Section D-4 Noncombustibility

D-4.1. Test Method

D-4.1.1. Determination of Noncombustibility

1) Noncombustibility is required of certain components of buildings by the provisions of this By-law, which specifies noncombustibility by reference to CAN/ULC-S114, "Test for Determination of Non-Combustibility in Building Materials."

2) The test to which reference is made in Sentence (1) is severe, and it may be assumed that any building material containing even a small proportion of combustibles will itself be classified as combustible. The specimen, 38 mm by 51 mm, is exposed to a temperature of 750°C in a small furnace. The essential criteria for noncombustibility are that the specimen does not flame or contribute to temperature rise.

D-4.2. Materials Classified as Combustible

D-4.2.1. Combustible Materials

Most materials from animal or vegetable sources will be classed as combustible by CAN/ULC-S114, "Test for Determination of Non-Combustibility in Building Materials," and wood, wood fibreboard, paper, felt made from animal or vegetable fibres, cork, plastics, asphalt and pitch would therefore be classed as combustible.

D-4.2.2. Composite Materials

Materials that consist of combustible and noncombustible elements in combination will in many cases also be classed as combustible, unless the proportion of combustibles is very small. Some mineral wool insulations with combustible binder, cinder concrete, cement and wood chips and wood-fibred gypsum plaster would also be classed as combustible.

D-4.2.3. Effect of Chemical Additives

The addition of a fire-retardant chemical is not sufficient to change a combustible product to a noncombustible product.

D-4.3. Materials Classified as Noncombustible

D-4.3.1. Typical Examples

Noncombustible materials include brick, ceramic tile, concrete made from Portland cement with noncombustible aggregate, plaster made from gypsum with noncombustible aggregate, metals commonly used in buildings, glass, granite, sandstone, slate, limestone and marble.