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Building Code Council update

2009 North Carolina Codes

The 2008 NC/NEC and the 2009 NC/ICC was adopted by the N.C. Building Code Council on March 11, 2008. The Base Document for the 2008 N.C. Electrical Code is the 2008 NEC. The Base Documents for the 2009 N.C. State Building Codes are the 2006 I-Codes.

- The effective date for the 2008 N.C. Electrical Code was June 1, 2008.
- The effective date for the 2009 N.C. State Building Codes is Jan. 1, 2009.

2006 and 2009 N.C. Building Codes OAH Modifications:

North Carolina residential and building codes:

July 3, 2008, was the 31st legislative day for the state legislature. Council items that were held over for legislative review, but were not filed as a bill, go into effect:

- R202 NC Residential Code - Wind-Borne Debris Region - Jan. 1, 2009
- R324 NC Residential Code - Elevators and Platform Lifts - Jan. 1, 2009
- A-2 sprinkler threshold modification from 100 persons to 300 persons, except for nightclubs, in the 2006 N.C. Codes

N.C. Electrical Code:

The 2008 NC/NEC became effective June 1, 2008. The N.C. amendments are available online at: http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_electrical_codes.asp

July 3, 2008 was the 31st legislative day for the state legislature. No legislation was introduced on the following and will go into effect on the date listed:

- NEC 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection - Jan. 1, 2009
- NEC 338.10 (B)4(a) SE cable - July 3, 2008
- NEC 406.11 Tamper proof receptacles - July 3, 2008

The Building Codes Council will re-examine these portions of the N.C. Electrical Code as directed by H-2431- Studies Act of 2008 and report its findings to the General Assembly on or before Jan. 1, 2009.

Code changes to the 2009 N.C. Residential Code will be the focus for the next several issues of Code Corner.

The North Carolina Building Code Council will meet Dec. 8-9 at Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27610. The council will hold a work session at 9 a.m., Monday, Dec. 8, followed by a public hearing at 1 p.m. The council meeting will be held at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9. The agenda for the council meeting can be found at http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_agenda.asp.

North Carolina 2009 Residential Code changes

(Highlights on changes between the 2006 and 2009 N.C. Residential Code)

Chapter 1: Administration

101.2 Scope

The provisions of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings* shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, removal and demolition of detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories **above grade** in height with a separate means of egress and their accessory *buildings* and structures.

IRC Change – added the “above grade” language.

Chapter 2: Definitions

APPROVED. Acceptable to the building Official.

New definition from IRC

Emergency escape and rescue opening.

An operable **exterior** window, door or similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency.

Change in definition from IRC – added “exterior”

Exterior wall. An above-grade wall *that defines the exterior boundaries of a building*. Includes between-floor spandrels, peripheral edges of floors, roof and basement knee walls, dormer walls, gable end walls, walls enclosing a mansard roof and basement walls with an average below-grade wall area that is less than 50 percent of the total opaque and no-opaque area of that

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Upcoming ads will run in the December green issue of *North Carolina Builder* magazine.

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*Materials Recycling Codes

C=concrete D=drywall F=food
M=metal O=other P=plastic S=stumps
T=topsoil, brush, leaves, limbs
W=wood, paper, cardboard

enclosing side.

IRC Change – used to read...“enclosing conditioned space”...

Fire separation distance. The distance measured from the building face to one of the following:

1. To the closest interior lot line; or
2. To the centerline of a street, an alley or public way; or
3. To an imaginary line between two buildings on the lot.
4. The distance shall be measured at a right angle from the **face of the wall**.

New definition format from IRC – same language with exception of #4 – used to read “from the lot line”

Foam backer board. Foam plastic used in siding applications where the foam plastic is a component of the siding.

New definition from IRC

Foam plastic insulation. A plastic that is intentionally expanded by the use of a foaming agent to produce a reduced-density plastic containing voids consisting of open or closed cells distributed throughout the plastic for thermal insulating or acoustic purposes and that has a density less than 20 pounds per cubic foot (320 kg/m³) unless it is used as interior trim.

New definition from IRC

Foam plastic interior trim. Exposed foam plastic used as picture molds, chair rails, crown moldings, baseboards, handrails, ceiling beams, door trim and window trim and similar decorative or protective materials used in fixed applications.

New definition from IRC

Hurricane-prone regions. Areas vulnerable to hurricanes, defined as the U.S. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coasts where the basic wind speed is greater than 90 or **equal to 110** miles per hour (145 km/h), and Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and America Samoa.

NC change

Naturally durable wood. The heartwood of the following species: Decay-resistant redwood, cedars, black locust and black walnut.

Note: Corner sapwood is permitted if 90 percent or more of the width of each side on which it occurs is heartwood.

New definition from IRC

Precast concrete. A structural concrete element cast elsewhere than its final position in the structure.

New definition from IRC

Sunroom. A one-story structure attached to a dwelling with a glazing area in excess of 40 percent of the gross area of the structure's exterior walls and roof.

Definition change from IRC. Deleted reference

to “addition”. Changed the dynamics of sunrooms in terms of Energy requirements (zoning HVAC). thermal isolation. Physical and space conditioning separation from conditioned space(s). The conditioned space(s) shall be controlled as separate zones for heating and cooling or conditioned by separate equipment.

Definition change from IRC. Now references “physical” and “space” separation. Used to reference “a separation of conditioned spaces between Sunroom addition and dwelling. Added HVAC zoning.

Unusually tight construction. Construction in which:

1. Walls and ceilings comprising the building thermal envelope have a continuous water

vapor retarder with a rating of 1 perm (5.7, 10–11 kg/Pa, s, m²) or less with openings therein gasketed or sealed.

2. Doors and openable windows meet the air leakage requirements of IECC Section 502.1.4.1; and
3. Caulking or sealants are applied to areas such as joints around window and door frames between sole plates and floors, between wall-ceiling joints, between wall panels, at penetrations for plumbing, electrical and gas lines, and at other openings.

(See CODE CORNER on page 20)

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N.C. change – In #2 – removed reference to “storm windows or weatherstripping” for opaque doors and openable windows. Added IECC reference.

Vehicular access door. A door that is used primarily for vehicular traffic at entrances of buildings such as garages and parking lots, and that is not generally used for pedestrian traffic.

New definition from IRC

Vinyl siding. A shaped material, made principally from rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC), that is used to cover exterior walls of buildings.

New definition from IRC

Wall, retaining. A wall not laterally supported at the top, that resists lateral soil load and other imposed loads.

New definition from IRC

Water-resistive barrier. A material behind an exterior wall covering that is intended to resist liquid water that has penetrated behind the exterior covering from further intruding into the exterior wall assembly.

New definition from IRC 🏠

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