Question: WHAT ARE THE ALLOWANCE FOR INTERSECTING WALLS IN WOOD FRAMED RATED CONSTRUCTION AND OPENING PROTECTION IN RATED WALLS.

Code reference: NCSBC Section 714?

Answer:

1. Intersecting Exterior or interior rated walls with equal level of fire resistance rating only needs a solid T corner.

Intersection of exterior or interior rated walls with equal level of fire resistance.
2. Intersecting exterior rated walls lesser or non-rated.

**Lesser or Non-rated exterior wall intersections**

In order to protect the more restrictive rated construction this wall intersection must be built-out past the minimum dimension of the adjacent width.

Pre-rock would have to extend past to the exterior of the adjacent wall to not compromise the 2 HR wall from communicating with the 1 HR or lesser.

3. Intersecting exterior rated walls with interior rated or non-rated walls.

**Intersecting rated exterior wall & interior rated or non-rated**

Need to build out studs to match intersection wall.

If this intersection is not built-out the sheetrock will have to be continuous behind the intersecting wall.
4. Intersecting interior rated walls with non-rated or lesser rating (bearing or non-bearing). Can build-out the studs rather than pre-rock and is allowed on back to back tenant separation walls.

**Intersecting rated with non-rated interior walls, bearing or non-bearing**

5. Wrapping of openings in exterior rated 1 or 2 hour rated walls, one side or two sided exposure.

*NCSBC Sec. 705.5* allows for exterior walls outside of the 10’ fires separation distance to be rated from the inside only. Even though the requirements of *Tables 601 & 602* are in place. However once the exterior wall encroaches into the 10’ fire separation distance the same section above (*705.5*) requires that the wall now be protected from both sides. When this happens walls that are required to be rated whether by *Tables 601 or 602*. Must have a wall design that can accomplish this symmetrical protection. Walls that are 1 hour rated will not have to protect the structure around the window and door openings in this wall. However if the walls are required to be 2 hour rated then the openings around windows and doors will need to protected by the same membrane on the exterior of the wall or through some type of protected opening with a listed and labeled jamb.

*******diagram to be added soon******

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Item 5 effective date is for projects permitted on or after December 1, 2014

Approved By  **Lou A. McSwain**  Date **10/31/2014**

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