



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 9159**



Date October 03, 2025

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Section 603.1 Exception (1)(1.1)

Question:

Is it the intent of section 603.1, Exception (1)(1.1) to allow every interior nonbearing partition within Type I & II construction, where the nonbearing partition is not required to have fire-resistance rating, allowed to be constructed of FRTW or sheathed with FRTW without having a noncombustible material between the concealed space and the FRTW sheathing?

Answer

The use of FRTW in walls of Types I and II construction has been limited to non load-bearing partitions with a fire-resistance rating of not greater than 2 hours.

Commentary:

Exception 1.1 in 603.1 allows the FRTW to be attached directly to studs in assemblies of 2 hour or less. Furthermore, the 1st exception in 718.5 allows that FRTW to be extended into concealed spaces.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.