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**FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Department of Homeland Security**

**Written Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner**

**Interpretation #: CEB-2021-41-2014 IBC-602.1**

**Building or Fire Safety Law Interpreted**

**[675 IAC 13-2.6](#) 2014 Indiana Building Code, Section 602.1 (CONSTRUCTION CLASSIFICATION) General.** Buildings and structures erected or to be erected, altered, or extended in height or area shall be classified in one of the five construction types defined in Sections 602.2 through 602.5. *[Remainder of section omitted for lack of relevance to request.]*

**Issue**

Under Section 602.1 of the *2014 Indiana Building Code* (IBC), may a building have more than one construction type classification?

**Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner**

No. Under Section 602.1 of the *2014 IBC*, a building may have only one construction type classification.

**Rationale**

The code is clear in its limit of one construction type per building in its text in Section 602.1, which says "buildings and structures. . .shall be classified in **one** of the five construction types defined in Sections 602.2 through 602.5" (emphasis added). There is no general blanket acceptance of multiple construction types in a single building; it is allowed only when the code explicitly provides for it under specific individual design circumstances, such as those covered in Section 510.

Absent a design circumstance for which the code specifically allows multiple construction types, a single structure containing materials of varying combustibility may be divided into multiple buildings through the implementation of fire walls, in which case each separated portion of the structure is considered a building in its own right, and each one is assigned its own construction type unrelated to the others. However, this separation is not always necessary. If the combustibility of the construction materials used in a building changes from one area of the building to another, and there is no fire wall separation, then the entire building is classified as the least restrictive of the construction types represented by the differing materials. In such cases, the entire building must meet all of the code requirements applicable to a building of that construction type.

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