

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Prefabricated Metal Buildings of Type III Construction

Code: 2012 Building Code
Section: 602.3

Date: January 17, 2012

Question:

Can a prefabricated metal building that would normally be Type II construction be classified as Type III construction if it has combustible interior walls?

Answer:

Yes. Type III construction only requires that the exterior walls be;

- fire-retardant-treated wood for walls 2-hour rated or less, or
- be noncombustible material.

Additional Information:

If nonloadbearing walls are constructed on the interior side of the exterior walls, as might be constructed to attach a wall finish, those walls shall be considered part of the exterior wall assembly and shall be constructed of noncombustible material or fire-retardant-treated wood as is allowed by Section 602.3 for wall assemblies with a fire-resistance-rating of 2-hour or less.

Nonloadbearing exterior walls must also meet the rating requirements of Table 602 for fire separation distance.

Termite control may have been omitted for a Type II structure of all noncombustible material with slab-on-grade. The addition of wood to the building structure will require termite control.

Keywords:

steel

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