

1705.18

Firestop Inspections in Group R

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The installation of firestops, fire-resistant joint systems and perimeter fire barrier systems in residential-use buildings now requires special inspection in those Group R fire areas having an occupant load exceeding 250.

2021 CODE TEXT: ~~1705.17~~ **1705.18 Fire-resistant penetrations and joints.** In high-rise buildings or, in buildings assigned to Risk Category III or IV, or in fire areas containing Group R occupancies with an occupant load greater than 250, special inspections for through-penetrations, membrane penetration firestops, fire-resistant joint systems and perimeter fire barrier containment systems that are tested and listed in accordance with Sections 714.4.1.2, 714.5.1.2, 715.3.1 and 715.4 shall be in accordance with Section 1705.18.1 or 1705.18.2.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Firestop, fire-resistant joint system and perimeter fire containment system special inspections are required for buildings in Risk Categories III and IV, as well as in high-rise buildings. However, fire-resistance-rated compartmentation is a critical fire protection feature in many Risk Category II Group R buildings as well. When through-penetration firestop systems and fire-resistant joint systems are not properly installed, the integrity of the fire-rated separations is compromised. To adequately protect people where they live, the requirement for special inspection of firestop, fire-resistant joints and perimeter containment systems has been expanded to include larger buildings containing residential occupancies.

The scope of the special inspection requirement is limited to Group R fire areas containing an occupant load of more than 250 people within the fire area. Unless a high-rise condition exists, such special inspection is not required provided the Group R building has an occupant load of 250 or less, or where the building has been subdivided into complying fire areas so that no Group R fire area occupant load exceeds 250.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Building Code®, 2021 Edition*.

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Hotels may require special inspection of firestop systems.