

Proponent: John C. Dean, National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)

Revise as follows:

703.1 Maintenance. The required fire-resistance rating of fire-resistance-rated construction (including walls, firestops, shaft enclosures, partitions, smoke barriers, floors, fire-resistive coatings and sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to structural members and fire-resistant joint systems) shall be maintained. Such elements shall be visually inspected annually, properly repaired, restored or replaced when damaged, altered, breached or penetrated. Openings made therein for the passage of pipes, electrical conduit, wires, ducts, air transfer openings and holes made for any reason shall be protected with approved methods capable of resisting the passage of smoke and fire. Openings through fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be protected by self- or automatic-closing doors of approved construction meeting the fire protection requirements for the assembly.

107.2 Inspection, testing and operation. Passive fire systems and equipment requiring periodic testing or operation to ensure maintenance shall be inspected, tested or operated as specified in this code.

Reason: Currently there is no requirement for fire-resistance-rated construction to be inspected. In many areas around the country there is no formal, organized inspection program in place and as such countless buildings go without ongoing inspections. The requirement to maintain and repair suggests that this has to occur if a situation is found to exist. Even in regulated occupancies, problems exist with various coatings and spray applied fire-resistant materials¹. Without any requirement to inspect these elements, conditions could exist for years before being noticed and repaired. This creates a false sense of security and puts building occupants at risk. The code has been formulated to require certain fire resistive features. It only stands to reason that these features should be periodically inspected to insure that they are, and remain, compliant for the life of the building.

¹ Findings from the *Initial Report of the Partnership for Safer Buildings*¹. The National Association of State Fire Marshals. March 2003. http://www.firemarshals.org/mission/catastrophic/initial_report.asp.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will increase the cost of construction.

Public Hearing: Committee:	AS	AM	D
Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF