

Subpart C—Fire Safety

SOURCE: 49 FR 32008, Aug. 9, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3280.201 Scope.

The purpose of this subpart is to set forth requirements that will assure reasonable fire safety to the occupants by reducing fire hazards and by providing measures for early detection.

§ 3280.202 Definitions.

The following definitions are applicable to subparts C, H, and I of the Standards:

Combustible material: Any material not meeting the definition of limited-combustible or non-combustible material.

Flame-spread rating: The measurement of the propagation of flame on the surface of materials or their assemblies as determined by recognized standard tests conducted as required by this subpart.

Interior finish: The surface material of walls, fixed or movable partitions, ceilings, columns, and other exposed interior surfaces affixed to the home's structure including any materials such as paint or wallpaper and the substrate to which they are applied. Interior finish does not include:

- (1) Trim and sealant 2 inches or less in width adjacent to the cooking range and in furnace and water heater spaces provided it is installed in accordance with the requirements of § 3280.203(b)(3) or (4), and trim 6 inches or less in width in all other areas;
- (2) Windows and frames;
- (3) Single doors and frames and a series of doors and frames not exceeding 5 feet in width;
- (4) Skylights and frames;
- (5) Casings around doors, windows, and skylights not exceeding 4 inches in width;
- (6) Furnishings which are not permanently affixed to the home's structure;
- (7) Baseboards not exceeding 6 inches in height;
- (8) Light fixtures, cover plates of electrical receptacle outlets, switches, and other devices;
- (9) Decorative items attached to walls and partitions (i.e., pictures, decorative objects, etc.) constituting no

more than 10% of the aggregate wall surface area in any room or space not more than 32 square feet in surface area, whichever is less;

(10) Plastic light diffusers when suspended from a material which meets the interior finish provisions of § 3280.203(b);

(11) Coverings and surfaces of exposed wood beams; and

(12) Decorative items including the following:

(i) Non-structural beams not exceeding 6 inches in depth and 6 inches in width and spaced not closer than 4 feet on center;

(ii) Non-structural lattice work;

(iii) Mating and closure molding; and

(iv) Other items not affixed to the home's structure.

Limited combustible: A material meeting:

(1) The definition of Article 2-3 or NFPA 220-1992; or

(2) ⁵/₁₆-inch or thicker gypsum board.

Noncombustible material: A material meeting the definition of contained in NFPA 220-1992.

Smoke alarm: An alarm device that is responsive to smoke.

Tactile notification appliance: A notification appliance that alerts by the sense of touch or vibration.

[58 FR 55004, Oct. 25, 1993, as amended at 67 FR 12817, Mar. 19, 2002]

§ 3280.203 Flame spread limitations and fire protection requirements.

(a) *Establishment of flame spread rating.* The surface flame spread rating of interior-finish material shall not exceed the value shown in § 3280.203(b) when tested by "Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, ASTM E 84-91a" except that the surface flame spread rating of interior-finish materials required by § 3280.203(b)(5) and (6) may be determined by using the "Standard Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source, ASTM E 162-90". However, the following materials need not be tested to establish their flame spread rating unless a lower rating is required by these standards.

(1) Flame-spread rating—76 to 200.

(i) .035-inch or thicker high pressure laminated plastic panel countertop;

- (ii) 1/4-inch or thicker unfinished plywood with phenolic or urea glue;
 - (iii) Unfinished dimension lumber (1-inch or thicker nominal boards);
 - (iv) 3/8-inch or thicker unfinished particleboard with phenolic or urea binder;
 - (v) Natural gum-varnished or latex- or alkyd-painted:
 - (A) 1/4-inch or thicker plywood, or
 - (B) 3/8-inch or thicker particleboard, or
 - (C) 1-inch or thicker nominal board;
 - (vi) 5/16-inch gypsum board with decorative wallpaper; and
 - (vii) 1/4-inch or thicker unfinished hardboard,
- (2) Flame-spread rating-25 to 200,
- (i) Painted metal;
 - (ii) Mineral-base acoustic tile;
 - (iii) 5/16-inch or thicker unfinished gypsum wallboard (both latex- or alkyd-painted); and
 - (iv) Ceramic tile.

(The above-listed material applications do not waive the requirements of § 3280.203(c) or § 3280.204 of this subpart.)

(b) Flame-spread rating requirements.

(1) The interior finish of all walls, columns, and partitions shall not have a flame spread rating exceeding 200 except as otherwise specified herein.

(2) Ceiling interior finish shall not have a flame spread rating exceeding 75.

(3) Walls adjacent to or enclosing a furnace or water heater and ceilings above them shall have an interior finish with a flame spread rating not exceeding 25. Sealants and other trim materials 2 inches or less in width used to finish adjacent surfaces within these spaces are exempt from this provision provided that all joints are completely supported by framing members or by materials having a flame spread rating not exceeding 25.

(4) Exposed interior finishes adjacent to the cooking range shall have a flame spread rating not exceeding 50, except that backsplashes not exceeding 6 inches in height are exempted. Adjacent surfaces are the exposed vertical surfaces between the range top height and the overhead cabinets and/or ceiling and within 6 horizontal inches of the cooking range. (Refer also to § 3280.204(a), Kitchen Cabinet Protec-

tion.) Sealants and other trim materials 2 inches or less in width used to finish adjacent surfaces are exempt from this provision provided that all joints are completely supported by a framing member.

(5) Kitchen cabinet doors, countertops, backsplashes, exposed bottoms, and end panels shall have a flame spread rating not to exceed 200. Cabinet rails, stiles, mullions, and top strips are exempted.

(6) Finish surfaces of plastic bathtubs, shower units, and tub or shower doors shall not exceed a flame spread rating of 200.

(c) Fire protective requirements.

(1) Materials used to surface the following areas shall be of limited combustible material (e.g., 5/16-inch gypsum board, etc.):

(i) The exposed wall adjacent to the cooking range (see § 3280.203(b)(4));

(ii) Exposed bottoms and sides of kitchen cabinets as required by § 3280.204;

(iii) Interior walls and ceilings enclosing furnace and/or water heater spaces; and

(iv) Combustible doors which provide interior or exterior access to furnace and/or water heater spaces. The surface may be interrupted for louvers ventilating the enclosure. However, the louvers shall not be constructed of a material of greater combustibility than the door itself (e.g., plastic louvers on a wooden door).

(2) No burner of a surface cooking unit shall be closer than 12 horizontal inches to a window or an exterior door with glazing.

[49 FR 32008, Aug. 9, 1984, as amended at 58 FR 55005, Oct. 25, 1993]

§ 3280.204 Kitchen cabinet protection.

(a) The bottom and sides of combustible kitchen cabinets over cooking ranges to a horizontal distance of 6 inches from the outside edge of the cooking range shall be protected with at least 5/16-inch thick gypsum board or equivalent limited combustible material. One-inch nominal framing members and trim are exempted from this requirement. The cabinet area over the cooking range or cooktops shall be protected by a metal hood (26-gauge sheet metal, or .017 stainless steel, or .024