



Fire walls, fire barriers, and horizontal exits are not interchangeable. A duct crossing a rated wall may need a fire damper, a smoke damper, both, or a named exception. A fire damper alone does not provide smoke control at a horizontal exit. Applying a fire-barrier exception to a fire wall is a code error — not a conservative choice.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 607.5–607.5.2.1. Confirm the adopted edition. Distinct from fire partitions (607.5.3) and floors (607.6). This is not a damper schedule.

☐ **607.5: FD, SD, combination FD/SD, CRD, and corridor dampers at the locations in 607.5.1 through 607.5.7.**

Where an assembly requires both fire and smoke protection, provide a combination FD/SD or both a FD and SD.

☐ **607.5.1 fire walls: ducts and transfer openings permitted through fire walls by IBC 706.11 protected with listed fire dampers.**

Fire walls are the most restrictive vertical assembly — penetrations are limited. 607.5.1.1 / 607.5.2.1 horizontal exits: where a fire wall or fire barrier serves as a horizontal exit, each duct or transfer opening also needs a listed smoke damper. The fire damper alone is not sufficient.

☐ **607.5.2 fire barriers: listed FD generally required. Ducts and transfer openings cannot penetrate interior exit stairways, ramps, or balconies.**

Fully ducted exception is not a blanket pass: 1-hour-or-less fire barriers, non-Group H, sprinklered building, and continuous minimum 26 gage sheet steel from equipment to terminals. All four at once. It is a fire-barrier path — do not apply it to a fire wall.

The fail we see first

Fire-barrier exception used on a fire wall. Or FD only at a horizontal exit. If the architectural drawings do not clearly label the assembly type, the damper callout is incomplete.

What to send: life-safety plan with fire walls, fire barriers, and horizontal exits marked, and the damper callout at those openings.

Send the comments. Not the County guideline.

Folio (does it start with 30?), process or UP number, and the comments PDF. Masterbuild will say which row is actually open.

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+1 (786) 398-6940 · Calendly: 30-minute scoping call

Masterbuild provides engineering services under a written scope. Not a damper schedule. The 26 gage fully-ducted exception is Daily Code Talk education. Confirm adopted 607.5. This is not legal advice.