

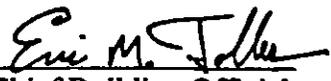


INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin No 283

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Chief Building Official

DROP CEILINGS IN R-3 OCCUPANCIES AND INDIVIDUAL UNITS OF R-1 OCCUPANCIES OF TYPE V FIRE-RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

Paragraph 2 of Section 803 of the 1997 UBC states in part, "Where walls and...ceilings are required to be of fire-resistive or noncombustible construction and ceilings are dropped distances greater than specified in paragraph 1 of this section (i.e. 1 3/4 inches),...the hangers and assembly members of such dropped ceilings that are below the main ceiling line shall be of noncombustible materials except that in Types III and V construction, fire retardant-treated wood may be used."

In applying this code provision to Type V construction of R-3 occupancies and within individual dwelling units of R-1 occupancies, equivalency may be assumed to occur for drop ceilings within rooms of 200 square feet or less, framed with untreated wood members provided:

1. Concealed space within the drop ceiling is separated from other concealed spaces by construction meeting draft stop requirements of section 708.31.3 of the 1997 UBC.
2. The membrane for adjacent walls and the ceiling membrane of the fire rated roof ceiling assembly above shall be uninterrupted.
3. The membranes of the dropped ceiling shall be 5/8-inch type X gypsum wallboard.