

FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-12

DOCUMENT: 2007 / 2002 / 1999 Kentucky Building Code (KBC)

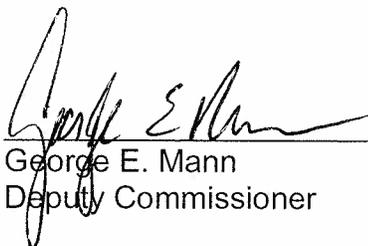
SUBJECT: Lay-in ceiling panels
Table 601, Sections 703.2 – 2007 & 2002 KBC
Table 602, Sections 704.1 – 1997 KBC

QUESTION: Can a rated ceiling membrane consisting of a U.L. listed acoustical lay-in ceiling panel suffice as a fire rated assembly?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENTARY: No data is available to verify that the acoustical lay-in ceiling panel has been tested alone and approved as having a fire resistance rating.

When using a fire resistant assembly design as listed by a nationally recognized testing agency, the design must be followed completely. Approved fire resistance rated designs list every construction component including materials, nails, nailing schedule, wire and light fixtures. If the construction details are not as specified in the approved design assembly, then the construction can not be considered as achieving the rating required. In some cases the building official may accept materials or methods that can be demonstrated as equivalent.


George E. Mann
Deputy Commissioner

May 31, 2009
Date