



Building Codes and Standards Unit - Plan Review Section

**PLAN REVIEW POLICY**

**PR-04**

**Fire Walls -Structural Stability**

**9/2015**

Based on the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code

**Background:**

IBC Sec 706.2 requires that fire walls have sufficient structural stability to allow the collapse of construction on either side of a fire wall without collapse of the fire wall. When new fire walls are established within existing buildings or when existing Uniform Building Code constructed 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. 706.2.