

# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics




## 2012 IBC® and IFC® Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

Based on the 2012 International Building Code® (IBC®) and the 2012 International Fire Code® (IFC®)

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## International Building Code

# What is a Code?



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## Points To Remember About Codes

Do Not Memorize


Shall / Should

And / Or

Exceptions

Footnotes

“That Depends”



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A **CODE** is an adopted set of regulations by the governing body of the City or County charged with the enforcement of Health and Safety Regulations.



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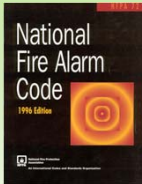


What are  
reference  
documents?





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**A **STANDARD** is a group of guidelines on how to perform an installation or task. They are enforceable when referenced by an **adopting ordinance** or **CODE**.**



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Reference documents are those documents listed in **Chapter 35** of the **International Building Code**. Other reference documents can be found in the **Codes** or **Standards** themselves.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## What are Appendices?

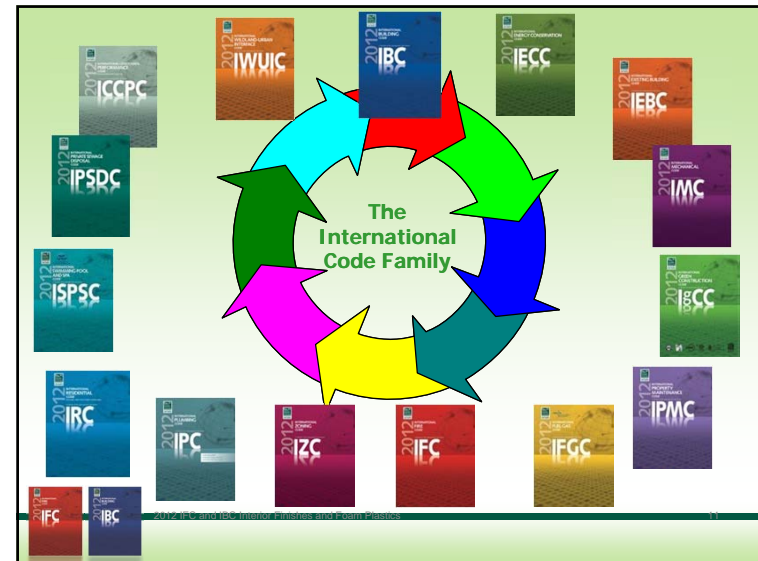
- Appendix A Employee Qualifications
- Appendix B Board of Appeals
- Appendix C Group U-Agricultural Buildings
- Appendix D Fire Districts
- Appendix E Supplementary Accessibility Requirements
- Appendix F Rodentproofing
- Appendix G Flood-resistant Construction
- Appendix H Signs
- Appendix I Patio Covers
- Appendix J Grading
- Appendix K Administrative Provisions
- Appendix L Earthquake Recording Instrumentation
- Appendix M Tsunami-Generated Flood Hazard

**When can  
they be  
used?**



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## 101.2.1 APPENDICES.

- Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.



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## Structure of the IBC Fire Risks of Interior Finishes

- Module one - Introduction
- Module two - Fire Dynamic
- Module three - Flame-Resistance Tests
- Module four - Code Compliance
- Module five - Code Requirements
- Module six - Conclusions



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

Module One

## Introduction



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## Course Description, Cont

- Focuses on the necessary tools used for work on interior finishes, materials, and trim
- Will address provisions from Chapter 8 and 26 in the IBC and Chapter 8 in the IFC
- This course will not address combustible furnishings and vegetation found in Sections 805 and 806 of the IFC.



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## Course Description

- Provides insight into hazards associated with interior finishes and decorative materials
- Review of applicable code sections including:
  - IBC (2012)
  - IFC (2012)



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## Objectives

You will be able to:

- List the hazards associated with interior finishes, decorative materials and trims.
- Explain the differences in terminology
- List the various options for providing increased flame resistance
- Identify appropriate tests used to determine the safety of interior finishes



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Objectives

You will be able to: (continued)

- List the proper steps for determining code compliance during:
  - Plan review
  - On-site inspections



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## Definitions

### DECORATIVE MATERIALS

- All materials applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical or other effect (such as curtains, draperies, fabrics, streamers and surface coverings), all other materials utilized for decorative effect (such as: batting, cloth, hay, stalks, straw, vines, leaves, trees, moss and similar items), including foam plastics and materials containing foam plastics. Decorative materials do not include floor coverings, ordinary window shades, interior finish and materials 0.025 inch (0.64 mm) or less in thickness applied directly to and adhering tightly to a substrate.



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## Objectives

You will be able to: (continued)

- List the limitations of determining code compliance during:
  - Plan review
  - On-site inspections



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## Definitions

### EXPANDED VINYL WALL COVERING

- Wall covering consisting of a woven textile backing, an expanded vinyl base coat layer and a non expanded vinyl skin coat. The expanded base coat layer is a homogeneous vinyl layer that contains a blowing agent. During processing, the blowing agent decomposes, causing this layer to expand by forming closed cells. The total thickness of the wall covering is approximately 0.055 inch to 0.070 inch (1.4 mm to 1.78 mm)



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## 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Definitions

## FLAME SPREAD INDEX

- A comparative measure expressed as a dimensionless number, derived from visual measurements of the spread of flame versus time for a material tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

## FLASHOVER

- A transition phase in the development of a contained fire in which surfaces exposed to thermal radiation reach ignition temperature more or less simultaneously and fire spreads rapidly through the space.



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## Definitions, Continued

## INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH

- The exposed interior surfaces of buildings including, but not limited to: fixed or movable walls and partitions; columns; ceilings; and interior wainscoting, paneling or other finish applied structurally or for decoration, acoustical correction, surface insulation, structural fire resistance or similar purposes, but not including trim.



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## Definitions, Continued

## INTERIOR FINISH

- Interior finish includes interior wall and ceiling finish and interior floor finish.

## INTERIOR FLOOR FINISH

- The exposed floor surfaces of buildings including coverings applied over a finished floor or stair, including risers.



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## Definitions, Continued

## SMOKE DEVELOPED INDEX

- A comparative measure expressed as a dimensionless number, derived from visual measurements of smoke obscuration versus time for a material tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.



TRIM

- Picture molds, chair rails, baseboards, handrails, door and window frames and similar decorative or protective materials used in fixed applications.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Case Studies

Name of Facility	Location	Date	Fatalities
Coconut Grove	Boston, MA	11/28/42	492
Beverly Hills Super Club	Southgate, KY	05/28/77	164
Happy Land Social Club	Bronx, NY	03/25/90	87
Station Night Club	West Warwick, RI	03/20/03	<u>100</u>

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## Data

The pyrotechnics were gerbs, cylindrical devices intended to produce a controlled spray of sparks. Gerbs are labeled using two numbers: one for how far the sparks fly, and one for how long the effect lasts. Biechele was fond of using 15 by 15's, which means they spray sparks 15 feet for 15 seconds. Three of that same caliber, at 45-degree angles, with the middle one pointing straight up, were the kind used that night. Gerbs are considered appropriate for indoor use before a nearby audience when proper precautions are observed.



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## Case Studies

These four (4) tragedies involved fire associated with the use of hazardous interior finishes, decoration and trim. In all four (4) cases, there were other complicating factors, including but not limited to:

**Arson**

**Use of Pyrotechnics**

**Lack of Sprinklers**

**Non-compliant exit layout**

**Blocked Exits**

**Exits Opening Inward**

**Open Stairways**



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## Case Study – The Station Nightclub Fire

Floor Plan   **Insulation Test**   Occupant Load




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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

Module 2

## Fire Dynamics








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ACTIVITY

## General Information Check Your Knowledge

- What is more rapid, apt to occur, or hazardous?
  - Larger room or smaller room?
  - Smaller Room
- Material on wall or same material on ceiling?
- Material on Wall



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ACTIVITY

## General Information Check Your Knowledge



- What is more rapid, apt to occur, or hazardous?
  - Vertical or horizontal flame spread?
  - Vertical
- Ceiling flame spread or floor flame spread?
- Ceiling Flame



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## General Information

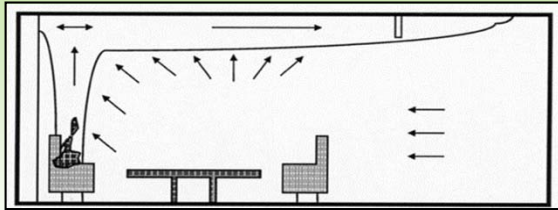
- Other Factors
  - Surface area to mass ratio affects ability to ignite
  - Burning characteristics of a material
  - Assemblies versus a single material – i.e., foam plastic with or without a thermal barrier



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## Progression of a Compartment Fire to Flashover



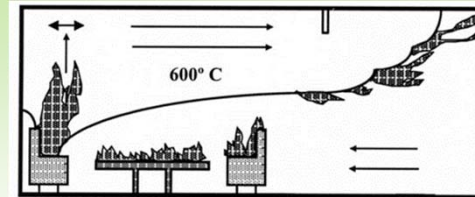
- Two-zone concept, with hot gases in the zone on top that thickens and cooler air in the bottom
- A hot layer will spill out to the next compartment



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## Progression of a Compartment Fire to Flashover



*Definition you Should Know*

*Ventilation controlled: Fire that is only restricted by amount of air available as a result, one tends to find smaller compartment fires.*

*Fuel controlled: Fire has plenty of air and is only restricted by the amount of fuel available.*

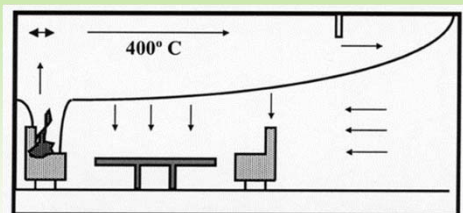
- Radiation heats materials in the room to their critical ignition temperatures
- Flashover is the transition from a fuel-controlled fire to a ventilation-controlled fire



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## Progression of a Compartment Fire to Flashover



- Radiation heats material in lower area of room
- Small arrows show air flow, large arrow shows radiation



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## Fuel Load Comparisons

- Fuel load =
  - Potential fire energy per unit weight (Btu/lb or kj/kg) also known as Heat of Combustion
  - Plastics tend to have a much higher heat of combustion than celluloses (fabric, paper, etc.)
    - Plastics – 16,000 to 24,000 Btu/lb.
    - Cellulosic – 8,000 Btu/lb.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Fuel Load Comparisons

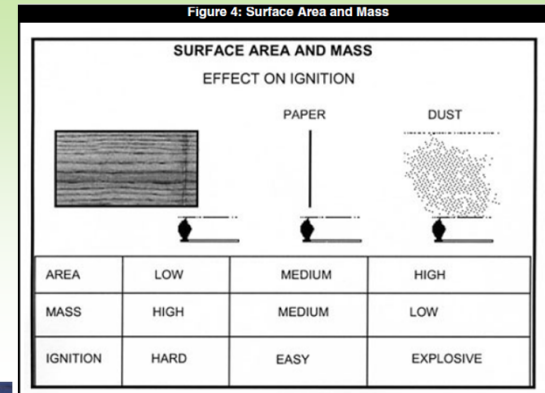
- Burning Characteristics
  - Rate of heat release
  - How fast heat content is released
- The same material in different forms will have different fire hazards:
  - Example: Expanded vs. Unexpanded plastic



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## Surface Area to Mass Ratio



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## Fuel Load Comparisons



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## Surface Area to Mass Ratio

- Very important for ignition potential
  - Dust can be explosive
  - Paper is easier to ignite than a 2-inch by 4-inch (51 mm by 10 mm) block of wood



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## Fire Resistance vs. Flame Resistance

NOT THE SAME THING

- **Fire resistance** – it is addressed in Chapter 7 (IBC) and typically focuses on the spread of fire after flashover. (ASTM E 119)
- **Flame resistance** – it is addressed in Chapter 8 and 26 (IBC) and Chapter 8 (IFC). These chapters focus on the initial developing fire within a compartment or area of a building. The strategy is to reduce the potential of flashover.



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## Flame Retardant and Flame Resistance

- Sometimes used to enhance flame-resistance properties
- Strategies
  - Slow ignition
  - Control combustion

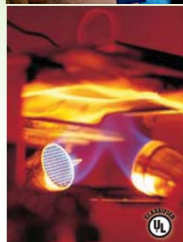
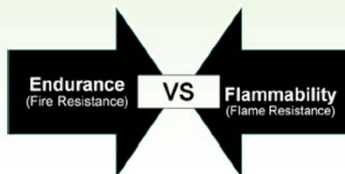


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## Fire Resistance vs. Flame Resistance

*The difference between fire resistance and flame resistance can be summarized as:*  
**Endurance vs. Flammability**



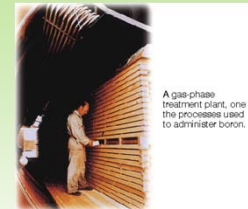
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## Flame Retardant and Flame Resistance

Available methods include:

- Thermal - Reduce thermal buildup.
- Coating - Block materials from the combustion process.
- Gas - Release nonflammable gases, such as carbon dioxide.
- Chemical - Forms fewer liquids and more solids during combustion process of cellulosic materials.



A gas-phase treatment plant, one of the processes used to administer boron.



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## Flame Retardant and Flame Resistance

- Does NOT make materials flame or fire proof
- Noncombustible differs from flame-resistance. Therefore, flame-resistant materials should NOT be used as direct replacement of noncombustible materials.
- Materials with treatments must meet the testing requirements found in chapter 8 for flame spread (ie., ASTM E 84, NFPA 286 or NFPA 265).



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## Flame Retardant and Flame Resistance

Method of Flame Resistance	Appropriate Use	Application	Other Information
Chemical	Synthetics; Plastics	Part of chemical formula	Actual chemical changes occur. Changes the behavior of materials.
Impregnation	Absorbent materials; NOT wood (too dense)	Immersion or in the field by spray	Sometimes done at wet pulp stage (paper, natural fibers, acoustical tile and building panels)
Coatings	Nonabsorbent materials Christmas trees	In the field Actively inhibits flame	A spread or simply provides a noncombustible barrier.
Pressure Impregnation	Dense, nonabsorbent materials such as wood	Only during manufacturing	Replaces air pockets with fire-retardant solution. Chemical deposits while drying. Vacuum pressure methods are used to impregnate materials.



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## Methods of Flame Resistance

- Chemical
- Impregnation
- Coatings
- Pressure Impregnation



Pressure treatment plant.



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## QUESTION & ANSWER Fire Dynamics

- Briefly describe in three sentences how a compartment fire progresses to flashover.

1. A layer of hot gas will form at the ceiling with cooler air on the bottom.
2. Radiation from the ceiling will move the heat down.
3. The radiation will heat materials to their critical ignition temperatures and flashover will occur.



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**QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Fire Dynamics

- What makes it more difficult to ignite a piece of paper versus dust?


A smaller surface to area ratio (i.e., less of the material is exposed to air, which makes it harder to ignite).



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Module Three

## Flame-Resistance Tests




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**QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Fire Dynamics

- What is one difference between fire resistance and flame resistance?

Fire resistance focuses upon the spread of fire once flashover has been reached and flame resistance focuses on the initial developing fire within a compartment or area of a building.




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## Primary Tests

This table includes those tests that are most commonly used for walls and ceilings, floors, foam plastics and decorative materials such as draperies. More information on each of these tests can be found in your workbook.

Topic	Test	Common Name
Walls and ceilings	ASTM E 84 NFPA 286 (nontextiles) NFPA 265 (textiles)	Tunnel Test Room Corner Test Room Corner Test
Floors	NFPA 253* DOC FF-1 / CPSC 16 CFR 1630	Radiant Panel Test Pill Test
Foam plastics (walls and ceilings)	NFPA 286	Room Corner Test
Decorative materials	NFPA 701	Flame Propagation Test
Trim	ASTM E 84	Tunnel Test

\* NFPA 253 is a more restrictive test aimed at exit ways and similar locations within buildings.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

**ACTIVITY**

## Match the Test

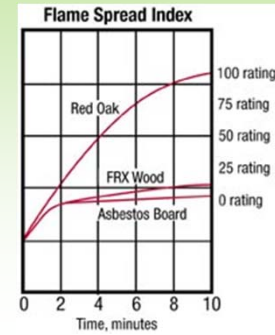
Each of the following tests on the left should be used for one of the choices on the right. See if you know the correct answers.

▪ NFPA 253	b	a) Walls and ceilings
▪ Tunnel Test	a	b) Floors
▪ NFPA 701	d	c) Foam plastics
▪ UL 1975	c	d) Textiles and Films
▪ Pill Test	b	

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## ASTM E84: Tunnel Test

- Three hazard classifications:
  - Class A: Flame spread 0-25 (lowest hazard)
  - Class B: Flame spread 26-75 (medium hazard)
  - Class C: Flame spread 76-200 (highest hazard)
- Smoke Developed Index 0-450

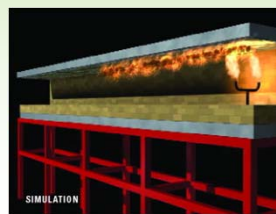


The graph shows the Flame Spread Index (FSI) on the y-axis (0 to 100 rating) against Time in minutes on the x-axis (0 to 10). Red Oak shows a rapid increase in FSI, reaching approximately 100 rating at 10 minutes. FRX Wood shows a moderate increase, reaching approximately 25 rating at 10 minutes. Asbestos Board shows a very low FSI, remaining near 0 rating throughout the 10-minute period.

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## ASTM E84: Tunnel Test

- For wall and ceiling finishes
- Tested in a horizontal configuration
  - 25-foot long sample
- 10 minutes exposure to heat source




A simulation of the ASTM E84 Tunnel Test setup, showing a horizontal sample of material being exposed to a heat source (flame) from the right. The setup is labeled 'SIMULATION'.

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## Tunnel Test “Weaknesses”

- Only establishes a “relative” hazard or ranking
- Ranking (based upon Red Oak) not closely related to realistic fires
- Plastics may drip, causing an inaccurate indication of the hazard
- Sample size may also be too small to provide a clear indication of the hazard

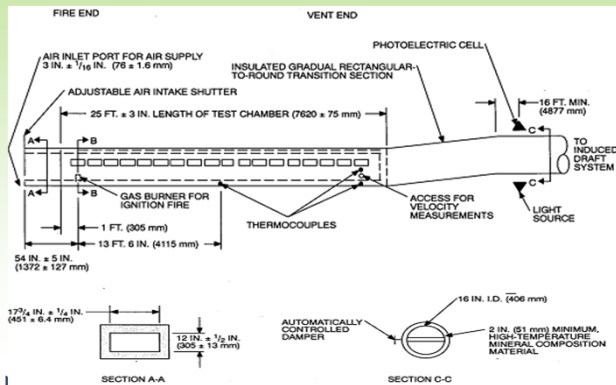


A photograph of the ASTM E84 Tunnel Test setup, showing a long, narrow tunnel with a heat source (flame) at one end and a sample of material being tested at the other end.

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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

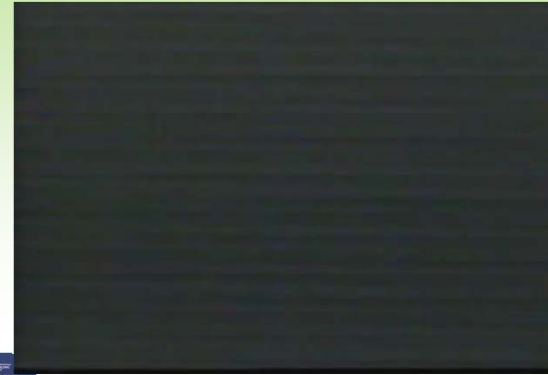
## Figure 8.1.1 Tunnel Test



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## ASTM E 84



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## Flame in Tunnel Test



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## ASTM E 84



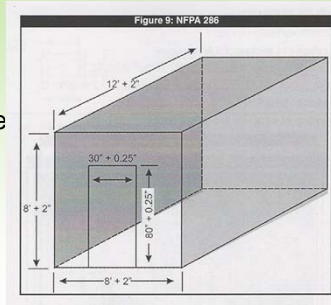
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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## NFPA 286: Room Corner Test

- For non-textiles on walls
- Fire source located in the corner
- Generally more conservative
- More realistic indicator of hazard
- Material sample placed on three walls and the ceiling
- Total heat release is determined



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## NFPA 286: Room Corner Test

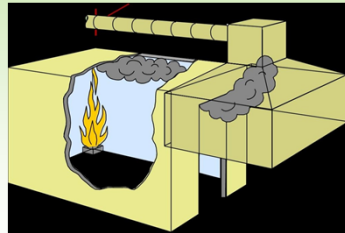
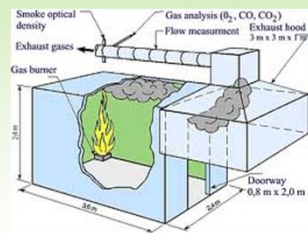
- Fire exposure is stepped up over time:
  - 40 kW for 5 minutes
  - 160 kW for 10 minutes
- The code defines pass/fail criteria
- Closely linked to fire behavior in realistic fires



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## Room Corner Test



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## NFPA 286: Room Corner Test

- Defines flashover as:
- Heat release in excess of 1 MW
- Heat flux at the floor in excess of 20 kW/m<sup>2</sup>
- Average upper layer temperature in excess of 1112°F (600°C)
- Flames exit the doorway
- Autoignition of paper target on the floor

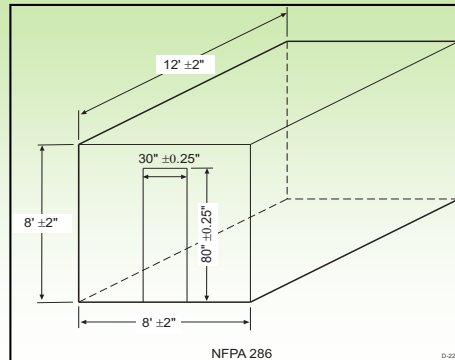


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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## NFPA 286: Room Corner Test



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm  
1 foot = 304.8 mm



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## NFPA 265: Room Corner Test

- Differences
  - Fire exposure is less severe
    - 40kW for 5 minutes
    - 150 kW for 10 minutes (286-140 kW – 10 minutes)
  - For textiles only
  - Sample on walls only
  - Two test methods
    - Test Protocol A (Small Scale)
    - Test Protocol B (Large Scale)



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## NFPA 265: Room Corner Test

- Similar approach to NFPA 286 but less conservative
  - The heat release rate exposure is less
  - Gas burners 2 inches from wall versus flush against the wall in NFPA 286
  - Sample only mounted on the walls. NFPA 286 requires the walls and ceilings
  - Flashover conditions are the same as NFPA 286
  - The code defines pass/fail criteria

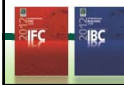
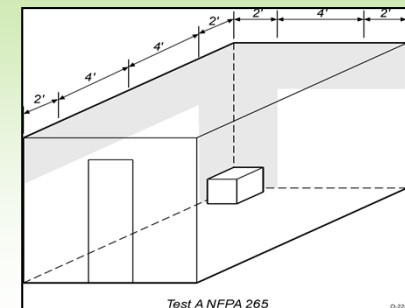


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## Test A

- Smaller scale
- Limited application of material
- More restrictive pass/fail criteria
- Preferred test (less expensive)
- Only allowed in the IFC



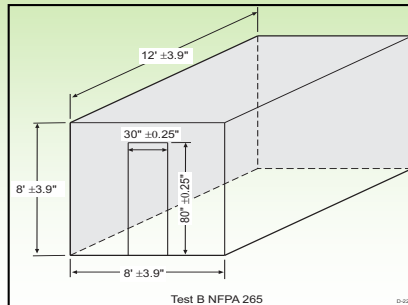
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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Test B

- Larger scale
- Materials applied on three walls (excluding the wall with the opening)
- More expensive than Test A



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## Results of the Room Corner Test

- Total incident heat flux to the floor (important indicator of flashover conditions)
- Upper level gas temperature (another flashover indicator)
- Amount of carbon dioxide released
- Emissions of other gases



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## Results of the Room Corner Test (both NFPA 286 & 265)

- Extent of fire growth on the sample
- Maximum peak of heat release rate
- Total heat released
- Time to flashover
- Time to flame extension to the door



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## NFPA 701 – Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films

- Test serves as a ranking of the ability of a material to propagate flame beyond the area of origin-level of combustibility.
- Decorative materials (draperies, etc.)
- Indication of level of combustibility
- Relative ranking of materials
- Not related to real fire exposure
- Two test methods found in NFPA 701:
  - Certain materials are more applicable to each
  - Test 1 (small scale) is typically preferred due to cost and easier to pass



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Test Method 1

- Fabrics used as curtains, draperies or other window treatments
- Smaller scale test
  - Densities < 700 g/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Focus on mass loss as flammability indicator
  - Open front box 19.7" x 26.6" x 27.5"
  - Sample hanging on bar and exposed to ignition source for 45 seconds



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## Test Method 2

- For materials such as:
  - Vinyl coated fabric used as blackout lining
  - Densities > 700 g/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Plastic films
  - Awnings, tents, tarps, etc.



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## Test Method 1: Performance Criteria (10 Specimens Per Test)

- Fragments should stay ignited
  - Of < 40%
  - For < 2 seconds
- Average weight loss
  - of < 40%
- Individual specimen mass loss
  - Of > 3 standard deviations
- Retest a second time
  - Must pass the above criteria



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## Test Method 2

- Larger scale test focused on char length as flammability indicator
  - Test enclosure = 4 sided metal stack 12 inches by 12 inches by 84 inches
  - Test specimens 47 inches long
    - Folded – 4 specimens per test
    - Flat – 10 specimens per test
  - Exposed to ignition source for 2 minutes



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## Test Method 2

- Performance criteria
  - Any specimen flaming for more than 2 minutes after ignition source is removed = FAIL
  - Char-length failure criteria:
    - Folded – greater than 41.3 inches (1041 mm)
    - Flat – greater than 12 inches (305 mm)
  - Any portion that falls and burns for more than 2 seconds indicates failure of the test

### Tip

Note: The char length being less restrictive for folded specimens is likely related to the more conservative indication of hazard (folded burns more easily than flat due to radiative feedback from the material).



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## NFPA 253 – Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Energy Heat Source

- The code provides rankings based on ranges of critical fluxes determined by the test.
- Two classifications:
  - Class I: greater than or equal to .45 watts/cm<sup>2</sup> (Better performer)
  - Class II: between .22 and watts/cm<sup>2</sup> (Poorer Performer)



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## NFPA 253 – Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Energy Heat Source

- Test determines lowest heat flux that can sustain combustion.
- That distance is related back to the known flux at that point given by the panel to give minimum heat flux.
- Does not provide ranking of materials.

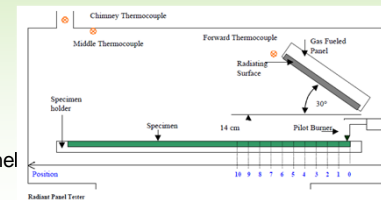


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## NFPA 253 – Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Energy Heat Source

- Applicable to floor surfaces
- Sample placed on horizontal surface and subjected to:
  - Piloted ignition
  - Radiative panel:
    - Simulates the radiation from upper layer in fire.
    - The intensity of the panel gets less further away.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## DOC FF-1, CPSC CFR 16: Pill Test

- Tests ability of carpet to address flame spread across the surface
- Minimum standard for all carpet sold in the United States over 24 square feet
- Less conservative than NFPA 253



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## DOC FF-1, CPSC CFR 16: Pill Test

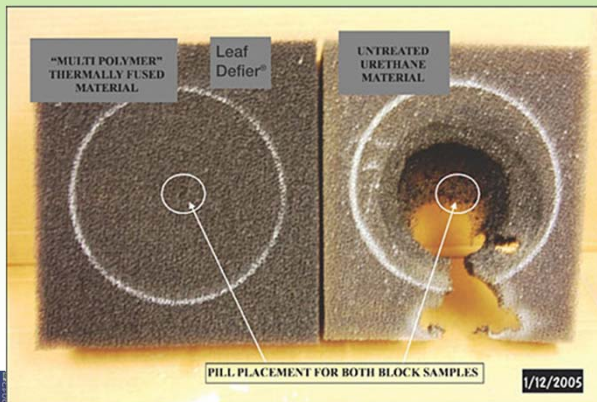
- Eight 9 x 9 inch samples are tested
- An ignition source is provided to see how far the flame spreads
- The test lasts as long as the flame continues



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## DOC FF-1, CPSC CFR 16: Pill Test



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## DOC FF-1, CPSC CFR 16: Pill Test

- FAILURE = when charring extends more than 3 inches from the ignition source
- PASS = When seven out of eight samples pass
- Test is similar to cigarette ignition
- Provides a relative ranking, not necessarily indicator of actual performance

*Tip*  
This is the minimum standard for all carpet sold in the United States over 24 square feet (2.2 m<sup>2</sup>).



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

**QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Flame-resistance Tests

- Can a material that is considered a non-textile material be tested to NFPA 265?

No, it must be tested to NFPA 286 or ASTM E 84.

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**QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Flame-resistance Tests

- List three reasons why NFPA 286 is more conservative than NFPA 265.

- Heat release rate is in excess of 160 kw for 10 minutes (265 is 150 kw for 10 minutes).
- Samples are on walls and ceilings (265 is just walls).
- Gas burners are flush against wall (265 burners are 2 inches from wall).

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**QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Flame-resistance Tests

- List three characteristics that define flashover according to NFPA 286.

- One characteristic is that flames exit the doorway.
- Another characteristic is that there is a heat release in excess of 1 MW.
- A last characteristic is an average upper layer temperature in excess of 112°F.

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Module Four

## Code Compliance

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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Three Stages

- Plan review
  - Best time to deal with compliance issues
  - Consult with owners (acoustical requirements and maintenance concerns)
- Construction review
  - Proper installation
  - Careful review of changes since plan review
- Maintenance
  - Most difficult stage of compliance



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## Plan Review

- Manufacturer's documentation on information such as the following is critical:
  - How was the material tested?
  - Was it tested only on the ceiling?
  - Was the entire assembly tested or just the single material?
  - In what direction (horizontal or vertical) was it tested?
- If the material was not tested as proposed for use, it may not be used unless retested.



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## Plan Review

- Both IBC and IFC compliance is required
- Non structural plan review guides, such as checklists created for use by project managers in their specific jurisdictions, are helpful.
- Non combustible materials should always be encouraged where realistic.



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## Construction Review

- Materials need to be installed per the manufacturer's documentation.
- Installation problems occur when the instructions are complex or difficult to follow.
- Any changes that have occurred since plan review need careful review of the manufacturer's limitations and how they have been tested.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Maintenance

- No reliable field test are available.
- Materials can appear very similar.
- A minor chemical change to a plastic can significantly increase flammability.
- Checking documentation is the only verification method for the field.
- Other issues associated with the maintenance phase include:
  - Possibility of layers of wall coverings
  - Determining the application method
  - Need for reapplication of flame retardant (frequency and method)



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## Code Compliance

- Directions:
- On the next 2 slides, match each of the stages with the correct characteristic. There is only one correct answer for each characteristic.



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## Ensuring Compliance

- Manufacturers instructions
- Testing documentation
- Evaluation reports
- Records of maintenance – dates needed for retreatment



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## Code Compliance

- a. Plan review**
- b. Construction review**
- c. Ongoing maintenance**

  c   1. Checking documentation is the only verification method for the field.

  a   2. Both IBC and IFC compliance is required.

  c   3. An issue is the need for reapplication of flame retardant (frequency and method).

  b   4. Materials need to be installed per the manufacturer's documentation.


  a   5. Noncombustible materials should always be encouraged where realistic.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics



## Code Compliance

**a. Plan review**  
**b. Construction review**  
**c. Ongoing maintenance**


**a** 6. Checklists created for use by project managers in their specific jurisdictions are helpful.

**c** 7. Materials can appear very similar but possess very different burning characteristics because a minor chemical change to a plastic can significantly increase flammability.

**b** 8. Installation problems can occur when the instructions are complex or generally difficult to follow; therefore, it is critical for those instructions to be reviewed carefully.

**c** 9. No reliance field tests are available.


**a** 10. If the material was not tested as proposed for use, it may not be used unless retested.



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## Philosophy


- Focuses on the flame spread of interior finishes
- Main goal is to reduce the likelihood of flashover
- Interior finishes, decorative materials and trim can either contribute or be the cause of fire hazards, flame spread and movement



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Module Five




## Code Requirements



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## Code Requirements

- IBC
  - Chapter 8: Interior Finishes
  - Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy
  - Chapter 26: Plastic
- IFC
  - Chapter 8: Interior Finishes, Decorative Materials and Furnishings



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## IBC Chapter 8: Interior Finishes

- 801 General
- 802 Definitions
- 803 Wall and Ceiling Finishes
- 804 Interior Floor Finishes
- 805 Combustible Materials in Types I and II Construction
- 806 Decorative Materials and Trim



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## Interior Finish Requirements

- Purpose is to limit flame spread and smoke development.
- Exceptions
  - <.036 inches thick applied directly to walls or ceilings
  - Exposed heavy timber of Type IV construction
  - Combustible materials are acceptable – “that depends”.
  - Decorative Materials
  - The focus is on combustibility and flame resistance in terms of ability to propagate flame



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## 801 General

- Defines scope and applicability of this chapter
- IBC Only addresses new construction; and IFC Chapter 8 provisions address existing buildings.
- IBC does not address furnishings, simply materials that are physically part of walls, ceilings and floors. Interior finish and trim. Also a certain amount of decorative materials (draperies).



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## Interior Finish Requirements

- Trim Requirements
  - Minimum flame spread ratings
  - Limitation on percent of wall and ceilings covered
  - Flood Resistant Construction
  - Requires buildings in hazard areas to use flood damage resistant finishes, trim, and materials
  - References several FEMA standards
- Foam Plastic Requirements
  - Fairly Restrictive
  - Interior Finish and Trim allowed Sections 2603.7 & 2604.



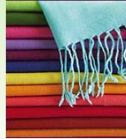
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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803 Wall and Ceiling Finishes

- Primary hazard is Flame Spread
- Two categories
  - Textiles
  - Non-textiles
- Materials restricted by occupancy and use



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## 803.1.1 General

- Requires compliance with ASTM E 84 for textiles and nontextiles
- Provides hazard classification based on flame spread
  - Class A: Flame spread 0-25
  - Class B: Flame spread 26-75
  - Class C: Flame spread 76-200  
(Smoke-Developed Index Range for each is 0-450)



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## 803 Wall and Ceiling Finishes

- Three tests
  - ASTM E 84, Tunnel Test ~ Non Textiles and Textiles with Sprinklers
  - NFPA 286, Room Corner Test ~ Non Textiles and Textiles
    - Considered equivalent to Class A under ASTM E 84
    - More conservative than NFPA 265
    - Can be used with textiles and nontextiles
  - NFPA 265, Room Corner Test ~ Textiles Only
    - Limited to textiles
    - Not considered equivalent to ASTM E 84 Class A



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## 803.1 General

(B)Table 803.1(3)  
Typical Flame Spread of Common Materials

Material	Flame spread
Glass-fiber sound-absorbing blanks	15 to 30
Mineral-fiber sound-absorbing panels	10 to 25
Shredded wood fiberboard (treated)	20 to 25
Sprayed cellulose fibers (treated)	20
Aluminum (with enamel finish on one side)	5 to 10
Asbestos-cement board	0
Brick or concrete block	0
Cork	175
Gypsum board (with paper surface on both sides)	10 to 25
Northern pine (treated)	20
Southern pine (untreated)	130 to 190
Plywood paneling (untreated)	75 to 275
Plywood paneling (treated)	100
Carpeting	10 to 600
Concrete	0



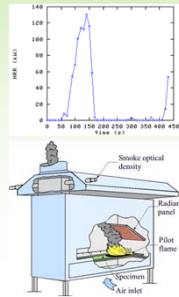
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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.1.2.1 Interior wall or ceiling finishes other than textiles

- Allows use of NFPA 286 for nontextiles
- Sets acceptance criteria as:
  - During 40 kW exposure,
    - flames cannot spread to ceiling
    - Flames cannot spread to the outer extremity of the sample
    - Flashover, as defined by NFPA 286, cannot occur
    - Peak Rate of heat release is 800 kW.
    - Smoke production is limited to 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>



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## 803.6 Textiles

- Several options for compliance
  - ASTM E 84 Class A rating with sprinklers
  - NFPA 265 requires testing with product mounting system
  - IBC only allows Method B test protocol
    - Only tests walls
    - Materials are applied to Three walls (excluding wall with opening)
    - Pass/Fail Criteria (found in IBC Section 803.1.2.1)
- Method B pass/fail criteria (more conservative test, criteria less restrictive)
  - Test involves three sides
  - 40 kW exposure-cannot spread to ceiling.
  - 150 kW exposure.
    - Cannot spread to outer extremities of 8 ft X 12 ft wall
    - Flashover cannot occur.



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## 803.5 - Textile Wall Coverings 803.6 – Textiles Ceiling Coverings

- Textiles are required to comply with this section:
  - Woven or nonwoven
  - Napped
  - Tufted
  - Looped



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## 803.6 Room Corner Test

- NFPA 286 (Room Corner Test)
  - More conservative test
  - Allows manufacturer to test once
  - Same pass fail criteria as follows:
    - During 40 kW exposure, flames cannot spread to ceiling
    - During 160 kW exposure:
      - Flames cannot spread to outer extremity of the sample
      - Flashover as defined by NFPA 286 cannot occur
    - Maximum peak heat release rate 800 kW
    - Smoke production is limited to 1000m<sup>2</sup>



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.7 Expanded Vinyl Wall Coverings

- ASTM E 84 does not reliably predict fire hazards
- Allows use of
  - ASTM E 84 with sprinklers
  - NFPA 265 or
  - NFPA 286



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## 803.8 Expanded vinyl ceiling coverings

- Focuses on proper construction of ceiling systems
- References Chapter 7, if part of a fire-resistance assembly



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## 803.8 Expanded Vinyl Ceiling Coverings

- Tested in the manner intended for use
- Using product mounting system, including adhesive
- Concealed and exposed
- ASTM E 84, NFPA 286, NFPA 723



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## 803.9 Interior finish requirements based on group

- Requirements for interior finishes, walls and ceiling
- Based on ASTM E 84 classifications (A, B, C)
- Refers to Table 803.9



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.9 Wall and Ceiling Finishes

- Interior finish based on group
- Table 803.9 provides classifications based upon
  - Occupancy
  - Location within the building
  - Sprinklered / unsprinklered



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**TABLE 803.9  
INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY<sup>a</sup>**

GROUP	SPRINKLERED <sup>d</sup>			NONSPRINKLERED		
	Interior exit stairways, interior exit ramps and exit passageways <sup>b, c</sup>	Corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways and exit access ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces <sup>e</sup>	Interior exit stairways, interior exit ramps and exit passageways <sup>b, c</sup>	Corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways and exit access ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces <sup>e</sup>
A-1 & A-2	B	B	C	A	A <sup>f</sup>	B <sup>g</sup>
A-3, A-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A <sup>f</sup>	C
B, E, M, R-1	B	C	C	A	B	C
R-4	B	C	C	A	B	B
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C <sup>h</sup>	A	A	B
I-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
I-2	B	B	B <sup>k, l</sup>	A	A	B
I-3	A	A <sup>f</sup>	C	A	A	B
I-4	B	B	B <sup>k, l</sup>	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No restrictions			No restrictions		

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929m<sup>2</sup>.

a. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted for wainscoting or paneling of not more than 1,000 square feet of applied surface area in the grade lobby where applied directly to a noncombustible base or over furring strips applied to a noncombustible base and fireblocked as required by Section 803.11.1.

b. In other than Group I-2 occupancies in buildings less than three stories above grade plane of other than Group I-3, Class B interior finish for nonsprinklered buildings and Class C interior finish for sprinklered buildings shall be permitted in interior exit stairways and ramps.

c. Requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where a fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosing partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered enclosing spaces and the rooms or spaces on both sides shall be considered one. In determining the applicable requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces, the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.

d. Lobby areas in Group A-1, A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall not be less than Class B materials.

e. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in places of assembly with an occupant load of 300 persons or less.

f. For places of religious worship, wood used for ornamental purposes, trusses, paneling or chancel furnishing shall be permitted.

g. Class B material is required where the building exceeds two stories.

h. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in administrative spaces.

i. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in rooms with a capacity of four persons or less.

j. Class B materials shall be permitted as wainscoting extending not more than 48 inches above the finished floor in corridors and exit access stairways and ramps.

k. Finish materials as provided for in other sections of this code.

l. Applies when protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

## 803 Wall and Ceiling Finishes

- Locations within building
  - Exit enclosure and exit passageways (most restrictive)
  - Corridors (common area of exit access)
  - Rooms and enclosed spaces (least restrictive)
- Same Table within IFC for existing buildings.



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## 803.10 Stability

- Ensures level of durability when exposed to heat
- Loose materials contribute to fire load and case of fire spread
- Criteria > 200°F for at least 30 minutes
- No standard methodology available to determine whether materials can withstand temperature exposure



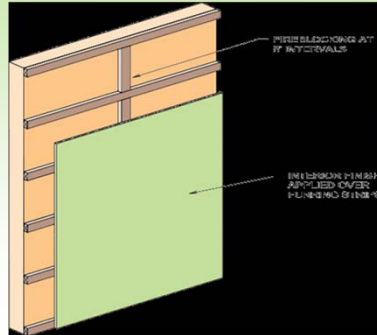
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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.11 Application

- Fire-resistance-rated and noncombustible construction require specific installation
  - Material must be applied directly to the surface or on furring strips < 1.75 inches (44mm)
- Furred area must:
  - Contain inorganic or Class A material or
  - Be fireblocked – maximum 8 foot any direction according to Section 718

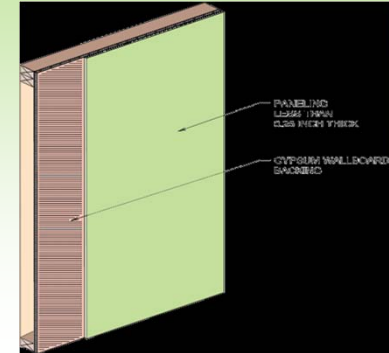


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## 803.11 Application

- Wall or ceiling finish > .25 inches must be applied to noncombustible backing except:
  - If it is Class A material
  - On materials that were tested on suspended or furred-out noncombustible backing



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## 803.11.2 Set Out Construction

- Set out greater than 1.75 inches
  - Class A material must be used; or
  - Sprinklers must be on both sides (dropped ceiling).
  - Heavy timber (Type IV)
  - All classes of material allowed
  - Fire blocking is required for materials applied to heavy timber (Type IV)



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## 804 Interior Floor Finish

- Generally less hazardous
- Usually contribute to a fire after flashover
- Related tests
  - NFPA 253
  - DOC FF-1 "Pill Test" (CPSC 16 CFR, Part 1630)
- Focuses on fiber oriented floors rather than wood, vinyl, etc.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 804.3 Testing and Identification

- Requires a hang tag or other method to identify the manufacturer or supplier.
- Carpet required to be tested as installed.
- Test reports are to be available on request of a building or fire official.



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## 805 Combustible Materials in Type I and II Construction

- Covers allowable flooring in Type I and II construction
- Intent is to avoid fire spread under the flooring
- Combustible flooring is allowed
- Fire blocking or solid fill is required if the flooring is not directly attached



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## 804.4.1 Minimum Critical Radiant Flux

- Requirements apply to:
  - Vertical exits
  - Exit passageways
  - Exit access corridors
- Requirements are based on and the Pill Test
  - Class I: Group I-2 & I-3 occupancies
  - Class II: Group A, B, E, H, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 and S
  - Pill Test: Remaining portion of buildings and occupancies.
- Classifications can shift downward if sprinklers are provided



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## 806 Decorative Materials

- Same as IFC Section 806 except for schools
  - But IFC also addresses issues such as materials on walls in schools and daycares
- Focus on items that are not physically part of the wall itself:
  - Curtains
  - Draperies
  - Hangings
  - General Décor (Holiday or other wise)



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 806 Decorative Materials

- Primary test is NFPA 701 (flame propagation)
- Restrictions vary based on occupancy
  - More detail provided about Section 806.1 below regarding why restrictions are not universal to all occupancies
- Foam plastics addressed by section 2604.2



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## 806 Decorative Materials and Trim

- Movable walls, partitions, paneling, wall pads and crash pads less than 10% of the wall or ceiling area are considered decorative materials.
- Focuses upon occupancies that
  - Are unfamiliar to occupants
  - Contain large numbers
  - Have occupants who need assistance (non ambulatory)
  - Have societal expectation of protection.
  - Often use excessive décor.
- Noncombustible décor not limited



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## 806.1 General

- Gives specific occupancies and elements that are regulated:
  - Groups A, E, I, R-1 and dormitories in R-2
  - Groups I-1 and I-2
  - Group I-3
  - Fabric partitions in Group B and M occupancies suspended from ceiling (not supported by floor).
    - Required to meet flame propagation criteria in NFPA 701 or
    - Be noncombustible



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## 806.1.1 Noncombustible Materials

- Not limited in any occupancy
- Never a good idea to substitute a noncombustible material with a flame-retardant materials
  - If substitution made, other safety features (sprinklers) should be provided



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 806.1.2 Combustible Decorative Materials

- Cannot exceed 10 percent of the walls and ceilings (total area)
- Exception for group A:
  - 50 percent of walls and ceilings when fully sprinklered and
  - Stability of materials is to be in accordance with Section 803.4



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## 806.3 Foam Plastic

- Covered specifically in Chapter 26 and Section 803.7 of the IFC
- Generally not allowed as an interior finish trim unless certain requirements can be met
  - Tested in realistic conditions to demonstrate acceptable performance or
  - Used as trim with a limit on the amount, dimensions density and flame spread



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## 806.1.2 Combustible Decorative Materials

- Exception for fabric partitions
  - Not supported by floor
  - Group B and M occupancies
  - Meeting flame propagation criteria of NFPA 701
  - Correlates with requirements in Section 806.1



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## 806.4 Pyroxylin Plastic

- Specifically prohibited in Group A occupancies
- Addressed in more detail in IFC Chapter 42
- Highly flammable when exposed to heat
- Products of combustion are highly toxic
- Uncommon in current times



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 806.5 Interior Trim

- Limited to 10 percent of the aggregate walls or ceilings
- Not foam plastic
- Minimum Class C rating
- Does not include guardrails and handrails



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## Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements

- 402 Covered Mall Buildings
  - 402.15 Plastic signs
    - Area limited to 20 percent of wall area
    - Height < 36 in for horizontal signs, > 96 for vertical signs
    - > 18 in from adjacent tenants
    - Nonfoam plastics
    - Must be Class B or pass NFPA 286
    - Ignition greater than 650 oF or light transmitting plastics
    - Edges encased in metal
    - Foam plastics
      - < 150 kW when tested to UL 1975
      - Not required to meet ASTM E 84
      - Density > 20 pound per cubic foot
      - Thickness < ½ in

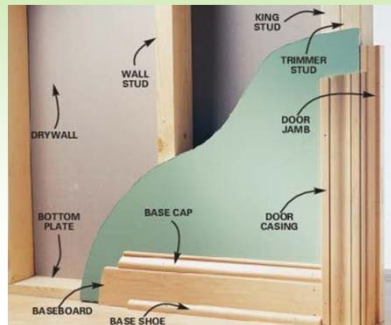


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## 806.5 Interior Trim

- Does include things such as:
  - Baseboards
  - Chair rails
  - Window trim
  - Crown molding



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## Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements

- 404 Atriums
  - 404.7 Interior Finish
    - Class B minimum regardless of presence of sprinklers



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## Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements

- 406 Motor Vehicle Related Occupancies
  - 406.5.2 Canopies (Service Stations)
    - Plastic:
      - Class A flame spread rating
      - Smoke-Developed Index < 450°F
      - Ignition temperature > 650°F
- 410 Stages and Platforms
- 410.3.5.3 Smoke Test
  - Curtain Fabric:
    - Smoke-Developed rating < 25
    - Intent was likely a Class A Rating



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## IBC Chapter 26: Plastic

- 2604 Interior Finish and Trim
  - Non-foam plastic in accordance with Ch 8
  - Foam
    - Interior finish
      - Section 2603.8
        - FM 4880
        - UL 1040
        - NFPA 286
        - UL 1715
        - ASTME 84
  - Trim: 2604.2



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## Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements

- 410.3.6 Scenery
  - Combustible materials must comply with the flame propagation criteria of NFPA
  - 701 Foam Plastics must comply with IBC Section 2602.
- 411 Special Amusement Buildings
  - 411.8 Interior Finish
    - Class A interior finish required in special amusement buildings with > 50 occupants.

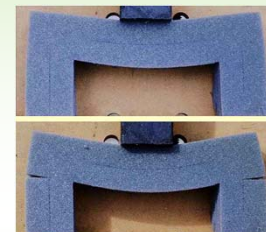


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## IBC Chapter 26: Plastic

- Interior Finish – Foam Plastic
- Section 2603.8 allows large scale testing
  - Large scale testing demonstrates performance
    - FM 4880
    - UL 1040
    - NFPA 286



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## IBC Chapter 26: Plastic

- Interior Trim – Foam Plastic
- Section 2604.2 allows trim with following criteria
  - > 20 pcf density
  - Thickness < ½ inch
  - Width < 8 inches
  - < 10 percent of wall or ceiling area
  - Class B minimum flame spread



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## IFC Chapter 8

- 806 Interior Finish and Decorative Materials
- 807 Decorative Materials other than decorative vegetation in new and existing buildings
- 808 Furnishings other than upholstered furniture and mattresses or decorative materials in new and existing buildings



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## IFC Chapter 8

- 801 General
- 802 Definitions
- 803 Furnishings
- 804 Decorative Vegetation
- 805 Decorations and Trim

### Tip

*Note: This workbook is focusing primarily on the interior finishes, trim and decorative materials as it pertains to those things applied to walls and ceilings versus vegetation and furnishings; therefore, Sections 805, 806 and 808 will not be addressed.*



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## 801 General

- Defines the scope of the chapter which covers:
  - Interior Finish
  - Interior Trim
  - Furniture
  - Furnishings
  - Decorative materials
  - Decorative vegetation



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803 Interior wall and ceiling finishes and trim in existing buildings

- Similar contents to Section 803 of the IBC
- Materials separated into
  - Non-textile
  - Textile
- Focus in on existing buildings



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## 803.1.1 Classification in Accordance with ASTM E84

- Provides the classifications when a product is tested to ASTM E84
  - Class A: Flame spread 0-25
  - Class B: Flame spread 26-75
  - Class C: Flame spread 76-200

### Tip

Note: Maximum smoke-developed index for all three is 450. 803.1.2 Classification in accordance with NFPA 286



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## 803.1 General

- Allows materials to be tested to one of the following:
  - ASTM E 84 Tunnel Test
  - NFPA 286 Room Corner Test
- Exceptions for:
  - Materials < .036 inches thickness that are applied directly to the surface of walls or ceilings
  - Exposed Heavy timber of Type IV construction

### Tip

Note: NFPA 265 room corner test can be used for textiles -addressed in Section 803.5.



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## 803.1.2 Classification in accordance with NFPA 286

- Allows use of NFPA 286 to test materials for compliance
- Acceptance criteria
- Acceptance criteria different than IBC



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.2 Stability

- Same requirement as the IBC
- Ensures level of durability when exposed to heat
- Loose materials contribute to fire load and ease of fire spread
- Criteria > 200 F for at least 30 minutes
- Currently no standard methodology available to determine whether materials can withstand temperature exposure



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## 803.4 Fire Retardant Coatings

- Specific to the IFC
- Allows ability to apply fire retardants treatments in existing buildings to achieve compliance
- Requires compliance with NFPA 703 to provide level of quality assurance
- Maintenance in accordance with manufacturers instructions



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## 803.3 Interior finish requirements based upon occupancy

- Refers to table 803.3 for the flame spread rating requirements based upon:
  - Occupancy/Use type
  - Location within buildings
  - Whether sprinklers are used



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## 803.5 Textile Wall Coverings

- Textiles are required to comply with this section:
  - Woven or nonwoven
  - Napped
  - Tufted
  - Looped



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 803.5 Textile Wall Coverings

- Several options for compliance
  - ASTM E 84 Class A rating with sprinklers
  - NFPA 265 (Room corner test for textiles)
    - Method A or B test protocol acceptable
    - Method A test protocol pass/fail criteria



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## 803.7 Foam Plastic Materials

- Addresses the use of foam plastic liner as interior wall or ceiling finish and trim
- Trim addressed again in Section 804
- Interior wall and ceiling finish allowed
- Trim requirements same as IBC Section 2604.2



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## 803.6 Expanded vinyl wall or ceiling finishes

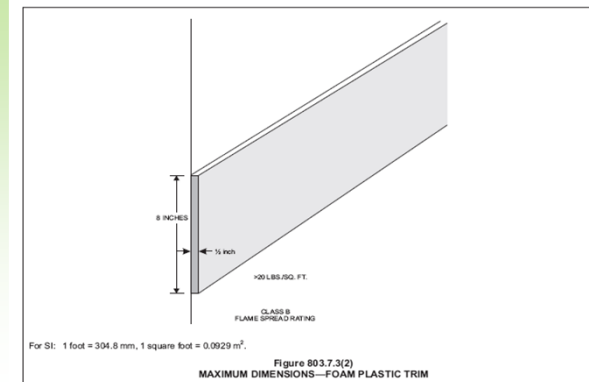
- Requires compliance with test method NFPA 286 which tests the walls and ceilings
- Also allows compliance with NFPA 265 for textiles
- Compliance with ASTM E 84 is not allowed to demonstrate compliance



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## 803.7 Foam Plastic Materials



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## 804 Interior Wall and Ceiling Trim in New and Existing Buildings

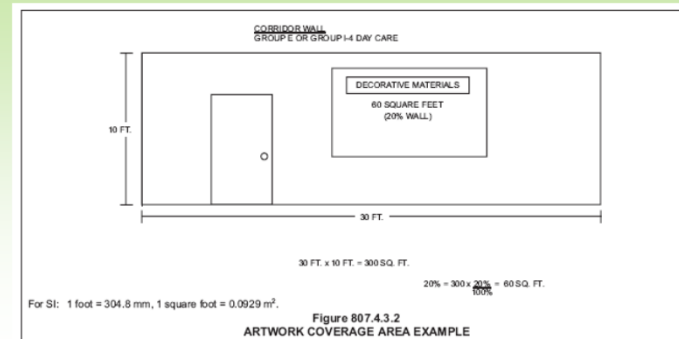
- For new and existing buildings wall and ceiling trim
- Same requirements as IBC
- Trim other than Foam Plastic
- Foam Plastic



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## 807 Decorative Materials other than Decorative Vegetation in New and Existing Buildings



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## 807 Decorative Materials other than Decorative Vegetation in New and Existing Buildings

- New and existing buildings
- IBC is focused only on new
- Requirements the same as the IBC except for some additional requirements related to building contents
  - Group A
  - Group E and I-4



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## Code Requirements

- Name at least two things that interior finish requirements are based on.

Interior finish requirements are based on:

- ASTM E 84 classifications, occupancy, location within the building
- and**
- sprinklered or unsprinklered.



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Code Requirements

- What are three examples of textiles that are required to comply with Section 803.6?

Textiles that are required to comply with Section 803.6 include:

- woven, or nonwoven
  - napped tufted
  - looped



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Module Six

## Conclusions



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## Code Requirements

- List the flame spreads of Class A, B and C when a product is tested to ASTM E 84.
  - The flame spread for Class A is 0-25.
  - The flame spread for Class B is 26-75.
  - The flame spread for Class C is 76-200.



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## Main Ideas

- Interior finishes play a large role in the beginning stages of a fire
- Flame resistance is much different than fire resistance – flammability vs. endurance



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# 2012 IFC and IBC Interior Finishes and Foam Plastics

## Main Ideas

- Many methods of providing flame resistance are available
  - Chemical
  - Impregnation
  - Pressurized Impregnation
  - Coatings



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## Main Ideas

- Code compliance has three major phases:
  - Plan Review
  - Construction Review
  - Maintenance
- Code requirements
  - Chapter 8 of IBC and IFC
  - Chapters 4 and 26 of the IBC



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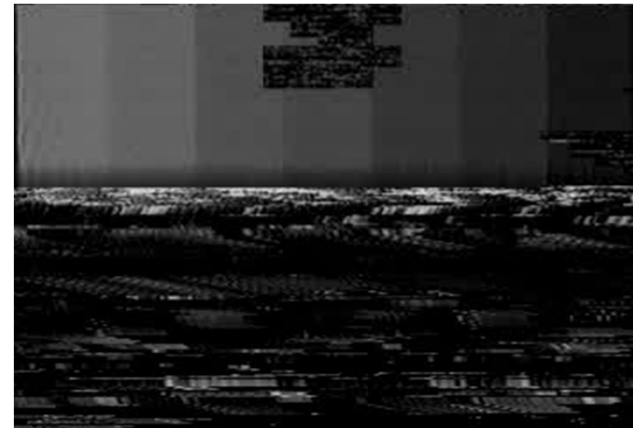
## Main Ideas

- Flammability/Combustibility/Flame Propagation Tests:
  - Various tests are available
  - Some also address more realistic fire conditions
  - Need to ensure correct tests have been used for the intended application



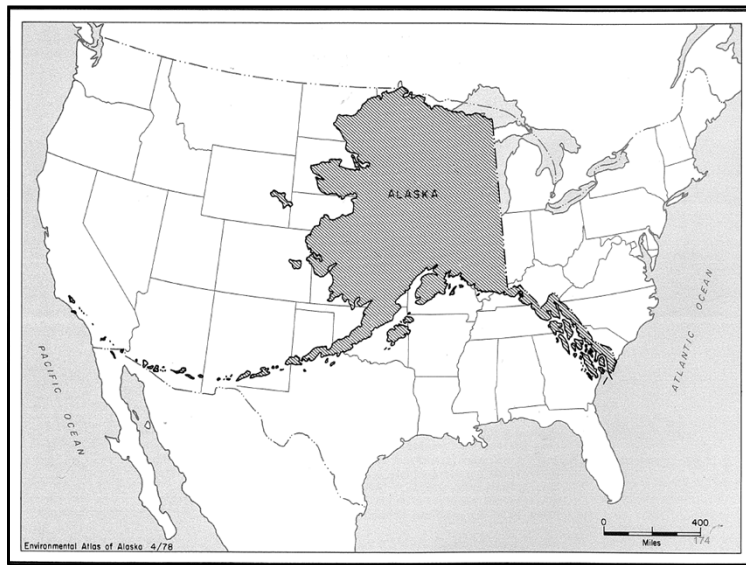
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