
FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION
Department of Homeland Security

Written Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner

Interpretation #: CEB-2020-07-2020 IRC-309.1

Building or Fire Safety Law Interpreted

[675 IAC 14-4.4](#) Indiana Residential Code, 2020 Edition, Section R309.1 Floor Surface. Garage floor surfaces shall be of approved noncombustible material.

Issue

Whether a plywood floor that has been treated with a flame retardant meets the requirement for a noncombustible floor material under the code in question.

Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner

The application of a flame retardant to a combustible floor material does not meet the IRC requirement for a noncombustible floor.

Rationale

The product in question is a flame retardant chemical. The product inhibits the spread of flame, but it does not transform the nature of the material to which it is applied from combustible to noncombustible. The proposed plywood is a combustible material, and application of the product will not change that. Therefore, its use does not meet the requirement of R309.1.

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