

## CHAPTER 14 – EXTERIOR WALLS - AMENDMENTS

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The ninth edition building code became first effective on October 20, 2017 and, with a shortened concurrency period, the new code came into full force and effect on **January 1, 2018**.

The new, ninth edition code is based on modified versions of the following **2015 International Codes as published by the International Code Council (ICC)**.

- **The International Building Code (IBC);**
- **International Residential Code (IRC);**
- **International Existing Building Code (IEBC);**
- **International Mechanical Code (IMC);**
- **International Energy Conservation Code (IECC);**
- **International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC);**
- **Portions of the International Fire Code (IFC).**

Massachusetts amends these code fairly significantly to accommodate for unique issues in the commonwealth. This package of amendments revise the IBC, IEBC, IMC, and IECC.

Please remember that the Massachusetts amendments posted on-line are ***unofficial versions*** and are meant for convenience only. Official versions of the Massachusetts amendments may be purchased from the State House Bookstore @ [Shop the Bookstore](#) and any of the I-Codes may be purchased from the International Code Council (ICC) @ [iccsafe.org](http://iccsafe.org).

Additionally, the ICC publishes transition documents that identify changes from the 2009 to the 2015 I-Codes for those who may have interest.

- [International Building Code \(IBC\) Transition](#)
- [International Residential Code \(IRC\) Transition](#).

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CHAPTER 14: EXTERIOR WALLS

1403.5 Revise section as follows:

**1403.5 Vertical and Lateral Flame Propagation.** Exterior walls on buildings of Type I, II, III or IV construction that are greater than 40 feet (12,192 mm) in height above grade plane and contain a combustible water-resistive barrier shall be tested in accordance with and comply with the acceptance criteria of NFPA 285. For the purposes of this section, fenestration products, and flashing of fenestration products, and flashing of other openings and penetrations shall not be considered part of the water resistive barrier.

**Exceptions:**

1. Walls in which the water-resistive barrier is the only combustible component and the exterior wall has a wall covering of brick, concrete, stone, terra cotta, stucco or steel with minimum thicknesses in accordance with Table 1405.2.
2. Walls in which the water-resistive barrier is the only combustible component and the water-resistive barrier has a peak heat release rate of less than  $150 \text{ kW/m}^2$ , a total heat release of less than  $20 \text{ MJ/m}^2$  and an effective heat of combustion of less than  $18 \text{ MJ/kg}$  as determined in accordance with ASTM E 1354 and has a flame spread index of 25 or less and a smoke-developed index of 450 or less as determined in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723. The ASTM E 1354 test shall be conducted on specimens at the thickness intended for use in the horizontal orientation and at an incident radiant heat flux of  $50 \text{ kW/m}^2$ .

NON-TEXT PAGE