



BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION 2018-02
July 01, 2021

CODE/EDITION: VIRGINIA UNIFORM STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE/2018

**SECTION(S): IBC/2018, Section 603 Combustible Material in
Type I and II Construction**

QUESTION:

1. Is combustible material allowed to be placed as a cap above a ceiling assembly in Type I and II Construction?

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.

ANSWERS

1. Yes, under certain conditions.

If the ceiling cap is a walking surface, noncombustible material is required. The ceiling cap is a walking surface when the area is used for displays, storage, equipment and/or occupancy. In these instances, a noncombustible material (i.e., steel deck) must be installed before installing the finished surface. The finished surface is allowed to be combustible in accordance with Section 603, Exception 10. Finish flooring installed in accordance with Section 805.

If the ceiling cap is not a walking surface, refer to Section 603, Exception 24. Materials allowed in the concealed spaces of buildings of Types I and II construction in accordance with Section 718.5. Section 718.5, Exception 3 allows: "Class A interior finish materials classified in accordance with Section 803."

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