

BUILDING CLASSIFICATIONS

BY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section outlines suggested classifications for buildings based on types of construction generally common to Bell System buildings. The classes are arranged in the order of their fire resistance rating, and afford advantages of uniformity and brevity in identifying basic structural characteristics.

1.02 This section is revised and reissued to include additional information. Arrows are used to indicate changes throughout the text. ←

2. CLASSIFICATIONS

2.01 Fire Resistive, often referred to as "Fireproof": A building with all walls of masonry or reinforced concrete, with all floors and roof of reinforced concrete or of hollow tile arches and having a structural frame of reinforced concrete or of structural steel which is encased in concrete or masonry for protection against the effects of heat.

2.02 Light Noncombustible: A building with all walls, floors, and roof constructed of incombustible materials and having a structural steel frame which is unprotected against the effects of heat. Typical of this class is a structure framed with exposed steel members and having cement floors and corrugated sheet metal covering on the sides and roof.

2.03 Mill Type, also known as "Slow-Burning" or "Heavy Timber": A building with walls of brick or other substantial masonry and having interior structural framing, floors, and roof of heavy timbers arranged to avoid thin sections, sharp projections, or inaccessible spaces.

2.04 Brick-joist: A building with walls of brick or other substantial masonry and having interior structural elements, floors and roof of wood of smaller dimensions than required for "Mill Type" construction.

2.05 Frame: A building with wood walls, roof and interior framing elements whether or not the walls and roof have an incombustible exterior finish such as brick veneer, stucco, corrugated sheet metal, or asbestos shingles.

2.06 Where the construction of a building involves a combination of two or more of the foregoing structural classes, an individual description would usually be required for identification.

3. COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

3.01 In important new construction combustible materials are to be avoided where practicable and preference given to fire-resistive types. Recently developed building materials such as precast concrete, asbestos fiberboard, sheet metal roof decking, etc, may warrant consideration.

3.02 In small buildings, such as community dial offices, wood construction might be used for economy or for other reasons, but the roof covering and exterior wall surfaces are preferably of fire-resistive material. Examples of hazardous combustible materials are flammable insulation or acoustical materials and duct insulating materials (including the paper coverings). The basic material of some insulating products are fire resistive but are covered with paper and asphalt compounds which are fire hazards.