



BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2015-009

OTCR

Supersedes: None

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Purpose: This bulletin establishes acceptance criteria for recognition of fixed-height, low-profile raised floor systems.

Related Code/Zoning Section(s):

AC 28-113.2.2	BC 603
AC 28-113.2.3	BC 717.2.7

Subject(s): Floor system, raised; Raised floor system, low-profile

Background: NYC Construction Codes do not address fixed-height, low-profile raised floor systems (low-profile raised floor systems). This Bulletin establishes acceptance criteria for determining the load capacities and fire hazard of low-profile raised floor systems.

Description: A low-profile raised floor system is an assembly consisting of panels mounted on a base supporting structure no higher than specified in the requirements in ICC-ESS Acceptance Criteria 151 (AC 151). The base supporting structure may consist of individual pedestals or interconnected pedestals forming a modular supporting structure.

Evaluation Scope: NYC Construction Codes

Evaluation Criteria: Pursuant to Section AC 28-113, the Office of Technical Certification and Research (OTCR) recognizes low-profile raised floor systems tested, evaluated and designed in accordance with ICC-ES AC 151 *"Acceptance Criteria for Fixed-Height, Low-Profile, Raised Floor System"*.¹

Acceptable low-profile raised floor systems shall have an evaluation or code compliance report issued in accordance with AC 151 and shall comply with the conditions of this bulletin. The agency providing the evaluation or code compliance report shall be accredited to ISO 17065.

Uses: The shallow space below the low-profile raised floor systems is used for installation of electrical, communication or similar systems.

Restrictions:

1. The area below low-profile raised floor system shall not be used for storage purposes.
2. The low-profile raised floor system shall not be installed in horizontal exit passageways.
3. The area below the low-profile raised floor system shall not be used for air-supply or as a return-air plenum.

Conditions of Acceptance: Low-profile raised floor systems shall comply with the NYC Construction Codes and the following applicable provisions:

A. Design

1. Low-profile raised floor systems shall be designed in accordance with the NYC Construction Codes, manufacturer's installation instructions, the conditions of the required evaluation or code compliance report issued in accordance with AC 151, the conditions of this bulletin and the following:
 - a. Buildings in which the low-profile raised floor system is installed shall be fully sprinklered.
 - b. Electrical wiring below the low-profile raised floor system shall be in compliance with NYC Electrical Code.
 - c. The low-profile raised floor system shall be supported directly on concrete floors of fire-resistive construction.
 - d. The maximum height of the subfloor space shall not be more than the height specified in AC151.
 - e. The weight of the low-profile raised floor system shall be added to the dead load of the building. The live loads, dead loads and deflection, shall comply with the New York City Construction Codes.
2. The area below the fixed height low-profile raised floor system shall be considered as a concealed space. The use of combustible materials in Type I and II construction shall be subject to the requirements of Section BC 603 and shall comply with Section BC 717 including fireblocking requirements.

B. Installation Requirements

1. Installation requirements shall be in accordance with the NYC Construction Codes, manufacturer's installation instructions, the conditions of the required evaluation or code compliance report issued in accordance with AC 151, and the conditions of this bulletin.

C. Inspections

1. Pursuant to section BC 1704-14, the installation of low-profile raised floor system shall be subject to special inspection requirements of Chapter 17 of the Building Code and Department Rules covering special inspection. Special Inspectors of low-profile raised floor systems shall:
 - a. Maintain the same qualification requirements for the "Firestop, Draftstop, and Fireblock Systems- Details" category as defined in 1 RCNY section 101-06, Appendix A.
 - b. Have duties and responsibilities in accordance with, but not limited to, 1 RCNY section 101-06 and periodic special inspection prior to concealment to determine compliance with the approved construction documents, and the code compliance report issued in accordance with AC 151.
 - c. Complete the statement of special inspection by referencing this Bulletin under the Special Inspection Item for "Alternative Materials" in section 3.0 of the TR1 form.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vertical Masonry Foundation Elements	BC 1704.9			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wall Panels, Curtain Walls, and Veneers	BC 1704.10			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sprayed fire-resistant materials	BC 1704.11			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mastic and Intumescent Fire-resistant Coatings	BC 1704.12			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)	BC 1704.13			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Materials - OTCR Buildings Bulletin # 2015-XXXX	BC 1704.14			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smoke Control Systems	BC 1704.15			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical Systems	BC 1704.16			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fuel-Oil Storage and Fuel-Oil Piping Systems	BC 1704.17			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	High-Pressure Steam Piping (Mediation)	BC 1704.18			

D. Labeling

1. Low-profile raised floor systems shall be labeled as per Section AC 28-113.2.3. All shipments and deliveries of materials shall be accompanied by a certificate or label certifying that the materials shipped or delivered are equivalent to those tested and approved.

Referenced Standards:

1. AC 151 "Acceptance Criteria for Fixed-Height, Low-Profile, Raised Floor System"