

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
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Fiber-Cement Board Siding for Residence/Garage Separation

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 2, 2012

Section: R302.6, Table R302.6

Question:

Table R302.6 requires that an attached garage be completely separated from the residence by means of 1/2" regular gypsum board or 5/8" Type X gypsum board applied to the garage side. May a 3/8" fiber-cement siding product (such as Hardie Board) that is classified as noncombustible be used instead of the gypsum board?

Answer:

No. The 3/8" fiber-cement product is not tested for any type of fire-resistance-rating. The gypsum board requirements are based on 15-minute (1/2" gypsum) and 40 minute (5/8" Type X gypsum) fire-resistance-ratings as supported by information from the 2012 NC Building Code Table 721.6.2(1).

Any membrane that is approved as an alternate method to the gypsum board will have to be equal to or greater than the 15 or 40 minute ratings that the gypsum board provides. The membrane must be tested by an approved testing agency or found prescriptively in the 2012 NC Building Code and must be noncombustible.

Key Words: wall, ceiling, attic, automobile, car, truck, parking, Hardie Board siding, Hardy Board siding