

SIEMENS

To Whom It May Concern:

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Re: Firewall rating for Load Centers

Firewalls are intended to slow the spread of fires through a building. For a residential building, in particular a single family house, the firewall typically encircles the living space. The firewalls are built from materials that are resistant to fire. A firewall should resist the spread of fires up to its rating time, typically 1-3 hours

The question is often asked, "Is a load center firewall rated?". The answer is that load centers do not have fire ratings and are not rated for use in firewalls. This means that the load center cannot be flush mounted into a firewall, and act as part of the wall.

This becomes an issue when the plans for the house call for a load center on a wall that happens to be a firewall. Most of the time, this happens when the load center is in the garage, on a wall adjacent to living space.

The solution is to surface mount the device, move it to a wall that is not a firewall, or build a frame for the load center on the surface of the firewall, as shown below in the construction photos.

