



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **January 20, 2010**
Subject: **Fireblocking required**
References: **2006 International Residential Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section R602.8 (Fireblocking required) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2006 International Residential Code in question.

Section R602.8, Fireblocking Required. Fireblocking shall be provided to cut off all concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal) and to form an effective fire barrier between stories, and between a top story and the roof space. Fireblocking shall be provided in wood-frame construction in the following locations.

- 1. In concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions, including furred spaces and parallel rows of studs or staggered studs; as follows:***
 - 1.1. Vertically at the ceiling and floor levels.***
 - 1.2. Horizontally at intervals not exceeding 10 feet.***
- 2. At all interconnections between concealed vertical and horizontal spaces such as occur at soffits, drop ceilings, and cove ceilings.***
- 3. In concealed spaces between stair stringers at the top and bottom of the run. Enclosed spaces under stairs shall comply with Section R311.2.2.***
- 4. At openings around vents, pipes, ducts, cables and wires at ceiling and floor level, with approved material to resist the free passage of flame and products of combustion.***

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION

5. For the fireblocking of chimneys and fireplaces, see Section R1003.19.

6. Fireblocking of cornices of a two-family dwelling is required at the line of the dwelling unit separation.

Question: It states that fire blocking is required in "Wood Frame Construction". Does this section apply if the framing in a basement is Metal Studs or in this case Foam wall panels?

Answer: When a vertical void space (combustible or not) is open to a horizontal void space (combustible), they are still required to be separated with fireblocking to minimize the drafting potential from horizontal to vertical.

NCC Stance: Fireblocking is required in this situation

Code Updates: With the adoption of the 2015 IRC, the requirements for fireblocking have been relocated to Section R302.11. This Code Opinion is unaffected by the change.

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Code Official