section 602.4 shall not be subject to interior finish requirements.

[F] 801.1.2 Decorative materials and trim. Decorative materials and trim shall be restricted by combustibility and flame resistance in accordance with Section 805.

801.1.3 Applicability. For buildings in flood hazard areas as established in Section 1612.3, interior finishes, trim and decorative materials below the design flood elevation shall be flood-damage-resistant materials.

801.2 Application. Combustible materials shall be permitted to be used as finish for walls, ceilings, floors and other interior surfaces of buildings.

801.2.1 Windows. Show windows in the first story of buildings shall be permitted to be of wood or of unprotected metal framing.

801.2.2 Foam plastics. Foam plastics shall not be used as interior finish or trim except as provided in Section 2603.8 or 2604.

SECTION 802 DEFINITIONS

802.1 General. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

EXPANDED VINYL WALL COVERING. Wall covering consisting of a woven textile backing, an expanded vinyl base coat layer and a nonexpanded vinyl skin coat. The expanded base coat layer is a homogeneous vinyl layer that contains a blowing agent. During processing, the blowing agent decomposes, causing this layer to expand by forming closed cells. The total thickness of the wall covering is approximately 0.055 inch to 0.070 inch (1.4 mm to 1.78 mm).

FLAME RESISTANCE. That property of materials or combinations of component materials that restricts the spread of flame in accordance with NFPA 701.

FLAME SPREAD. The propagation of flame over a surface.

FLAME SPREAD INDEX. The numerical value assigned to a material tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

INTERIOR FINISH. Interior finish includes interior wall and ceiling finish and interior floor finish.

INTERIOR FLOOR FINISH. The exposed floor surfaces of buildings including coverings applied over a finished floor or stair, including risers.

INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH. The exposed interior surfaces of buildings including, but not limited to: fixed or movable walls and partitions; columns; ceilings; and interior wainscoting, paneling or other finish applied structurally or for decoration, acoustical correction, surface insulation, structural fire resistance or similar purposes, but not including trim.

SMOKE-DEVELOPED INDEX. The numerical value assigned to a material tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

TRIM. Picture molds, chair rails, baseboards, handrails, door and window frames and similar decorative or protective materials used in fixed applications.

SECTION 803 WALL AND CEILING FINISHES

803.1 General. Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be classified in accordance with ASTM E 84. Such interior finish materials shall be grouped in the following classes in accordance with their flame spread and smoke-developed indexes.

Class A: Flame spread 0-25; smoke-developed 0-450.

Class B: Flame spread 26-75; smoke-developed 0-450.

Class C: Flame spread 76-200; smoke-developed 0-450.

Exception: Materials, other than textiles, tested in accordance with Section 803.2.

803.2. Interior wall or ceiling finishes other than textiles. Interior wall or ceiling finishes, other than textiles, shall be permitted to be tested in accordance with NFPA 286. Finishes tested in accordance with NFPA 286 shall comply with Section 803.2.1.

803.2.1 Acceptance criteria. During the 40 kW exposure, the interior finish shall comply with Item 1. During the 160 kW exposure, the interior finish shall comply with Item 2. During the entire test, the interior finish shall comply with Item 3.

1. During the 40kW exposure, flames shall not spread to the ceiling.
2. During the 160 kW exposure, the interior finish shall comply with the following:

**TABLE 803.5
INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY^k**

GROUP	SPRINKLERED ^l			NONSPRINKLERED		
	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a, b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a, b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c
A-1 & A-2	B	B	C	A	A ^d	B ^e
A-3 ^f , A-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A ^d	C
B, E, M, R-1, R-4	B	C	C	A	B	C
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C ^g	A	A	B
I-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
I-2	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
I-3	A	A ^j	C	A	A	B
I-4	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No restrictions			No restrictions		

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- a. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted for wainscoting or paneling of not more than 1,000 square feet of applied surface area in the grade lobby where applied directly to a noncombustible base or over furring strips applied to a noncombustible base and fireblocked as required by Section 803.4.1.
- b. In vertical exits of buildings less than three stories in height of other than Group I-3, Class B interior finish for nonsprinklered buildings and Class C interior finish for sprinklered buildings shall be permitted.
- c. Requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where a fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosing partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered enclosing spaces and the rooms or spaces on both sides shall be considered one. In determining the applicable requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces, the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.
- d. Lobby areas in Group A-1, A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall not be less than Class B materials.
- e. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in places of assembly with an occupant load of 300 persons or less.
- f. For churches and places of worship, wood used for ornamental purposes, trusses, paneling or chancel furnishing shall be permitted.
- g. Class B material is required where the building exceeds two stories.
- h. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in administrative spaces.
- i. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in rooms with a capacity of four persons or less.
- j. Class B materials shall be permitted as wainscoting extending not more than 48 inches above the finished floor in exit access corridors.
- k. Finish materials as provided for in other sections of this code.
- l. Applies when the vertical exits, exit passageways, exit access corridors or exitways, or rooms and spaces are protected by a sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

velopment or spread is not present. In Group I-3, combustible decorations are prohibited.

805.1.1 Noncombustible materials. The permissible amount of noncombustible decorative material shall not be limited.

805.1.2 Flame-resistant materials. The permissible amount of flame-resistant decorative materials shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.

Exception: In auditoriums of Group A, the permissible amount of flame-resistant decorative material shall not exceed 50 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the material is installed in accordance with Section 803.4.

805.2 Acceptance criteria and reports. Where required to be flame resistant, decorative materials shall be tested by an approved agency and pass Test 1 or 2, as appropriate, described in NFPA 701 or such materials shall be noncombustible. Reports of test results shall be prepared in accordance with NFPA 701 and furnished to the building official upon request.

805.3 Foam plastic. Foam plastic used as trim in any occupancy shall comply with Section 2604.2.

805.4 Pyroxylin plastic. Imitation leather or other material consisting of or coated with a pyroxylin or similarly hazardous base shall not be used in Group A occupancies.

805.5 Trim. Material used as interior trim shall have minimum Class C flame spread and smoke-developed indexes. Combustible trim, excluding handrails and guardrails, shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate wall or ceiling area in which it is located.