

705.2.3

Combustible Projections

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The provisions regulating combustible projections adjacent to an interior lot line or other line used to determine the fire separation distance have been modified to provide a simple and consistent approach that is less restrictive than previously determined.

2015 CODE: 705.2.3 Combustible Projections. Combustible projections extending to within 5 feet (1524 mm) of the line used to determine the fire separation distance, ~~or located where openings are not permitted, or where protection of some openings is required~~ shall be of not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, Type IV construction, fire-retardant-treated wood or as required by Section 1406.3.

Exception: Type VB construction shall be allowed for combustible projections in Group R-3 and U occupancies with a fire separation distance greater than or equal to 5 feet (1524 mm).

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: In addition to the required separation between a projection and the line used to determine the fire separation distance, such as an interior lot line, projections are further regulated in order to prevent a fire hazard from inappropriate use of combustible materials attached to exterior walls. Where located in close proximity to the fire separation distance line, combustible projections are prohibited unless of fire-retardant-treated wood, Type IV construction or 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

Previously, three separate thresholds were established to identify the scope of the requirement. Where any one of the three thresholds was exceeded, the limitations on combustible projections would apply. As a result, the most restrictive condition was always applied. With the revision, only the 5-foot fire separation distance threshold is now the controlling point for where the additional protection requirements apply. Where a combustible projection has less than 5 feet of fire separation distance, then some increased level of protection is required.

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