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FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-07

DOCUMENT: 2007 / 2002 / 1997 Kentucky Building Code

SUBJECT: Dwelling unit separation and draftstopping
Section 708.4 – 2007 & 2002 KBC
Section 711.4 – 1997 KBC

QUESTION: #1. Is it the intent of the KBC to require the dwelling unit separation walls enclosing upper floor dwelling units to be continuous to the roof deck above?

#2. If the answer to Question #1 is no. are there any approved alternatives when the roof/ceiling assembly is not a fire rated assembly?

#3. When the fire rated dwelling separation walls terminate at the fire rated assembly, as specified in Section 708.4, is draftstopping required in concealed spaces?

ANSWER: #1. No.
#2 Yes.
#3 Yes.

COMMENTARY: #1. Section 708.4 requires dwelling unit separation walls to extend from the top of the fire rated floor/ceiling assembly below to the fire resistance rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly above.

In the case of a sloped roof truss system, tested design assemblies may not exist, therefore, the separation walls may terminate at the underside of any ceiling membrane

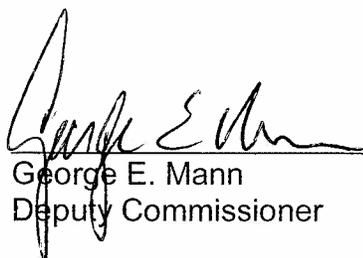
having a finish rating of not less than sixty (60) minutes.
NOTE: A minimum two layers of 5/8 inch Type X Gypsum Board is required for a sixty (60) minute finish rating. Installation of the ceiling shall be in accordance with the design assembly from UL, GA, FM or other nationally recognized fire resistance design manual.

#2. The dwelling unit separation walls may be continuous to the underside of the roof deck.

#3. Draftstopping is still required in accordance with Section 717.4.2, Exception 5.

For floor/ceiling assemblies where suspended ceilings are used or the assembly uses open web floor trusses, buildings of occupancy classification R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 shall be provided with draft stopping in line with tenant separation walls when the walls do not extend to the floor sheathing above. (Section 717.3.2)

The attic spaces for buildings in occupancy classification R, the draft stopping shall be above and in line with the dwelling or sleeping unit separation wall when not extending to the roof sheathing above. (Section 717.4.2)


George E. Mann
Deputy Commissioner

May 31, 2009
Date

Originated January 1999
Revised May 2009