



2021 IRC Question Of The Week

Dwelling units in two-family dwellings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system shall be separated from each other by wall and floor assemblies having not less than a ____ fire-resistance rating.

- A) 30-minute
- B) 45-minute
- C) 60-minute
- D) 120-minute



R302.3 Two-family dwellings. *Dwelling units* in two-family dwellings shall be separated from each other by wall and floor assemblies having not less than a 1-hour fire-resistance rating where tested in accordance with ASTM E119, UL 263 or Section 703.2.2 of the *International Building Code*. Such separation shall be provided regardless of whether a *lot line* exists between the two *dwelling units* or not. Fire-resistance-rated floor/ceiling and wall assemblies shall extend to and be tight against the exterior wall, and wall assemblies shall extend from the foundation to the underside of the roof sheathing.

Exceptions:

1. A fire-resistance rating of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour shall be permitted in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section P2904.
2. Wall assemblies need not extend through attic spaces where the ceiling is protected by not less than $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum board, an attic draft stop constructed as specified in Section R302.12.1 is provided above and along the wall assembly separating the *dwelling units* and the structural framing supporting the ceiling is protected by not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board or equivalent.