



BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION 2018-03
July 01, 2021

CODE/EDITION: VIRGINIA UNIFORM STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE/2018

**SECTION(S): IBC/2018, Section 603 Combustible Material in
Type I and II Construction**

QUESTIONS:

1. Is combustible cabinetry, millwork and stand-alone furniture allowed in Type I and II Construction?
2. Is combustible furniture that is built-in place allowed in Type I and II Construction?
3. Is regulated electrical and plumbing work allowed to be installed inside or through cabinetry, millwork and furniture?

OVERVIEW:

Type I and Type II Construction provide the highest safety standards by requiring the use of noncombustible material in the building's construction elements. However, the Code provides twenty-five (25) exceptions that allow for use of combustible materials in Type I and II Construction. Following are the applicable definitions (www.dictionary.com):

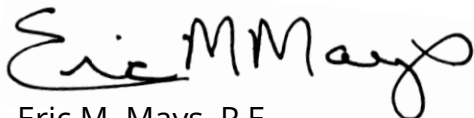
- Cabinetry: "Cabinetwork."
- Cabinetwork: "Fine furniture or other woodwork, as cabinets, chests, shelves, etc."
- Furniture: "The movable articles, as tables, chairs, desks or cabinets, required for use or ornament in a house, office, or the like."
- Millwork: "Ready-made carpentry work from a mill."
- Partition: "An interior wall or barrier dividing a room, area of a building, enclosure, etc., into separate areas."

ANSWERS

1. Yes. (See attached IBC Interpretation 63-13.)
2. Yes. (See attached IBC Interpretation 63-13.)

SPECIAL NOTES:

- A. Furniture (standalone or built-in place) is exempt from the Building Code in relation to application of the IBC Chapter 6 requirements. Built-in place furniture is not a building element and is not a primary or secondary structural member of the building. Therefore, built-in place furniture can be constructed of combustible framing lumber and can be secured to the floor. Additionally, the built-in place furniture is not required to be constructed with Fire Retardant Treated Wood (FRTW).
 - B. There are some instances in which walls or partitions are constructed adjacent to or in conjunction with built-in place furniture. This must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; and the designer is responsible to delineate and segregate the wall or partition from the built-in place furniture. A wall must be constructed of noncombustible material. A partition is allowed to be constructed of combustible material in accordance with Section 603, Exception 11.
3. Yes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Mays". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric M. Mays, P.E.
Building Official