

§ 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]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 72042, Nov. 30, 2005, § 3280.202 was amended by revising definition of "Limited combustible" and the definition of "Noncombustible material", effective May 30, 2006. For the convenience of the user, the revised text follows:

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Limited combustible: A material meeting:

- (1) The definition contained in Chapter 2 of NFPA 220-1995, Standard on Types of Building Construction; or
(2) 5/16-inch or thicker gypsum board.

Noncombustible material: A material meeting the definition contained in Chapter 2 of NFPA 220-1995, Standard on Types of Building Construction.

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§ 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

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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) ¼-inch or thicker unfinished plywood with phenolic or urea glue;

(iii) Unfinished dimension lumber (1-inch or thicker nominal boards);

(iv) ⅜-inch or thicker unfinished particleboard with phenolic or urea binder;

(v) Natural gum-varnished or latex- or alkyd-painted:

(A) ¼-inch or thicker plywood, or

(B) ⅜-inch or thicker particleboard, or

(C) 1-inch or thicker nominal board;

(vi) ⅝-inch gypsum board with decorative wallpaper; and

(vii) ¼-inch or thicker unfinished hardboard,

(2) Flame-spread rating-25 to 200,

(i) Painted metal;

(ii) Mineral-base acoustic tile;

(iii) ⅝-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

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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 Protection.) 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., ⅝-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]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 72042, Nov. 30, 2005, § 3280.203 was amended by revising paragraph (a) introductory text, effective May 30, 2006. For the convenience of the user, the revised text follows:

**§ 3280.203 Flame spread limitations and fire protection requirements.**

(a) *Establishment of flame spread rating.* The surface flame spread rating of interior-finish material must not exceed the value shown in § 3280.203(b) when tested by Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, ASTM E84-01, 2001, or Standard Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials NFPA 255, 1996, 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 162-94. However, the following materials need not be tested to establish their flame spread rating unless a lower rating is required by the standards in this part:

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**§ 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  $\frac{5}{16}$ -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 aluminum, or .020 copper) with not less than a 3-inch eyebrow projecting horizontally from the front cabinet face. The  $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch thick gypsum board or equivalent material which is above the top of the hood may be supported by the hood. A  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch enclosed air space shall be provided between the bottom surface of the cabinet and the gypsum board or equivalent material. The hood shall be at least as wide as the cooking range.

(b) The 3-inch metal eyebrow required by paragraph (a) of this section will project from the front and rear cabinet faces when there is no adjacent surface behind the range, or the  $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch thick gypsum board or equivalent material shall be extended to cover all exposed rear surfaces of the cabinet.

(c) The metal hood required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section can be omitted when an oven of equivalent metal protection is installed between

the cabinet and the range and all exposed cabinet surfaces are protected as described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) When a manufactured home is designed for the future installation of a cooking range, the metal hood and cabinet protection required by paragraph (a) of this section and the wall-surfacing protection behind the range required by § 3280.203 shall be installed in the factory.

(e) Vertical clearance above cooking top. Ranges shall have a vertical clearance above the cooking top of not less than 24 inches to the bottom of combustible cabinets.

**§ 3280.205 Carpeting.**

Carpeting shall not be used in a space or compartment designed to contain only a furnace and/or water heater. Carpeting may be used in other areas where a furnace or water heater is installed, provided that it is not located under the furnace or water heater.

**§ 3280.206 Firestopping.**

(a) Firestopping of at least 1-inch nominal lumber,  $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch thick gypsum board, or the equivalent, shall be provided to cut off concealed draft openings between walls and partitions, including furred spaces, and the roof or floors, so as to retard vertical movement of fire. In particular, such concealed spaces must be constructed so that floor-to-ceiling concealed spaces on one floor do not communicate with any concealed space on another floor, any concealed spaces in the floor, or any concealed space in the roof cavity. A barrier must be installed to prevent communication between adjacent concealed spaces.

(1) Where the barrier is vertical, it must be made of exterior or interior covering(s) equivalent to that used on the nearest exposed wall surface; and

(2) In all other cases, the barrier must be made of 1-inch nominal lumber,  $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch thick gypsum board, or the equivalent.

(b) A space does not lose its character as a concealed draft opening if it is filled with insulation or other material or if it is blocked by a barrier other than as required by paragraph (a) of this section.