

## **Top 10 Commercial Plan Review Comments**

Presented by Allen Burris



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## **Revision Narrative**

A missing or incomplete revision narrative causes delay in the initial review of the project and can result in an incomplete unreviewed submittal. This can create an additional review cycle adding time to the overall project. The revision narrative should include the following:

#### **General Requirements**

- On the top of the narrative document list, the original permit number and the revision number
- Identify in the narrative the pages that have changes in a list format. Each drawing, sheet or page should be a separate line item. Next to each page number, describe the changes for that page in detail. Do not use "general" statements.
- The revised drawing, sheet or pages shall have a cloud around the area(s) which were changed, and a numbered delta symbol used to identify the submitted revision. Clouds around the entire drawing will not be accepted.

#### **County Specific Requirements**

- Upload only the drawings and sheets which were revised. Do not upload specification sheets and calculations where no changes have been made.
- Each time you upload use the same drawing or sheet name. Do not create new names for the drawings or sheets which you upload.
- Previously approved plans, where there are no changes, will be deleted.



## **Scope of Work**

The scope of work sets the expectations for the review. Without a clear scope of work, assumptions are made which can result in unnecessary plan review comments. The scope does not need to be a page of information but is should be a few sentences to provide enough detail. Some items that should be addressed in the scope are:

- Is this a new building or is it a renovation.
- Is the renovation a complete demo and rebuild or is it a partial remodel.
- Is the use of the space or occupancy classification changing.
- Is the project expanding into an existing tenant space or reducing the size of a tenant space.
- Is there additional square footage being added to the building.
- Is it entirely interior or is there exterior work as well.



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## **Code Analysis**

Missing or incomplete code analysis causes delay in the initial review of the project and can result in an incomplete unreviewed submittal. This can create an additional review cycle adding time to the overall project. The code analysis should include the following:

- Applicable Codes/year of design
- Type of construction
- Separation distance from property line or other structures
- Occupancy classification
- Occupant Load and Load Factors used
- Allowable/Actual floor area
- Allowable/Actual building height
- Allowable/Actual stories
- Exit analysis
- Fire protection requirements
- IECC compliance method
- Plumbing fixture analysis Required/Provided



#### **Code Analysis**

- Place on cover sheet or general notes
  - "Code Analysis"
  - "Building Data"
  - "Building Analysis"
  - "Project Data"
  - "Building Code Summary"
  - "Building Information"
  - "Project Description"









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## **Applicable Codes**

- Identify the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
  - County, city, state, etc.
  - Local amendments published by the AHJ
  - Additional local requirements
- Type and scope of project
  - IRC or IBC
  - IEBC or IBC











# Occupancy Classification vs Occupant Load Factor



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## **Occupancy Classification**

- Primary purpose of the building, or portions of the building
- Considers the risk associated with the intended use of the building
  - How many people will occupy the space
  - What activities take place
  - If people are awake or asleep
  - How familiar occupants are with the building
  - Are occupants capable of self preservation
  - Materials or hazards might be present
- Sets limits to the size of the building with consideration of the type of construction
- Detailed descriptions of each category, and its sub-categories can be found in chapter 3

Α	Assembly – Theaters, churches, restaurants, casinos			
В	Business – Office buildings, doctor's office, colleges			
E	Educational – Elementary, middle and high schools			
F	Factory Industrial – Low and moderate hazards production and fabrication			
Н	High Hazard – Processing, manufacturing, and storage involving hazardous materials/chemicals			
ı	Institutional – Facilities that provide care or supervision limiting movement such as hospitals, day care, jails			
M	Mercantile – Grocery store, general merchandise			
R	Residential – Hotels, apartments, houses			
U	Utility and Miscellaneous – Barns, sheds and garages			



#### **Occupancy Classification vs. Occupant Load Factor**

- Describes the risk associated with the occupants and activities within a building
- Considers the ability of the occupants to evacuate independently
- Used to determine the required fire protection systems and allowable height, story and area limits
- Only possible 10 designations listed in chapter 3 of the IBC
  - Some additional subgroups

- Describes the anticipated concentration of people in a specific room or space based on its function
- Used to determine egress capacity
- Units are in sqft per person
- IBC Table 1004.5 lists common functions and their occupant load factor
- Occupant load can be a factor in determining the occupant classification, but the occupancy classification does not affect the occupant load
  - For example, a conference room in an office is typically classified as type B (Business), unless the occupant load is more than 50 people, then that space is an A-3 (Assembly) occupancy. The function of a conference room is assembly and must use an assembly load factor regardless of the B or A-3 classification

Occupancy Classification



Occupant Load Factor



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#### TABLE 1004.5 MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA ALLOWANCES PER OCCUPANT

FUNCTION OF SPACE	OCCUPANT LOAD FACTOR <sup>a</sup>			
Accessory storage areas, mechanical equipment room	300 gross			
Agricultural building	300 gross			
Aircraft hangars	500 gross			
Airport terminal				
Baggage claim	20 gross			
Baggage handling	300 gross			
Concourse	100 gross			
Waiting areas	15 gross			
Assembly				
Gaming floors (keno, slots, etc.)	11 gross			
Exhibit gallery and museum	30 net			
Assembly with fixed seats	See Section 1004.6			
Assembly without fixed seats				
Concentrated (chairs only—not fixed)	7 net			
Standing space	5 net			
Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	15 net			
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway, and for additional areas	7 net			
Business areas				
Concentrated business use areas	150 gross			
	See Section 1004.8			
Courtrooms—other than fixed seating areas	40 net			
Day care	35 net			
Dormitories	50 gross			



**Occupancy Classification**: It is used in conjunction the construction materials to determine limits to the height, floor area, and number of stories allowed for the building.

**Occupant Load Factor:** Is independent of occupancy classification. It is based on the use of the room or space. Higher square footage per person is less restrictive.



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# Fire Resistance Rating for Separation VS Fire Rating for Protection of Structure



### Fire Resistance for Separation vs. Protection of Structure

#### Protection of structure:

- Based on construction type
- Does not contain fire in areas
- Protects the individual member from structural failure due to excessive heat
- Can have unprotected openings in assemblies
- Can be a single material applied to the structural element or encased in an assembly
- Different for primary and secondary members
- Methods of protection:
  - Gypsum
  - Intumescent paint
  - Monocoat
  - Fire blankets

#### Separation:

- To separate occupancies or areas
- Must be an assembly, not a single material
- Keeps fire and smoke contained to an area
- Openings must be protected
- Assemblies can be listed (such as UL) or prescriptive
- Methods of protection:
  - Rated wall assemblies
  - Rated floor/ceiling and roof/ceiling assemblies
  - Rated doors, windows and dampers
  - Firestop assemblies









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## Fire Protection of the Structure – Chapter 6

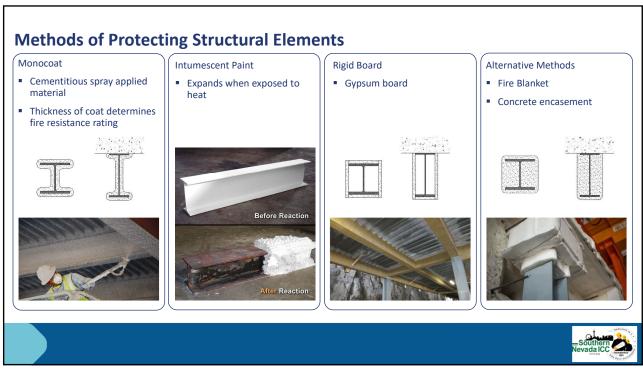
All structural members and assemblies must meet the fire-resistance rating requirements specified for the type of construction

The fire-resistance rating of any structural member must be at least equal to the rating of the fire-resistance-rated assembly it supports [704.1]

#### TABLE 601

	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
BUILDING ELEMENT	Α	В	Α	В	Α	В	Α	В	С	нт	Α	В
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a, b</sup>	2 <sup>a, b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0c	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	3ª	2ª	2ª	нт	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior <sup>e, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3ª	2ª	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT <sup>g</sup>	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior	See Table 705.5											
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 2304.11.2	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	нт	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0c	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0	11/2	1	1	нт	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0





Primary vs Secondary Structural Members

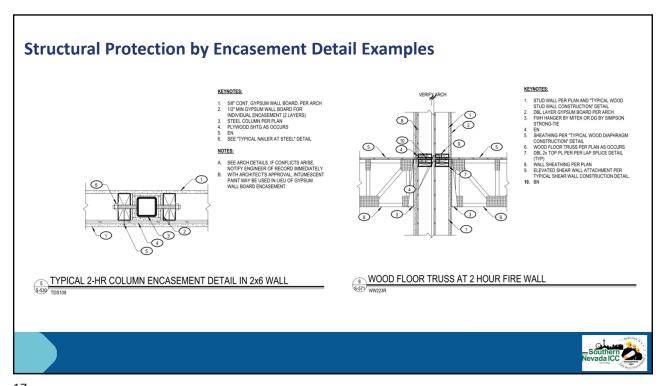
Allowable materials are determined by the construction type of the building

Structural Components

Primary member – columns, members such as beams and girders that connect directly to columns, members essential to provide vertical stability when gravity loads are applied to the primary structural frame
Secondary member – Not directly connected to columns, bracing not designed as part of the primary structural frame or bearing walls

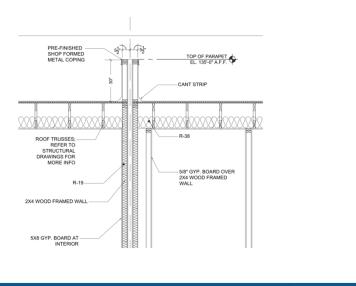
Primary beam

Foundation



## **Fire Rating for Separation**

- Occupancy separation
- Unit separation with party walls
- Fire walls create separate buildings or separate buildings onto smaller fire areas
- Isolating more hazardous areas





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#### **Fire-rated Assemblies**

Fire rated assemblies are either: [703.2.2]

- Certified by approved sources
  - UL Listed Fire Resistance Directory
  - Gypsum Association's Fire Resistance Design Manual
  - Listings can be generic or proprietary
- Prescriptive
  - Using specific building components listed in Section 721
- Can be calculated in accordance with Section 722



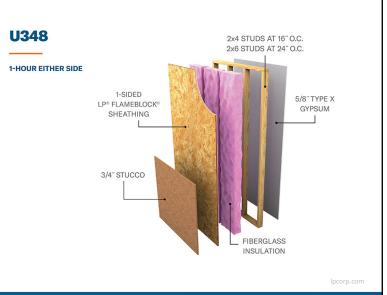
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#### **UL Listed Assemblies**

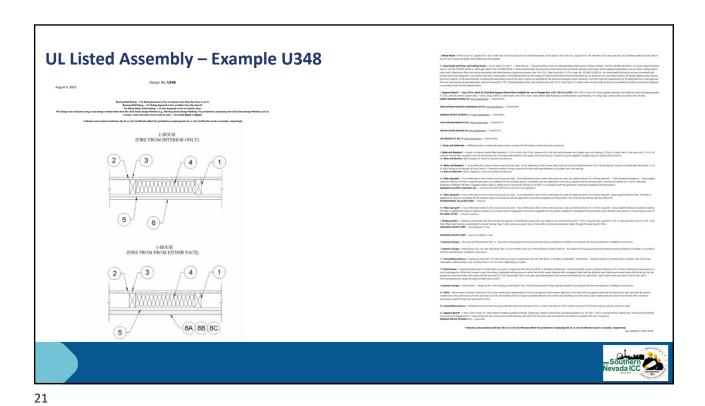
Specific assemblies that have been tested and approved for fire resistance

Must follow provisions for:

- Framing size
- Framing material
- Material thicknessType of insulation
- Type of sheathing
- Nail pattern
- Exterior finishes

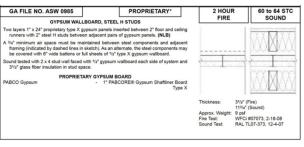






**Proprietary Assemblies** 

Must use the same material from the company listed on the detail



25 2HR FIRE RATED WALL
SCALE: NTS



## Fire Wall is not a Generic Term



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## **Key Terms** – Fire and Smoke Resistant Assemblies

Fire Wall – Wall assembly with a fire resistance rating and sufficient structural stability under fire conditions to allow for the building to collapse on either side without collapse of the wall

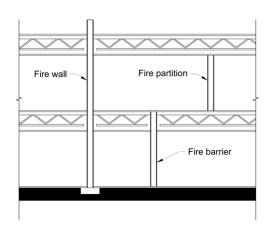
Fire Barrier – Wall assembly with a fire resistance rating designed to restrict the spread of fire. Used to separate mixed occupancy buildings, to enclose exits, etc.

Smoke barrier – Continuous membrane or assembly designed to restrict the movement of smoke with a minimum fire rating of 1-hour. Used in institutional occupancies and Areas of Refuge

**Fire partition** – Vertical assembly designed to restrict or slow the spread of fire in which openings are protected

Smoke partition – Continuous wall assembly designed to restrict the movement of smoke. Used in institutional occupancies and Areas of Refuge

**Horizontal assembly** - A fire-resistance-rated floor or roof assembly of materials designed to restrict the spread of fire in which continuity is maintained





#### **Fire Wall**

 $\label{lem:code} \mbox{Fire walls create separate buildings for code analysis.}$ 

#### A fire wall:

- Has sufficient structural stability to collapse on either side without collapse of the wall [706.2]
- Extends continuously from the foundation through the roof
- Has protected openings
- Has a fire resistance rating of not less than required by Table 706.4

#### Openings [706.8]

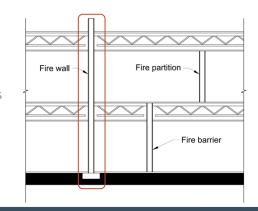
- Must be protected in accordance with Section 716
- A single opening shall not exceed 156 sq ft
- The aggregate width of openings shall not exceed 25% of the wall length at any floor

Ducts may not penetrate fire walls

Party walls shall be fire walls with no openings [706.1.1]

#### TABLE 706.4 FIRE WALL FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS

GROUP	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)
A, B, E, H-4, I, R-1, R-2, U	3 a
F-1, H-3b, H-5, M, S-1	3
H-1, H-2	4 b
F-2, S-2, R-3, R-4	2



Where a fire wall separates occupancies that are also required to be separated by a fire barrier, the most restrictive requirements of both apply [706.1]

#### Exceptions:

- Openings are not allowed in party walls
- Openings shall not be limited if both buildings have automatic sprinklers

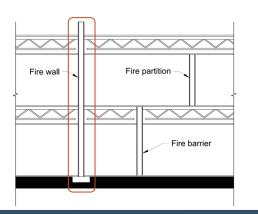


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#### **Fire Wall**

#### Applications:

- Divide a large building into smaller areas
- Divide a building into different construction types
- Party Walls





#### **Fire Barrier**

Wall assembly with a fire resistance rating designed to restrict the spread of fire in which continuity is maintained.

The required fire rating of a fire barrier depends on the use of the barrier

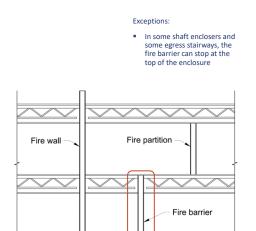
#### Applications:

- Separating fire areas Section 707.3.10
- Enclosing egress components Chapter 10 and Section 713.4
- Separating occupancies Section 508.4 and 509.1
- Atriums and control areas Chapter 4

Openings must be protected and are limited to what is allowed in 707.6

#### Continuity [705.5]

- Horizontal: Extended to adjacent interior or exterior walls
- Vertical: From the top of the floor assembly below to the bottom of the floor assembly or roof deck above
- Construction below should have the same fire rating as the fire barrier it supports and be fire blocked at every level [705.5.1]
- Extend through all concealed spaces





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#### **Fire Partition**

Vertical assembly designed to restrict or slow the spread of fire in which openings are protected  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$ 

Fire partitions have a fire resistance rating of at least 1-hour

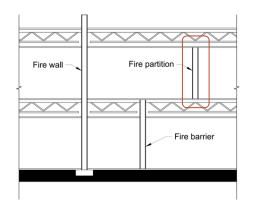
Can be made of any materials that are allowed in the construction type

#### Continuity [708.4]

- Foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below to deck/slab or underside of assembly above
- Fire blocking in combustible concealed spaces per 708.4.2

#### Applications:

- Corridor walls [1020.3]
- Enclosed elevator lobbies [3006.3]
- Egress balconies [1020.2]
- Vestibules [1028.2]
- Walls separating sleeping/dwelling units [907.2]
- Special uses [Chapter 4]
  - Occupancies R and I-1 [420]
  - Covered and open malls [402]
  - Ambulatory care facilities [422]





#### **Smoke Barrier vs Smoke Partition**

#### Smoke barrier

The purpose of a smoke barrier is to subdivide a building into smoke compartments to prevent the spread of smoke and toxic gases from one area to another, thereby protecting life safety and allowing for safer evacuation and horizontal relocation of occupants, especially in hospitals. These barriers act as a continuous membrane, such as a wall, floor, or ceiling assembly, designed to restrict the movement of smoke and maintain tenable conditions in escape routes. Smoke barriers differ from smoke partitions in that they are required to be fire rated.

#### **Smoke Partition**

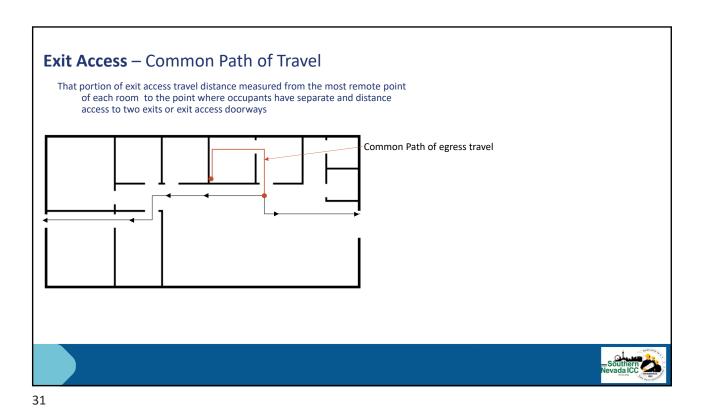
The purpose of a smoke partition is to limit and contain the spread of smoke within a building during a fire or other emergency, allowing time for occupants to evacuate and for smoke detection and suppression systems to activate. Smoke partitions are continuous, sealed membranes that extend from floor to ceiling, but they do not provide significant fire resistance, distinguishing them from smoke barriers and other fire-rated assemblies.



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## **Means of Egress Common Path of Travel**



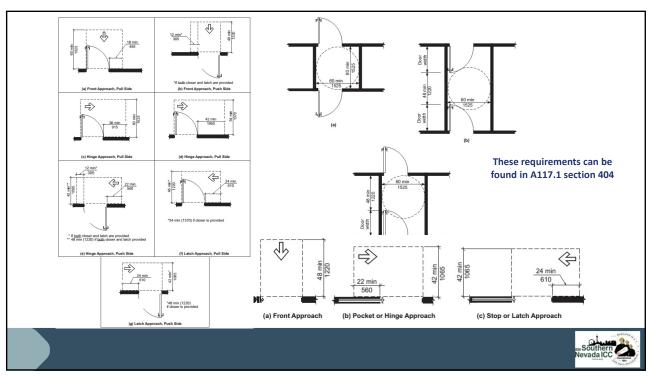


#### Exit Access – Common Path of Travel The allowable length for common path of travel is dependent on the occupancy group, occupant load and whether the building is sprinkled. Limitations for each occupancy group are listed in Table 1006.2.1 $\,$ TABLE 1006.2.1 SPACES WITH ONE EXIT OR EXIT ACCESS DOORWAY MAXIMUM COMMON PATH OF EGRESS TRAVEL DISTANCE (feet) Without Automatic Sprinkler System (feet) Occupant load With Automatic Sprinkler System (feet) OL ≤ 30 A<sup>c</sup>, E, M H-1, H-2, H-3 H-4, H-5 75<sup>b</sup> I-1, I-2<sup>d</sup>, I-4 100a 125ª, g 100a

## **Accessible Door Maneuvering Clearance**



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## **Energy Code Requirements**



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## **IECC Required Items on Plans**

#### C103.2 Information on construction documents.

Construction documents shall be drawn to scale on suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted where approved by the code official. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed, and show in sufficient detail pertinent data and features of the building, systems and equipment as herein governed. Details shall include, but are not limited to, the following as applicable:

- 1. Energy compliance path.
- 2. Insulation materials and their R-values.
- 3. Fenestration U-factors and solar heat gain coefficients (SHGCs).
- 4. Area-weighted U-factor and solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) calculations.
- 5. Mechanical system design criteria.
- 6. Mechanical and service water-heating systems and equipment types, sizes and efficiencies.
- 7. Economizer description.
- 8. Equipment and system controls.
- 9. Fan motor horsepower (hp) and controls.
- 10. Duct sealing, duct and pipe insulation and location.
- 11. Lighting fixture schedule with wattage and control narrative.
- 12. Location of daylight zones on floor plans.
- 13. Air barrier and air sealing details, including the location of the air barrier.

#### 2024 IECC Additions (now section C105.2)

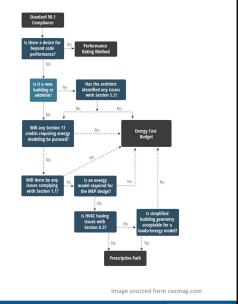
- Thermal Bridges as Identified in Section C402.7
- Location of pathways for routing of raceways or cable from the on-site renewable energy system to the electrical distribution equipment
- Location reserved for inverters, metering equipment and energy storage systems (ESS), and a pathway reserved for routing of raceways or conduit from the renewable energy system to the point of interconnection with the electrical service and the ESS
- Location and layout of a designated area for ESS
- Rated energy capacity and rated power capacity of the installed or planned ESS.



#### **Compliance Paths**

Compliance paths are used to ensure compliance with IECC, mechanical codes, electrical codes, lighting requirements, and plumbing codes. There are multiple options for each discipline

- Prescriptive
  - Individual components/systems meet requirements listed in the code
  - Most common
- Performance
  - Overall assembly or building analysis and complex energy modeling
  - Offers more flexibility and opportunities for "trade-offs"
  - Uses analysis software to calculate total efficiency of the building



Southern Nevada ICC

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## Thermal Envelope Requirements – C402 and R402

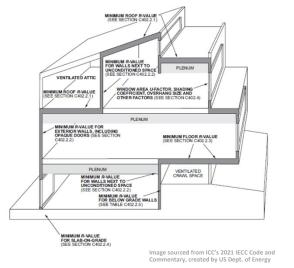
Minimum R-values and U-factors for

- Roofs
- Skylights
- Exterior walls
- Walls adjacent to unconditioned space
- Windows
- Floors
- Walls below grade
- Slabs-on-grade

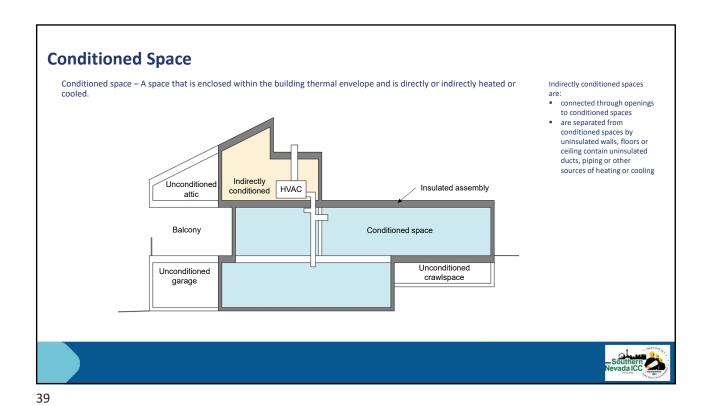
Thermal Envelope Certificate is required to be displayed in commercial buildings near the space conditioning equipment and filed with the construction documents [IECC C401.3].

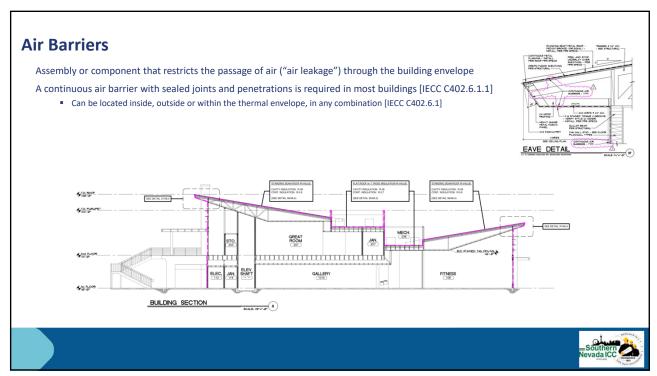
It must record:

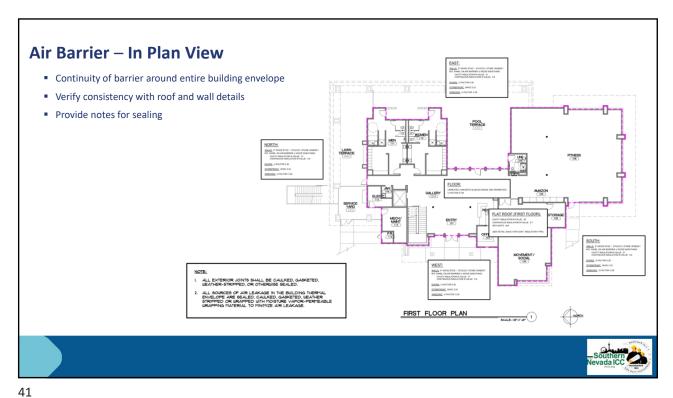
- R-values of insulation
- U-factors of fenestration
- Air leakage test results

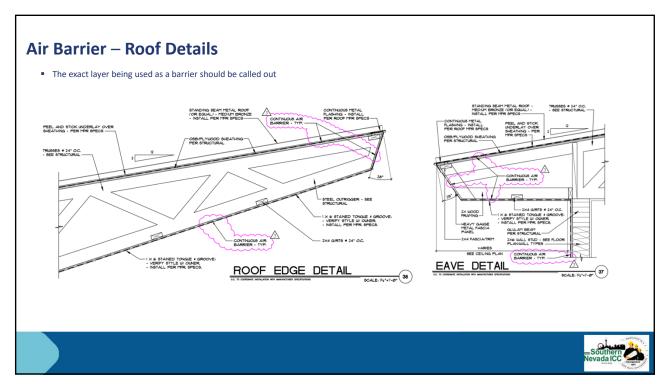












## **Baby Changing Tables**

#### 1210.4 Baby changing table.

Where newly constructed buildings or facilities contain restrooms that are provided for public use, a minimum of one (1) baby changing table shall be provided to comply with all of the following:

- Located within a public restroom or other area as approved by the building official.
- 2. Continuously available to both male and female occupants.
- Applicable provisions of ICC A117.1 for Diaper Changing Tables.
   Exception: Baby changing tables are not required in facilities that have been issued a permit or license which restricts the admission of children on the basis of age.



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## **Adult Changing Station**

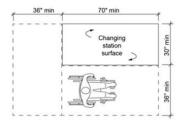
#### 1110.4 Adult changing stations.

Where provided, adult changing stations shall be accessible. Where required, adult changing stations shall be accessible and shall comply with Sections 1110.4.1 through 1110.4.4.

#### 1110.4.1 Where required.

Not fewer than one adult changing station shall be provided in the following locations:

- In assembly and mercantile occupancies, where family or assisted-use toilet or bathing rooms are required to comply with Section 1110.2.1.
- In Group B occupancies providing educational facilities for students above the 12th grade, where an aggregate of 12 or more male and female water closets are required to serve the classrooms and lecture halls.
- In Group E occupancies, where a room or space used for assembly purposes requires an aggregate of six or more male and female water closets for that room or space.
- 4. In highway rest stops and highway service plazas.



### FIGURE 1110.4.5.3 SIZE AND MANEUVERING CLEARANCES AT THE ADULT CHANGING SURFACE

**1110.4.5.3.1 Size.** The changing surface shall be 70 inches (1778 mm) minimum in length and 30 inches (762 mm) minimum in width.

1110.4.5.3.2 Capacity. Materials, fastening mounting devices and support structure shall support a user weight of not less than 400 pounds (182 kg).





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## **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

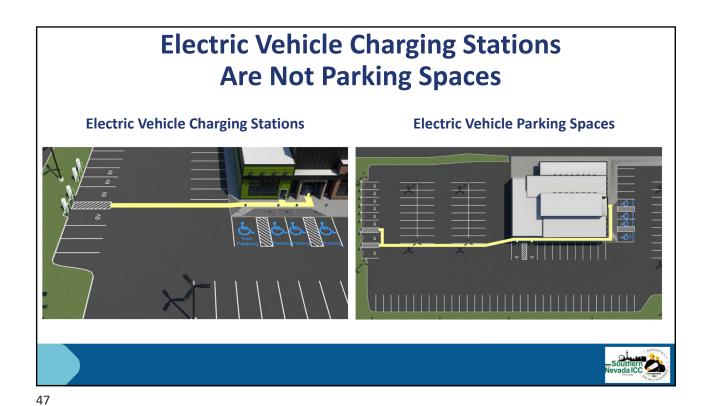
 ${\bf 1107.2}\ Electrical\ vehicle\ charging\ stations.$ 

 ${\bf Electrical\ vehicle\ charging\ stations\ shall\ comply\ with\ Sections\ 1107.2.1\ through\ 1107.2.4.}$ 

#### Exceptions:

- 1. Electrical vehicle charging stations provided to serve Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies are not required to comply with this section.
- 2. Electric vehicle charging stations used exclusively by buses, trucks, other delivery vehicles, law enforcement vehicles and motor pools are not required to comply with this section. 1107.2.1 Number of accessible vehicle spaces. Not less than 5 percent of vehicle spaces on the site served by electrical vehicle charging systems, but not fewer than one for each type of electric vehicle charging system, shall be accessible. Where new electric vehicle charging stations are installed in facilities with existing electric vehicle charging stations, the total number of accessible spaces provided shall include both existing and new electric vehicle charging stations. Where an electric vehicle charging station charger can simultaneously charge more than one vehicle, the number of electric vehicle charging stations provided shall be considered equivalent to the number of electric vehicles that can be simultaneously charged. Spaces serving Electric Vehicle Charging Stations per this section shall not account for any of the accessible parking spaces, required by Section 1106, on the site unless specifically provided with accessible identification signage with the International Symbol of Accessibility and meet all of the requirements for an accessible parking space in addition to the requirements of this section. To be used as a required accessible parking space, the space cannot be restricted to electric vehicles only.





Non-compliant Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Accessible route

Constitution

Section

118-912

Non-compliant Electric Vehicle Charging Station

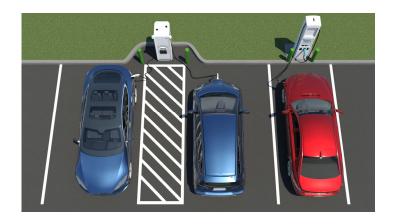
Section

118-912

Section

118-912

## **Compliant Electric Vehicle Charging Station**







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## **Questions?**



## **Thank You!**

To contact me with questions, email me at :  $\underline{allen.burris@clarkcountynv.gov}$ 

If you would like more information on Joining SNICC or being part of the code development process, go to <a href="https://www.snicc.org">www.snicc.org</a>

For information on attending the 2026 EduCode in February of 2026, go to <a href="https://educode.us/">https://educode.us/</a>





