



Standard Test Method for Determining the Fire Resistance of Continuity Head-of-Wall Joint Systems Installed Between Rated Wall Assemblies and Nonrated Horizontal Assemblies¹

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INTRODUCTION

Wall continuity is required by various model codes at *joint openings*, which are linear voids, gaps, openings, or other discontinuities between or bounded by a *rated wall assembly* and *nonrated horizontal assemblies*, to ensure that the protected *joint opening* has the same fire resistance rating as the *rated wall assembly*. The *joint opening* at the termination at the top of the *rated wall assembly* below the *nonrated horizontal assembly* must be protected by a *continuity head-of-wall joint system*, which has a fire resistance rating, in order to maintain continuity established by the *rated wall assembly*. This test method is not required when the *rated wall assembly* contacts *nonrated horizontal assemblies* when there is no *joint opening*. Normally such joint openings are denoted as “linear” because the length is normally greater than their width, which is defined by a typical ratio of at least 10:1 as in practice. *Joint openings* are present in buildings as a result of: (1) Design to accommodate various movements induced by thermal differentials, seismicity, and wind loads and exists as a clearance separation. (2) Acceptable dimensional tolerances between two or more building elements, for example, between non-loadbearing walls and roofs. (3) Inadequate design, inaccurate assembly, repairs or damage to the building. There are many unique applications for joint systems in buildings. To address this issue there are different types of *continuity head-of-wall joint systems*. It is not possible to test all fire-resistive joints systems using the same test apparatus or method of test, for example, Test Method E2307 employs the ISMA test apparatus. A *continuity head-of-wall joint system* is a particular type of fire-resistive joint system that provides fire resistance to prevent passage of fire from compartment to compartment within the building at the *joint opening* between a *rated wall assembly* and a *nonrated horizontal assembly*. A *continuity head-of-wall joint system* is a unique building construction detail not addressed by other fire test methods such as Test Method E1966 that tests joint systems installed between two assemblies that are fire resistance rated.

1. Scope

1.1 This fire-test-response test method measures the performance of a unique fire resistive joint system called a *continuity head-of-wall joint system*, which is designed to be used between a *rated wall assembly* and a *nonrated horizontal assembly* during a fire resistance test.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.11 on Fire Resistance.

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1.2 This fire-test-response standard does not measure the performance of the following:

1.2.1 The *rated wall assembly*, which is already established by other test methods, such as Test Method E119, or

1.2.2 The *nonrated horizontal assembly*, which would be established by other test methods such as Test Method E119.

NOTE 1—Typically, rated wall assemblies obtain a fire resistance rating after being tested to Test Method E119, NFPA 251, UL 263, CAN/ULC-S101, or other similar fire resistive test methods.

1.3 This fire-test-response standard is not intended to evaluate the connections between *rated wall assemblies* and *nonrated horizontal assemblies* unless part of the continuity head-of-wall joint system.