



## COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES**  
Division of  
Building Development

### **BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION 2015-03**

**March 09, 2020**

**CODE/EDITION: VIRGINIA UNIFORM STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE/2015**

**SECTION(S): IBC/2015, Section 603 Combustible Material in  
Type I and II Construction**

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is combustible cabinetry, millwork and stand-alone furniture allowed in Type I and II Construction?
2. Is combustible furniture that is built-in place allowed in Type I and II Construction?
3. Is regulated electrical and plumbing work allowed to be installed inside or through cabinetry, millwork and furniture?

#### **OVERVIEW:**

Type I and Type II Construction provide the highest safety standards by requiring the use of noncombustible material in the building's construction elements. However, the Code provides twenty-five (25) exceptions that allow for use of combustible materials in Type I and II Construction. Following are the applicable definitions ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)):

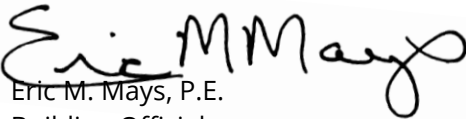
- Cabinetry: "Cabinetwork."
- Cabinetwork: "Fine furniture or other woodworking, as cabinets, chests, shelves, etc."
- Furniture: "The movable articles, as tables, chairs, desks or cabinets, required for use or ornament in a house, office, or the like."
- Millwork: "Ready-made carpentry work from a mill."
- Partition: "An interior wall or barrier dividing a room, area of a building, enclosure, etc., into separate areas."

## ANSWERS

1. Yes. (See attached IBC Interpretation 63-13.)
2. Yes. (See attached IBC Interpretation 63-13.)

### SPECIAL NOTES:

- A. Furniture (standalone or built-in place) is exempt from the Building Code in relation to application of the IBC Chapter 6 requirements. Built-in place furniture is not a building element and is not a primary or secondary structural member of the building. Therefore, built-in place furniture can be constructed of combustible framing lumber and can be secured to the floor. Additionally, the built-in place furniture is not required to be constructed with Fire Retardant Treated Wood (FRTW).
  - B. There are some instances in which walls or partitions are constructed adjacent to or in conjunction with built-in place furniture. This must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; and the designer is responsible to delineate and segregate the wall or partition from the built-in place furniture. A wall must be constructed of noncombustible material. A partition is allowed to be constructed of combustible material in accordance with Section 603, Exception 11.
3. Yes.



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