

CHAPTER 6 - WALL CONSTRUCTION - AMENDMENTS

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 revises the IRC only. Please see base code amendments for changes to other listed codes that comprise the ninth edition.

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](#).

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](#).

Note: *The residential code is part of the overall building code, which is referred to as 780 CMR. It is considered to be Chapter 51 in the overall code, which is why you will see reference to 780 CMR Chapter 51 in the amendments. The residential code is applicable to detached one- and two-family dwellings, multiple-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories in height above the grade plane and/or their accessory structures not more than three stories in height above grade. See the base code for other building types.*

51.00: continued

Exception: Control joints may be omitted when the slab is reinforced in accordance with Table R506.1.1. Reinforcement shall be placed at the mid-depth of the slab or two inches (51 mm) from the top of slabs greater than four inches (102 mm) in thickness.

Table R506.1.1

MAXIMUM DIMENSION OF SLAB OR DISTANCE BETWEEN CONTROL JOINTS (ft)						WWF WIRE SPACING (in.)	WWF WIRE SIZE DESIGNATION (in.)
Slab Thickness (in.)							
3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0		
42	36	32	29	26	24	6 x 6	W1.4 x W1.4
59	52	46	42	38	35	6 x 6	W2.0 x W2.0
86	75	67	60	55	50	6 x 6	W2.9 x W2.9

Chapter 6: WALL CONSTRUCTION

R602.10 Add an exception as follows:

Exception: Unconditioned single story rooms of areas less than 600 ft² thermally isolated from conditioned space.

Chapter 7: WALL COVERING

R702.3.5.2 Add subsection as follows:

702.3.5.2 Ceiling Attachment. Only designs or methods that use mechanical fasteners in accordance with Table R702.3.5 shall be used for attaching gypsum board to ceilings in buildings governed by 780 CMR 51.00 including manufactured buildings. Alternative designs, such as using adhesive only, are not permitted.

Chapter 8: ROOF-CEILING CONSTRUCTION

R802.5 and R802.5 Revise the sections as follows:

R802.4 Allowable Ceiling Joist Spans. Spans for ceiling joists shall be in accordance with Tables R802.4(1) and R802.4(2). For other grades and species and for other loading conditions, refer to the AWC STJR or utilize the American Wood Council ("AWC") Maximum Span Calculator for Wood Joists & Rafters found at:
<http://www.awc.org/calculators/span/calc/timbercalcstyle.asp>.

R802.5 Allowable Rafter Spans. Spans for rafters shall be in accordance with Tables R802.5.1(1) through R802.5.1(8). For other grades and species and for other loading conditions, refer to the AWC STJR. The span of each rafter shall be measured along the horizontal projection of the rafter or utilize the AWC Maximum Span Calculator for Wood Joists & Rafters at: <http://www.awc.org/calculators/span/calc/timbercalcstyle.asp>.

Chapter 9: ROOF ASSEMBLIES

R901.1 Revise the section as follows:

R901.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the design, materials, construction and quality of roof assemblies. In roofing and reroofing, the energy conservation requirements of Chapter 11 of 780 CMR 51.00 shall also be satisfied.

R905.1 Revise the section as follows:

R905.1 Roof Covering Application. Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Unless otherwise specified in this section, roof coverings shall be installed to resist the component and cladding loads specified in Table R301.2(2), adjusted for height and exposure in accordance with Table R301.2(3). Where there is a discrepancy between the requirements of this section and the manufacturer's printed instructions or code evaluation report, the manufacturer's printed instructions or code evaluation report shall govern.