

IRC 202 gypsumboard

Code: IRC–12/13

Section R202, Table R702.3.5 and Section 1001.11

Proponent: Charles S. Bajnai, Chesterfield County, VA, ICC Building Code Action Committee

1. Add new definition to Section 202 as follows:

GYPSUM BOARD. The generic name for a family of sheet products consisting of a noncombustible core primarily of gypsum with paper surfacing. Gypsum wallboard, gypsum sheathing, gypsum base for gypsum veneer plaster, exterior gypsum soffit board, predecorated gypsum board ~~or~~ and water-resistant gypsum backing board complying with the standards listed in Section R702.3 and Part IX of this code are types of gypsum board

2. Revise as follows:

TABLE R702.3.5
MINIMUM THICKNESS AND APPLICATION OF GYPSUM BOARD
(no change to existing table)

(no change to footnotes a through d)

e. Type X gypsum board for garage ceilings beneath habitable rooms shall be installed perpendicular to the ceiling framing and shall be fastened at maximum 6 inches o.c. by minimum 1⁷/₈ inches 6d coated nails or equivalent ~~drywall~~ length screws. Screws shall comply with Section R702.3.6.

R1001.11 Fireplace clearance. All wood beams, joists, studs and other combustible material shall have a clearance of not less than 2 inches (51 mm) from the front faces and sides of masonry fireplaces and not less than 4 inches (102 mm) from the back faces of masonry fireplaces. The air space shall not be filled, except to provide fire blocking in accordance with Section R1001.12.

Exceptions:

(no change to exceptions 1 and 2)

3. Exposed combustible trim and the edges of sheathing materials such as wood siding, flooring and ~~drywall~~ gypsumboard shall be permitted to abut the masonry fireplace side walls and hearth extension in accordance with Figure R1001.11, provided such combustible trim or sheathing is a minimum of 12 inches (305 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest firebox lining.

(no change to exception 4)

Reason: This proposal is submitted by the ICC Building Code Action Committee (BCAC). The BCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance an assigned International Code or portion thereof. This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. Since its inception in July, 2011, the BCAC has held 6 open meetings and numerous workgroup calls which included members of the BCAC as well as any interested party to discuss and debate the proposed changes. Related documentation and reports are posted on the BCAC website at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/BCAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

The term drywall is used as an apparent synonym for gypsum board in the International Residential Code in three instances. In a fourth instance, it is used as an adjective to describe a specific fastener.

IRC 202 gypsumboard

The term drywall, however, is not defined in the IRC. As a result, references to it should be removed from the code and replaced with technically correct language.

Unfortunately, the IRC does not include a definition for the technically proper term for drywall: gypsum board. To correct this, the proposal adds a definition for gypsum board that is identical to the definition for gypsum board that will appear in the 2015 edition of the International Building Code. The IBC definition was modified by approved proposal S304-12 during the Group A hearings in 2012.

The proposed definition is also technically identical to the definition contained in the ASTM standards referenced in Section R702.3.

Section R1001.11 and Table N1102.4.1.1 are amended by removing the term drywall and substituting the term gypsum board. Footnote e of Table R702.3.5 is amended by removing the term drywall, adding the term length, and adding a reference to Section R702.3.6.

Standards defining screws appropriate for the application of gypsum board are defined in R702.3.6. Adding the term length to the footnote clarifies that any screw used as a substitute for a nail in a fire-resistive installation of gypsum board must be of an equivalent length to the nail prescribed for the installation.

Cost Impact: None.