

NFPA® 220

Standard on Types of Building Construction

2012 Edition



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NFPA® 220

Standard on

Types of Building Construction

2012 Edition

This edition of NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Building Construction. It was issued by the Standards Council on May 31, 2011, with an effective date of June 20, 2011, and supersedes all previous editions.

A tentative interim amendment (TIA) to 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 4.1.5, and 4.1.6 was issued on August 11, 2011. For further information on tentative interim amendments, see Section 5 of the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects available at: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/CodesStandards/TIAErrataFI/TIAREgs.pdf>.

This edition of NFPA 220 was approved as an American National Standard on June 20, 2011.

Origin and Development of NFPA 220

In 1952, the Committee on Building Construction secured tentative adoption of NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, at the NFPA Annual Meeting. At the 1954 NFPA Annual Meeting, revisions of the 1952 tentative text were adopted by the Association, and in 1955 minor revisions also were acted on favorably. A new definition of *noncombustibility* and editorial changes in the description of the fire resistance rating of structural members (under the definition of *fire-resistive construction*) were adopted at the 1956 NFPA Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee on Building Construction.

In 1958, with the development of the use of plastics in building construction, recommendations on the types of standard fire tests to be used in evaluating the fire safety of these materials were adopted and inserted in the appendix.

In 1961, an appendix was adopted to furnish a guide to NFPA committees, regulatory officials, and others that addressed the classification of air-supported structures.

In 1975, a more fundamental definition of *noncombustible* was added, including the introduction of a definition of the term *limited-combustible*, based on potential heat value limitations and more generalized definitions for types of building construction.

In 1979, the standard was extensively rewritten to introduce the nomenclature related to construction Type I through Type V, which included parenthetically placed hourly fire resistance designations of the structural components.

The 1985 edition included the addition of a new Chapter 4, which provided referenced publications whose use is mandated within this standard. The 1992 and 1995 editions provided changes in technical terminology as well as changes to increase the user-friendliness of the standard.

The 1999 edition implemented a number of relatively minor changes, including the addition of several new definitions, the addition of a new requirement pertaining to exterior non-load-bearing walls, and a new provision concerning the use of heavy timber exterior walls.

In the 2006 edition, NFPA 220 became an extract document of *NFPA 5000*®, Section 7.2. At the request of the Standards Council, the new edition provided users with a stand-alone set of requirements for construction types and fire resistance ratings of structural elements.

The 2009 edition provided updates to the extracted text that was sourced back to *NFPA 5000* and *NFPA 90A*. These revisions included updates to the test protocols used to establish flame spread/smoke developed index values, modified criteria for materials used in air handling plenum spaces, and provided recognition of the new criteria used to determine building height and grade geometries.

The 2012 edition has been updated to reflect changes in *NFPA 5000* and *NFPA 90A*. Revisions include updates to the requirements for plenums and noncombustible materials.



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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the selection and design of types of building construction, exterior walls, building height and area, firewalls, and fire barrier walls, as they relate to the protection of life and property from fire. For the processing of *NFPA 5000*, Chapter 7, and Sections 8.3 and 8.4, this committee reports directly to the *NFPA 5000* TCC; whereas, for the processing of NFPA 220 and NFPA 221, this committee does not report to the *NFPA 5000* TCC.



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