

(Effective until July 1, 2023)

WAC 51-50-0706 Section 706—Fire walls.

706.6.1 Stepped buildings. Where a fire wall also serves as an exterior wall for a building and separates buildings having different roof levels, such wall shall terminate at a point not less than 30 inches (762 mm) above the lower roof level. Exterior walls above the fire wall extending more than 30 inches above the lower roof shall be of not less than 1-hour *fire-resistance-rated* construction from both sides with openings protected by fire assemblies having a fire protection rating of not less than 3/4 hour. Portions of the exterior walls exceeding 15 feet above the lower roof shall be permitted to be of *nonfire-resistance-rated* construction unless otherwise required by other provisions of this code.

EXEMPTION: A fire wall serving as part of an exterior wall that separates buildings having different roof levels shall be permitted to terminate at the underside of the roof sheathing, deck or slab of the lower roof, provided items 1, 2, and 3 below are met. The exterior wall above the fire wall is not required to be of *fire-resistance-rated* construction, unless required by other provisions of this code.

1. The lower roof assembly within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the *fire wall* has not less than a 1-hour *fire-resistance rating*.
2. The entire length and span of supporting elements for the rated roof assembly has a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour.
3. Openings in the lower roof are not located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the *fire wall*.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 20-01-090, § 51-50-0706, filed 12/12/19, effective 7/1/20; WSR 16-03-064, § 51-50-0706, filed 1/19/16, effective 7/1/16.]

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706.3 Materials. *Fire walls* that separate a building of Type I or II construction from a building of any construction type shall be of any *approved* noncombustible materials. Other *fire walls* shall be built of materials consistent with the types permitted for the type of construction of the building.

706.4 Fire-resistance rating. *Fire walls* shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than that required by Table 706.4.

**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-3 ^b , H-5, M, S-1 | 3 |
| H-1, H-2 | 4 ^b |
| F-2, S-2, R-3 | 2 |

^a In Type II, III, IV, or V construction, walls shall be permitted to have a 2-hour fire-resistance rating.
^b For Group H-1, H-2, or H-3 buildings, also see Sections 415.7 and 415.8.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 22-13-094, § 51-50-0706, filed 6/14/22, effective 7/1/23; WSR 20-01-090, § 51-50-0706, filed 12/12/19, effective 7/1/20; WSR 16-03-064, § 51-50-0706, filed 1/19/16, effective 7/1/16.]