

**Ad Hoc Committee – Tall Wood Buildings
Standards/Definitions Work Group
Draft Code Change Proposal
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Developed: 7/18/2017

Revised: xx/xx/17

File name: Chapter 31 – Section 3102 – Special Construction

The following is a draft code change proposal that has been developed by the Standards/Definitions Work Group (WG) of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings (TWB). This draft proposal has been reviewed by the TWB Committee and is posted for information and comments. Please direct comments to the Chair of the WG: Jonathan Humble at jhumble@steel.org. **This is a draft only and is subject to change prior to submittal to cdpACCESS by the January 8, 2018 deadline.**

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IBC Chapter 31 – Special Construction

(Modify as shown below)

3102.3 Type of construction. Noncombustible membrane structures shall be classified as Type IIB construction. Noncombustible frame or cable-supported structures covered by an approved membrane in accordance with Section 3102.3.1 shall be classified as Type IIB construction. Heavy timber frame supported structures covered by an approved membrane in accordance with Section 3102.3.1 shall be classified as Type IV-**HT** construction. Other membrane structures shall be classified as Type V construction.

Exception: Plastic less than 30 feet (9144 mm) above any floor used in greenhouses, where occupancy by the general public is not authorized, and for aquaculture pond covers is not required to meet the fire propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of NFPA 701.

3102.6.1.1 Membrane. A membrane meeting the fire propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of NFPA 701 shall be permitted to be used as the roof or as a skylight on buildings of Type IIB, III, IV-**HT** and V construction, provided the membrane is not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) above any floor, balcony or gallery.

Reason: To be consistent with the purpose and scope which was to leave intact the current Type IV heavy timber provisions. The HT category was created to differentiate the four (4) new categories of “mass timber”, where HT represents the long established heavy timber category that has been in the ICC family of codes, and the predecessor legacy codes, for decades.

The Code Council Board of Directors approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee for tall wood buildings in December/2015. The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to explore the science of tall wood buildings and to investigate the feasibility and take action on developing code changes for tall wood buildings. The committee is comprised of a balance of stakeholders with additional opportunities for

interested parties to participate in the four Work Groups established by the TWB, namely: Code; Fire; Standards/Definitions; and Structural. For more information, be sure to visit the [TWB website](#).

Cost impact: No impact.

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