



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

June 25, 2024

I-24-04

Greg Smith
Town of West Hartford- Building Inspection Division
50 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Request for Formal Interpretation of the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code

Dear Greg Smith,

You have requested a formal interpretation in your original email on May 10, 2024, related to fire walls pertaining to the 2021 International Building Code portion of the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code. I have summarized your request for a written interpretation related to the following:

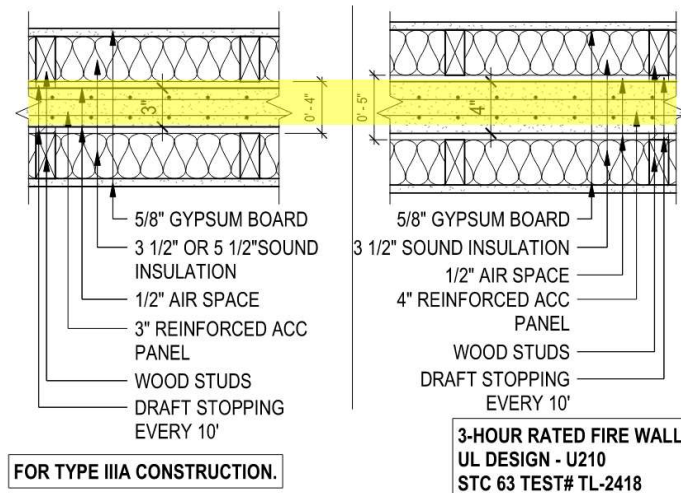
Question #1:

We have new 5-story Type III-A construction with an occupancy classification and use of R-2 proposed on top of a Type I-A construction podium which primarily serves parking. The problem we are seeking resolution to involves a conflict created by proposed use of wood framing in a UL U210 fire wall assembly (see attached) and the following from IBC:

706.3 Materials. *Fire walls* shall be of any *approved* noncombustible materials. **Exception:** Buildings of Type V construction.

Per the UL product iQ sheet for U210, which was revised on 3/08/2024, this assembly achieved up to a 4-hour rating with only a panelized autoclaved aerated concrete (PAAC) core. Per the emails with the architect, they are proposing the following, and our question to you is: Would you agree the proposed firewall conflicts with IBC section 706.3?

3 HR RATED FIRE WALL

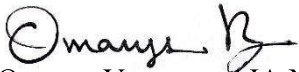


Answer #1:

The 2021 International Building Code portion of the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code Section 703.2.1 Tested assemblies states that “a fire-resistance rating of building elements, components or assemblies shall be determined by the test procedures set forth in ASTM E119 or UL 263.” According to the *BXUV Guide Info - Fire-resistance Ratings - ANSI/UL 263: Design Information Section*, “only when constructed together as specified in the individual designs are all the requirements of UL 263 met for the assigned assembly rating.” As noted in the question above, IBC Section 706.3 requires that fire walls be constructed of “any approved noncombustible materials.”

Therefore, in UL design assembly U210 the studs are a required component of the assembly and are not listed as an optional material, and thus shall be of noncombustible material to be used in this particular instance and meet the requirements of IBC Section 706.3 for Type III Construction.

Sincerely,



Omarys Vasquez, AIA NOMA
State Building Inspector

C: Tim Mikloiche, West Hartford Building Official
Joseph Ahmadi, Architect, Lessard Design
A. Parva, Lessard Design
Tom Albright, Owner, West Hartford Partners, LLC, Continental Properties
Milton Greg Grew, Grew Design