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North Carolina Building Code Council update

Highlights of 2009 residential code changes

Code changes to the 2009 North Carolina Residential Code continue to be the focus for this issue of Code Corner.

The North Carolina Building Code Council will meet **Sept. 14-15, 2009, at a meeting location to be determined.** The council will hold a work session at 10 a.m., Monday, Sept. 14, followed by a public hearing at 1 p.m. The council meeting will be at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15. The agenda for the council meeting can be found at http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_agenda.asp. about two weeks prior to the meeting.

CHAPTER 8 – ROOF-CEILING CONSTRUCTION

R802.1.5 Structural log members. Stress grading of structural log members of nonrectangular shape, as typically used in log buildings, shall be in accordance with ASTM D 3957. Such structural log members shall be identified by the grade mark of an approved lumber grading or inspection agency. In lieu of a grade mark on the material, a certificate of inspection as to species and grade issued by a lumber-grading or inspection agency meeting the requirements of this section shall be permitted to be accepted.

IRC change – Section has been added to address a standard for log homes and requirement for grade marks on materials.

R802.2 Design and construction. The framing details required in Section R802 apply to roofs having a minimum slope of three units

vertical in 12 units horizontal (25 percent slope) or greater. Roof-ceilings shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and Figures R606.11(1), R606.11(2) and R606.11(3) or in accordance with AFPA/NDS. Components of roof-ceilings shall be fastened in accordance with Table R602.3(1).

IRC change – States that section R802 (entire section) only applies to roofs with a 3/12 pitch or greater.

R802.3.1 Ceiling joist and rafter connections.

1) Where ceiling joists are not connected to the rafters at the top wall plate, joists connected higher in the attic shall be installed as rafter ties, or rafter ties shall be installed to provide a continuous tie. Where ceiling joists are not parallel to rafters, rafter ties shall be installed. Rafter ties shall be a minimum of 2-inch by 4-inch (51 mm by 102 mm) (nominal), installed in accordance with the connection requirements in Table R802.5.1(9), or connections of equivalent capacities shall be provided.

2) Where ceiling joists or rafter ties are not provided, the ridge formed by these rafters shall be supported by a wall or girder designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.

3) Collar ties or ridge straps to resist wind uplift shall be connected in the upper third of the attic space in accordance with Table R602.3(1). Ceiling joists shall be continuous or securely joined in accordance with Table R802.5.1(9) where they meet over interior partitions and are nailed to adjacent rafters to provide a continuous tie across the building when such joists are parallel to...

IRC change - 1) Changed language to better describe a rafter tie and when one is needed; 2) also states where ceiling joists or rafter ties are not provided the ridge shall be supported by a wall or girder; and 3) Collar ties and rafter ties are two separate requirements under the code.

R802.10.2.1 Applicability limits. The provisions of this section shall control the design of truss roof framing when snow controls for buildings not greater than 60 feet (18,288 mm) in length perpendicular to the joist, rafter or truss span, not greater than 36 feet (10,973 mm) in width parallel to the joist span or truss, not greater than two stories in height with each story not

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Code Corner

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greater than 10 feet (3,048 mm) high, and roof slopes not smaller than 3:12 (25 percent slope) or greater than 12:12 (100 percent slope)...

IRC change - This is a new section that adds limits on the use of roof trusses when using prescriptive requirements in R802.10.

R807.1 Attic access. An attic access opening to attic areas that exceed 100 square feet (9.29 m²) and have a vertical height of 60 inches (1,524 mm) or more. The rough net clear opening shall not be less than 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm) and shall be located in a hallway or other readily accessible location. A 30-inch (762 mm) minimum unobstructed headroom in the attic space shall be provided at some point above the access opening. See Section M1305.1.3 for access requirements where mechanical equipment is located in attics.

Exception: Concealed areas not located over the main structure including porches, areas behind knee walls, dormers, bay windows, etc. are not required to have access.

North Carolina change - Changed the code language to give a clear attic access net opening of 20 feet by 30 feet instead of a rough opening size. The exception was added in 2006. 🏠

Look for a photo review of NCHBA's annual Legislative Conference in the August Capitol Insider.



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