

Construction Codes & Licensing Division – Building Plan Review unit

PLAN REVIEW POLICY

PR-05	Fire Walls -Structural Stability	11/09
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Based on the 2007 Minnesota State Building Code

Background:

IBC Sec 705.4 requires that fire walls have sufficient structural stability to allow the collapse of the building on either side of a fire wall without collapse of the fire wall. When fire walls are established within existing buildings or when existing area separation walls are evaluated for compliance with the fire wall provisions, this requirement would typically mandate substantial alteration and cost to the existing structural design. This policy is necessary to address that lack of practical application. The most common reason fire walls are created within an existing building is to bring the existing building into compliance with allowable area, height or number of stories or if the building is undergoing a change of use.

Policy:

In accordance with M.R. 1300.0110 subp. 12,

Existing area separation walls and new fire walls installed within existing buildings shall not be required to meet IBC Sec. 705.4.

Note: To be used in accordance with the attached, “Plan Review Policies”

This information can be provided to you in alternative formats (Braille, large print or audio tape).