

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Combustible Wall Furring in Type I and II Construction

Code: 2012 NC Building Code

Date: November 15, 2012

Section: 603.1 and 803.11.1

Question:

Does Item #1 of Section 603.1 require wood furring strips in walls of Types I and II construction to be fire-retardant-treated?

Answer:

Item #7 of Section 603.1 allows combustible materials in walls if the material complies with Section 803. If the requirements of Section 803.11.1 are met then the wood furring strips are not required to be fire-retardant-treated. Otherwise Item #1 of Section 603.1 will require the wood furring strips to be fire-retardant-treated or the building will need to be downgraded to one of combustible construction.

Section 803.11.1 allows the use of wood other than fire-retardant-treated because it limits the ability of the furring strips to contribute to and sustain a fire in the building.

Keywords:

Type I, Type II, noncombustible, combustible, furred, fur