

REPAIR HOLES IN REQUIRED FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

703.1 Maintenance. The required fire-resistance rating of fire-resistance-rated construction (including walls, fire stops, shaft enclosures, partitions smoke barriers, floors, fire-resistive coatings and sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to structural members and fire-resistant joint systems) shall be maintained. Such elements shall be properly repaired, restored or replaced when damaged, altered, breached or penetrated. Openings made therein for the passage of pipes, electrical conduit, wires, ducts, air transfer openings, and holes made for any reason shall be protected with approved methods capable of resisting the passage of smoke and fire. Openings through fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be protected by self-closing or automatic-closing doors of approved construction meeting the fire protection requirements for the assembly.

703.1.1 Fire Blocking and draft stopping. Required fire blocking and draft stopping in combustible concealed spaces shall be maintained to provide continuity and integrity of the construction.

703.1.2 Smoke barriers. Required smoke barrier partitions shall be maintained to prevent the passage of smoke and all openings protected with approved smoke barrier doors or leakage-rated (smoke) dampers.

For permits to repair, replace or restore required fire resistive construction, see Building code.

EXPLANATION

Whenever fire-resistive walls, draft stops, ceilings, or roof coverings are damaged, repairs must be completed to maintain their integrity and fire-resistiveness. The repair must return the construction to its original fire-rating and shall utilize products listed for such use.

RATIONALE

The fire-resistive walls and construction in your building were required to be installed to keep fire from spreading throughout your business and/or to other buildings. When damage or alterations, such as holes, penetrations, and additions to these walls, ceilings, and roof coverings occur, the wall or roof can no longer contain a fire. Repairs must be made to the wall, ceiling, or roof that will return the fire-resistive nature of the wall to its original rating. Not only will this require quality repairs, but also utilizing materials that are listed for the repair of the fire-resistive construction.