



City of Houston  
Building Inspection  
**CODE WORD 2006**

INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF  
THE HOUSTON ADOPTED CODES  
2006 IBC, 2006 IRC, 2014 NEC, 2006 UMC, 2006 UPC,  
2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007

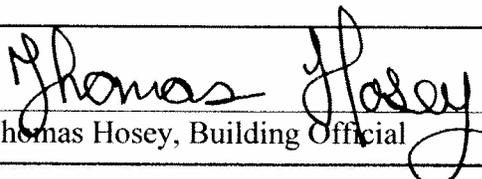
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| <b>PUBLICATION:</b> | <b>December 11, 2014</b>   |              |          |           |          |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>     | <b>Interpretation – Glass Block in Exterior Fire-Rated Walls</b> |              |          |           |          |
| <b>CODE(S):</b>     | <b>Residential &amp; Building</b>                                |              |          |           |          |
| <b>SECTION(S)</b>   | <b>IRC R302.1, IBCTable 704.8</b>                                |              |          |           |          |

The code prohibits openings in exterior walls located within the minimum fire separation distance to the property line. In Group R-3 single family residences where openings are prohibited, fire-resistance rated masonry unit glass block may be used as part of the fire-resistance rated wall subject to the following criteria:

- The fire-resistance rating is based on NFPA 357 or UL 9 testing criteria with a hose stream test.
- The fire-resistance rated glass block portion of the wall is non-load bearing.
- The fire-resistance rated glass block is installed as a fixed partition that is not openable or moveable.
- Projections using glass block are not allowed.
- The maximum size area for the fire-resistance rated glass block is 120 square feet with the aggregate width at any floor level not to exceed 25 percent of the length of the wall.

**Note:** Notwithstanding the above no construction, walls or projections may not be allowed at 3 feet or less from the property line adjacent to a residential structure or property without a maintenance agreement.

Approved:

  
Thomas Hosey, Building Official