

Fire formal interpretations

13 October 2020

FI-141

NZ4517-2010– Clause 4.2.1.2

(to be completed by Standards New Zealand)

Question:

The pipework is no longer exposed if covered by fire resistant material, so if pipework other than metal is used i.e. Plastic Pipe does the fire-resistant covering need a fire rating?

**Example: Plywood is not fire rated is this considered fire resistant protection?
for plastic pipe?**

Clause 4.2.1.2 requires pipework that could be exposed to hot gases from a fire in the sprinklered space shall be listed metal pipework or protected by fire resistant material.

Does the fire-resistant protection need a specified fire rating?

Interpretation issued by the Fixed fire protection group:

Answer: No, a fire-resistant covering does not require a specific fire resistance rating (FRR).

The intent of this clause is to ensure that non-metallic pipework is protected from heat damage until after the sprinklers have operated.

The informative note lists 10mm plasterboard as one example of a suitable fire resistive material, however this is not an exhaustive list. Other materials such as 12mm plywood, which is accepted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) for the same application, would also be acceptable.