



Roofing Alliance Faculty Workshop

## *Building codes and standards in roofing*

presented by

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### Definitions

**Standard:** something established for use as a rule or basis of comparison in measuring or judging capacity, quantity, content, extent, value or quality.

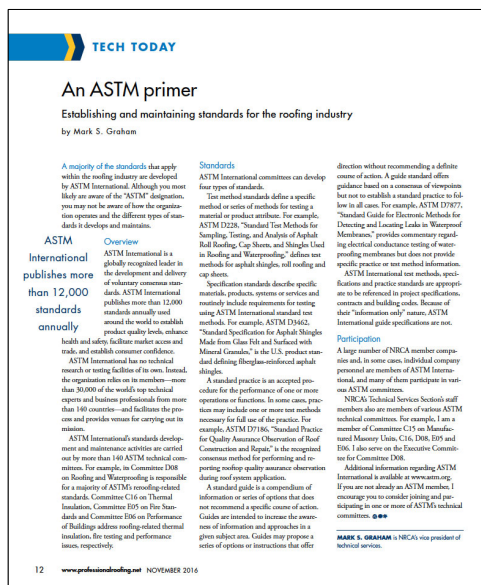
**Code:** 1) a body of laws, as a nation, city, etc., arranged systematically for easy reference; 2) any set of principles or rules of conduct (e.g., the moral code).

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## Roofing-related standards

- Promulgators: AAMA, ASCE, ASTM, CSA, CSSB, FM, SPRI, UL and WDMA
- Types of standards:
  - Test method (e.g., ASTM E108)
  - Specification/product standard (ASTM D6878)
  - Practice (ASTM D7186)
  - Guide (ASTM D6630) – Not enforceable

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*Most roofing-related standards are developed/maintained by Committee D08. Most roofing-related standards are contained in Vol. 4.04*

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## Some background

Building code and standards in roofing

- The I-codes are “model codes” developed by the International Code Council (ICC)
- Model codes serve as the technical basis for state or local code adoption
- The code provides the minimum legal requirements for building construction...and operation
- The code is enforced by the “authority having jurisdiction” (AHJ)
- Code enforcement occurs at the time of installation and occupancy/use
- The code can also provide a basis for construction claims-related litigation



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## **The purpose of the code**

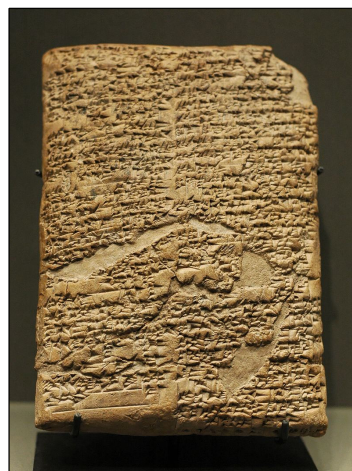
*International Building Code, 2021 Edition*

- **[A] 101.3 Purpose.** The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, health and general welfare through structural strength, *means of egress*, stability, sanitation, light and *ventilation*, energy conservation, and for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, *explosion* or *dangerous* conditions, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

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## **Code of Hammurabi**

- Babylonian empire (1754 BC)
- 282 laws, scaled punishment
- "...an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth..."
- Specific provisions to construction and contracts



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## Legal considerations

“In most states, a building code violation is considered to be evidence of negligence. In some situations, a building code violation may be considered *negligence per se*...”

--Stephen M. Phillips  
Hendrick, Phillips, Salzman & Seigel, PC

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## Code enforcement

- Code official
- Construction litigation



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## Legacy codes

Early 1900s up to 1999

- Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA)
  - *The BOCA National Building Code*
- Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI)
  - *The Standard Building Code (SBC)*
- International Conference of Building Officials
  - *Uniform Building Code (UBC)*

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## 2021 I-codes



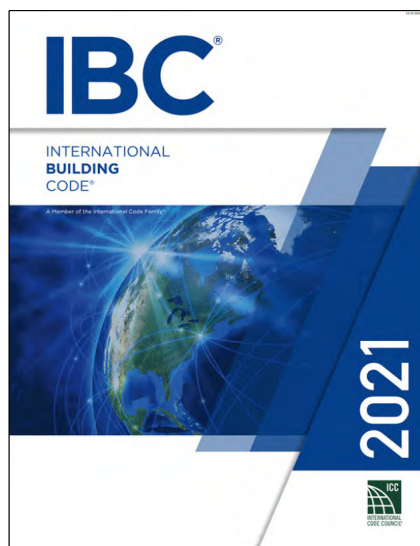
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## I-codes commonly applicable to roofing

- IBC: International Building Code
- IRC: International Residential Code
- IECC: International Energy Conservation Code

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## International Building Code, 2021 Edition



- Applicable to all buildings and structures, excepts those applicable to IRC 2021
- Roofing-related requirements:
  - Ch. 10-Means of egress
  - Ch. 12-Interior environment
  - Ch. 13-Energy efficiency
  - Ch. 15-Roof assemblies and rooftop structures
  - Ch. 16-Structural design
  - Ch. 20-Aluminum
  - Ch. 22-Steel
  - Ch. 24-Glass and glazing
  - Ch. 26-Plastic

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## Significant roof requirements

International Building Code, 2021 Edition, Chapter 15-Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures

- Wind resistance
- Fire classification
- Installation requirements
- Prescriptive requirements
- Reroofing

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CHAPTER 15  
ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 15 provides minimum requirements for the design and construction of roof assemblies and rooftop structures. The criteria address the weather-protective barrier at the roof and, in most circumstances, a fire-resistant barrier. The chapter is largely prescriptive in nature and is based on decades of experience with various traditional materials, but it also recognizes newer products. Section 1511 addresses rooftop structures, which include penthouses, tanks, towers and spires. Rooftop penthouses larger than prescribed in this chapter must be treated as a story under Chapter 5.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to sections preceded by the designation [BF], [BG] or [P] will be considered by one of the code development committees meeting during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. All other code change proposals will be considered by the IBC—Structural Code Development Committee during the 2022 (Group B) Code Development Cycle.

**SECTION 1503 WEATHER PROTECTION**

**1503.1 General.** Roof decks shall be covered with approved roof coverings secured to the building or structure in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Roof coverings shall have a minimum slope of 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) per foot (30.48 mm) and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**1503.2 Parapet walls.** Parapet walls shall be coped or covered in accordance with Sections 1503.3.1 and 1503.3.2. The top surface of the parapet wall shall provide positive drainage.

**1503.3.1 Fire-resistance-rated parapet wall.** Parapet walls required by Section 705.11 shall be coped or covered with weatherproof materials of a width not less than the thickness of the parapet wall such that the fire-resistance rating of the wall is not decreased.

**1503.3.2 Other parapet wall.** Parapet walls meeting one of the exceptions in Section 705.11 shall be coped or covered with weatherproof materials of a width not less than the thickness of the parapet wall.

**1503.4 Attic and rafter ventilation.** Intake and exhaust vents shall be provided in accordance with Section 1202.2 and the vent product manufacturer's installation instructions.

**1503.5 Crickets and saddles.** A cricket or saddle shall be installed on the ridge side of any chimney or penetration greater than 30 inches (762 mm) wide as measured perpendicular to the slope. Cricket or saddle coverings shall be sheet metal or of the same material as the roof covering.

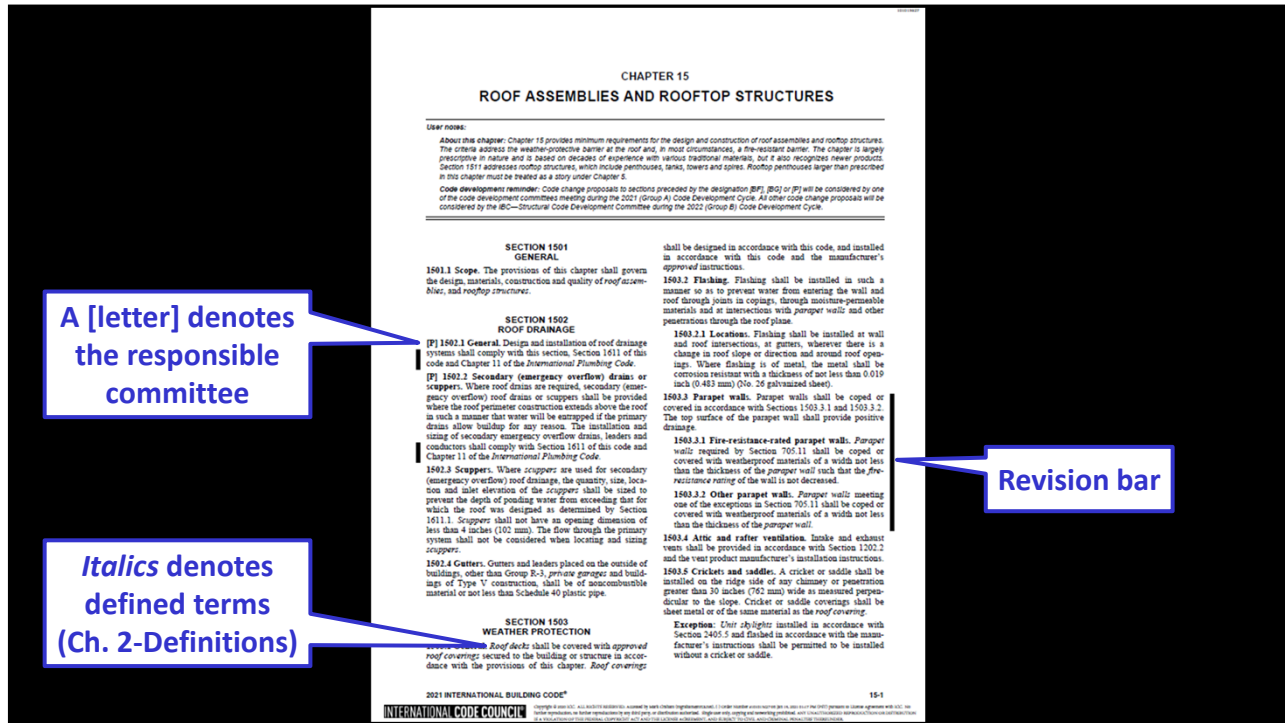
**Exception:** One shingle installed in accordance with Section 1405.5 and finished in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted to be installed without a cricket or saddle.

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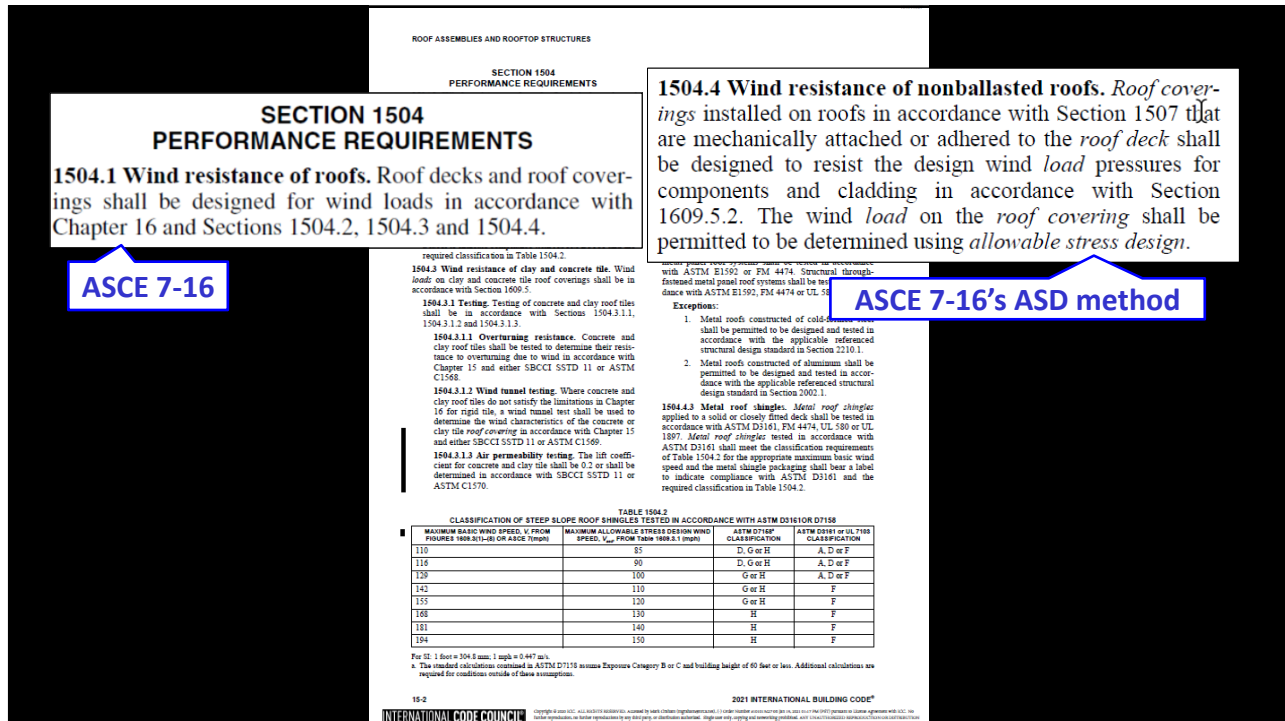
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**1504.1.1 Wind resistance of asphalt shingles.** Asphalt shingles shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D7158. Asphalt shingles shall meet the classification requirements of Table 1504.1.1 for the appropriate maximum basic wind speed. Asphalt shingle packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with ASTM D7158 and the required classification in Table 1504.1.1.

**Exception:** Asphalt shingles not included in the scope of ASTM D7158 shall be tested and labeled in accordance with ASTM D3161. Asphalt shingle packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with ASTM D3161 and the required classification in Table 1504.1.1.

**TABLE 1504.1.1 CLASSIFICATION OF STEEP SLOPE ROOF SHINGLES TESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM D316 OR D71581**

MAXIMUM BASIC WIND SPEED, V, FROM FIGURES 1609.3(1)-(8) OR ASCE 7 (mph)	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN WIND SPEED, V <sub>all</sub> , FROM TABLE 1609.3.1 (mph)	ASTM D7158 <sup>a</sup> CLASSIFICATION	ASTM D3161 CLASSIFICATION
110	85	D, G or H	A, D or F
116	90	D, G or H	A, D or F
129	100	G or H	A, D or F
142	110	G or H	F
155	120	G or H	F
168	130	H	F
181	140	H	F
194	150	H	F

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm; 1 mph = 0.447 m/s.

a. The standard calculations contained in ASTM D7158 assume Exposure Category B or C and building height of 60 feet or less. Additional calculations are required for conditions outside of these assumptions.

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ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**1504.5 Ballasted low-slope single-ply roof systems.** Ballasted low-slope (roof slope  $\leq$  2:12) single-ply roof system coverings installed in accordance with Section 1507.12 shall be designed in accordance with AISI SPS12-12. coverings that are subject to cyclical flexural response due to wind loads shall not demonstrate any significant loss of tensile strength for unreinforced membranes or breaking strength for reinforced membranes when tested as herein required.

**SECTION 1505 FIRE CLASSIFICATION**

**[BF] 1505.1 General.** Roof assemblies shall be divided into the classes defined in this section. Class A, B and C roof assemblies and roof coverings required to be listed by this section shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. In addition, *fire-retardant-treated wood* roof coverings shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D2898. The minimum roof coverings installed on buildings shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.

**Exception:** Skylights and sloped glazing that comply with Chapter 24 or Section 2610.

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm; 1 foot = 304.8 mm; 1 mile per hour = 0.447 m/s.  
 a. Inspections shall be permitted for mean roof height and parapet height.  
 b. Basic design wind speed ("roof wind exposure") shall be determined in accordance with Section 1609.  
 c. To save the maximum required parapet height of 12 inches (305 mm), a general rdg shall be permitted and shall extend not less than 2 inches (51 mm) from the roof surface and not less than the height of the aggregate.  
 d. For Exposure D, add 9 inches (229 mm) to the parapet height required for Exposure C and the parapet height shall not be less than 12 inches (305 mm).

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**[BF] 1505.2 Class A roof assemblies.** Class A roof assemblies are those that are effective against severe fire test exposure. Class A roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class A by an *approved* testing agency. Class A roof assemblies shall be permitted for use in buildings or structures of all types of construction.

**Exceptions:**

1. Class A roof assemblies include those with coverings of brick, masonry or an exposed concrete roof deck.
2. Class A roof assemblies also include ferrous or copper shingles or sheets, metal sheets and shingles, clay or concrete roof tile or slate installed on non-combustible decks or ferrous, copper or metal sheets installed without a roof deck on noncombustible framing.
3. Class A roof assemblies include minimum 16 ounce per square foot (0.0416 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) copper sheets installed over combustible decks.
4. Class A roof assemblies include slate installed over ASTM D226, Type II underlayment over combustible decks.

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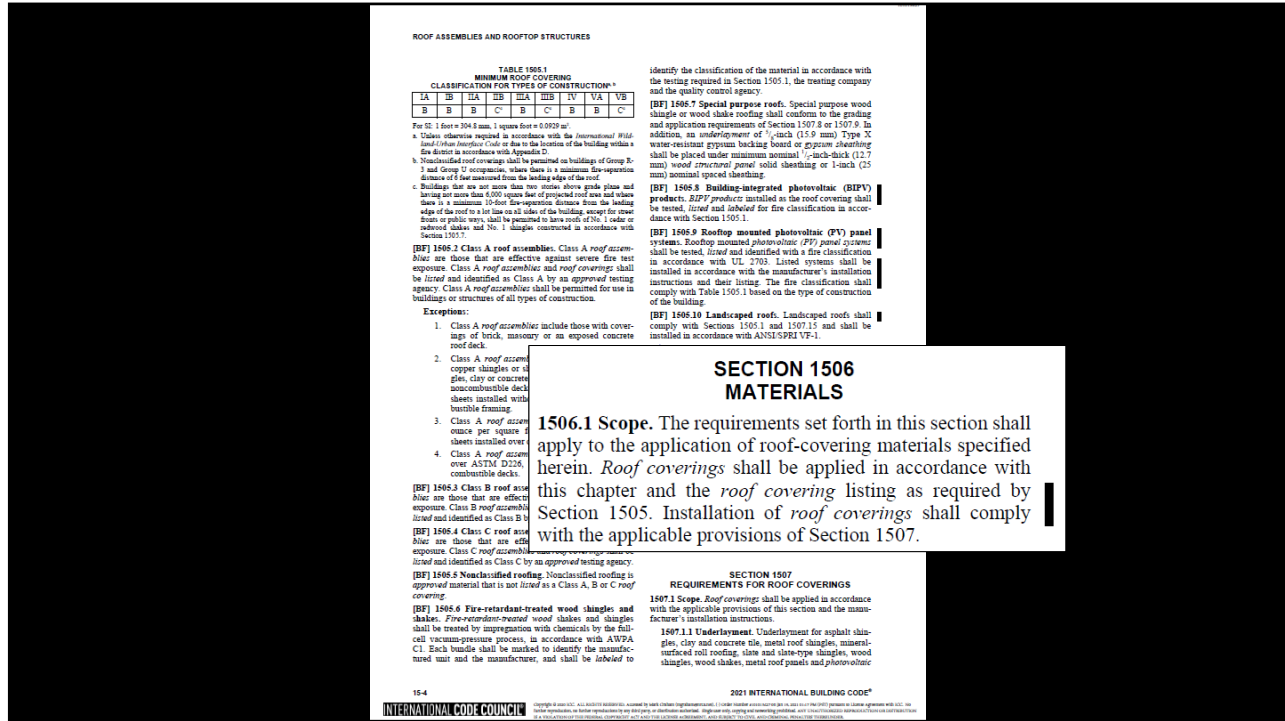
**TABLE 1505.1<sup>a, b</sup>  
MINIMUM ROOF COVERING CLASSIFICATION  
FOR TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION**

IA	IB	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IV	VA	VB
B	B	B	C <sup>c</sup>	B	C <sup>c</sup>	B	B	C <sup>c</sup>

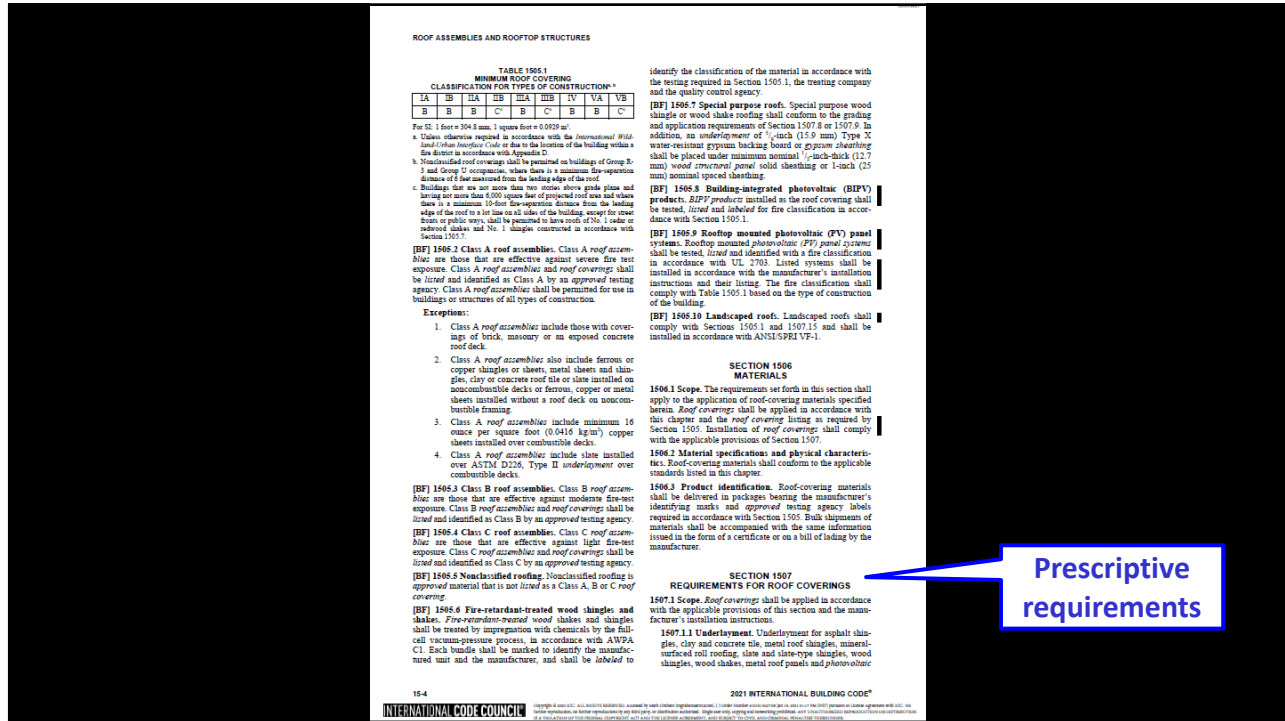
For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. Unless otherwise required in accordance with the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* or due to the location of the building within a fire district in accordance with Appendix D.
- b. Nonclassified roof coverings shall be permitted on buildings of Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, where there is a minimum fire-separation distance of 6 feet measured from the leading edge of the roof.
- c. Buildings that are not more than two stories above grade plane and having not more than 6,000 square feet of projected roof area and where there is a minimum 10-foot fire-separation distance from the leading edge of the roof to a lot line on all sides of the building, except for street fronts or public ways, shall be permitted to have roofs of No. 1 cedar or redwood shakes and No. 1 shingles constructed in accordance with Section 1505.7.

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Prescriptive requirements

## Roof system types

Prescriptive requirement in Section 1507

- Asphalt shingles
- Modified bitumen roofing
- Clay and concrete tile
- Single-ply roofing
- Metal panels
- Spray polyurethane foam
- Metal shingles
- Liquid-applied roofing
- Mineral-surfaced roll roofing
- Vegetative roofs, roof gardens and landscaped roofs
- Slate shingles
- Photovoltaic shingles
- Wood shingles
- Building-integrated photovoltaic roof panels
- Wood shakes
- 
- Built-up roofs

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**1507.12 Single-ply roofing.** The installation of single-ply roofing shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**1507.12.1 Slope.** Single-ply membrane roofs shall have a design slope of not less than 1/4 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent slope) for drainage.

**1507.12.2 Material standards.** Single-ply roof coverings shall comply with the material standards in Table 1507.12.2.

MATERIAL	MATERIAL STANDARD
Chlorosulfonated polyethylene (CSPE) or polyisobutylene (PIB)	ASTM D5019
Ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM)	ASTM D4637
Ketone Ethylene Ester (KEE)	ASTM D6754
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) or (PVC/KEE)	ASTM D4434
Thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO)	ASTM D6878

**1507.12.3 Ballasted low-slope roofs.** Ballasted low-slope roofs (roof slope < 2:12) shall be installed in accordance with this section and Section 1504.5. Stone used as ballast shall comply with ASTM D448 or ASTM D7655.

ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**1507.14.2 Material standards.** Liquid-applied roofing shall comply with ASTM C836, ASTM C957 or ASTM D3465.

**1507.15 Vegetative roofs and landscaped roofs.** Vegetative roofs and landscaped roofs shall comply with the requirements of this chapter, Section 1507.14.2.2 and the International Fire Code.

**[RF] 1507.15.1 Structural fire resistance.** The structural frame and roof construction supporting the load imposed on the roof by the vegetative roof or landscaped roofs shall comply with the requirements of Table 601.

**1507.16 Photovoltaic shingles.** The installation of photovoltaic shingles shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**1507.16.1 Deck requirements.** Photovoltaic shingles shall be applied to a solid or closely fitted deck, except where the shingles are specifically designed to be applied over spaced sheathing.

**1507.16.2 Deck slope.** Photovoltaic shingles shall be installed on roof slopes of not less than 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (2:12).

**1507.16.3 Underlayment.** Underlayment shall comply with Section 1507.1.1.

**1507.16.4 Ice barrier.** Where required, ice barriers shall comply with Section 1507.1.2.

**1507.16.5 Fasteners.** Fasteners for photovoltaic shingles shall be galvanized, stainless steel, aluminum or copper roofing nails, minimum 12-gage (0.105 inch (2.67 mm)) shank with a minimum 1/8-inch-diameter (9.5 mm) head, of a length to penetrate through the roofing materials and not less than 1/4 inch (19.1 mm) into the roof sheathing. Where the roof sheathing is less than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) thick, the nails shall penetrate through the sheathing. Fasteners shall comply with ASTM F1667.

**1507.16.6 Material standards.** Photovoltaic shingles shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 7103 or with both UL 61730-1 and UL 61730-2.

**1507.16.7 Attachment.** Photovoltaic shingles shall be attached in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**1507.16.8 Wind resistance.** Photovoltaic shingles shall comply with the classification requirements of Table 1504.2 for the appropriate maximum nominal design wind speed.

**1507.17 Building-integrated photovoltaic roof panels.** The installation of building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) roof panels shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**1507.17.1 Deck requirements.** BIPV roof panels shall be applied to a solid or closely fitted deck, except where the roof covering is specifically designed to be applied over spaced sheathing.

**1507.17.2 Deck slope.** BIPV roof panels shall be used only on roof slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (2:12) or greater.

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ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**1507.17.3 Underlayment.** Underlayment shall comply with ASTM D226, ASTM D4869 or ASTM D6757.

**1507.17.4 Underlayment application.** Underlayment shall be applied *chingle fashion*, parallel to and starting from the eave, lapped 2 inches (51 mm) and fastened sufficiently to hold in place.

**1507.17.4.1 High-wind attachment.** Underlayment applied in areas subject to high winds ( $F_w$  greater than 110 mph (49 m/s) as determined in accordance with Section 1609.3.1) shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Fasteners shall be applied along the overlap at not more than 36 inches (914 mm) on center. Underlayment installed where  $F_w$  is not less than 120 mph (54 m/s) shall comply with ASTM D226, Type III, ASTM D4869, Type IV or ASTM D6757. The underlayment shall be attached in a grid pattern of 12 inches (305 mm) between side laps with a 6-inch (152 mm) spacing at the side laps. The underlayment shall be applied in accordance with Section 1507.1.1 except all laps shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm). Underlayment shall be attached using cap nails or cap staples. Caps shall be metal or plastic with a nominal head diameter of not less than 1 inch (25.4 mm). Metal caps shall have a thickness of not less than 0.010 inch (0.25 mm). Power-driven metal caps shall have a thickness of not less than 0.010 inch (0.25 mm). Thickness of the outside edge of plastic caps shall be not less than 0.031 inch (0.89 mm). The cap nail shank shall be not less than 0.083 inch (2.11 mm) for ring shank cap nails and 0.091 inch (2.31 mm) for smooth shank cap nails. Staple gage shall be not less than 21 gage (0.2 inch (0.81 mm)). Cap nail shank and cap staple legs shall have a length sufficient to penetrate through-the-roof sheathing or not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3.18 mm) into the roof sheathing.

**Exception:** As an alternative, adhered underlayment complying with ASTM D1970 shall be permitted.

**1507.17.4.2 Ice barrier.** In areas where there has been a history of ice forming along the eaves causing a back-up of water, an ice barrier consisting of not fewer than two layers of underlayment cemented together or of a self-adhering polymer modified bitumen sheet shall be used instead of normal underlayment and extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point not less than 24 inches (610 mm) inside the exterior wall line of the building.

**Exception:** Detached accessory structures that do not contain conditioned floor area.

**1507.17.5 Material standards.** BIPV roof panels shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 7103 or with both UL 6170-1 and UL 6170-2.

**1507.17.6 Attachment.** BIPV roof panels shall be attached in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

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SECTION 1508  
ROOF INSULATION

**[BF] 1508.1 General.** The use of above-deck thermal insulation shall be permitted provided that such insulation is covered with an approved roof covering and passes the tests of NFPA 276 or UL 1256 when tested as an assembly.

**Exceptions:**

1. Foam plastic roof insulation shall conform to the material and installation requirements of Chapter 24.
2. Where a concrete or composite metal and concrete roof deck is used and the above-deck thermal insulation is covered with an approved roof covering.

**[BF] 1508.2 Material standards.** Above-deck thermal insulation board shall comply with the standards in Table 1508.2.

**[BF] TABLE 1508.2  
MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR ROOF INSULATION**

Cellular glass board	ASTM C552
Composite boards	ASTM C1289, Type III, IV, V or VII
Expanded polystyrene	ASTM C578
Extruded polystyrene	ASTM C578
Fiber-reinforced gypsum board	ASTM C1278
Glass-faced gypsum board	ASTM C1177
High-density polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C1289, Type II, Class 4
Mineral fiber insulation board	ASTM C726
Perlite board	ASTM C728
Polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C1289, Type I or II
Wood fiberboard	ASTM C208, Type II

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ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**1507.17.3 Underlayment.** Underlayment shall comply with ASTM D226, ASTM D4869 or ASTM D6757.

**1507.17.4 Underlayment application.** Underlayment shall be applied *chingle fashion*, parallel to and starting from the eave, lapped 2 inches (51 mm) and fastened sufficiently to hold in place.

**1507.17.4.1 High-wind attachment.** Underlayment applied in areas subject to high winds ( $F_w$  greater than 110 mph (49 m/s) as determined in accordance with Section 1609.3.1) shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Fasteners shall be applied along the overlap at not more than 36 inches (914 mm) on center. Underlayment installed where  $F_w$  is not less than 120 mph (54 m/s) shall comply with ASTM D226, Type III, ASTM D4869, Type IV or ASTM D6757. The underlayment shall be attached in a grid pattern of 12 inches (305 mm) between side laps with a 6-inch (152 mm) spacing at the side laps. The underlayment shall be applied in accordance with Section 1507.1.1 except all laps shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm). Underlayment shall be attached using cap nails or cap staples. Caps shall be metal or plastic with a nominal head diameter of not less than 1 inch (25.4 mm). Metal caps shall have a thickness of not less than 0.010 inch (0.25 mm). Power-driven metal caps shall have a thickness of not less than 0.010 inch (0.25 mm). Thickness of the outside edge of plastic caps shall be not less than 0.031 inch (0.89 mm). The cap nail shank shall be not less than 0.083 inch (2.11 mm) for ring shank cap nails and 0.091 inch (2.31 mm) for smooth shank cap nails. Staple gage shall be not less than 21 gage (0.2 inch (0.81 mm)). Cap nail shank and cap staple legs shall have a length sufficient to penetrate through-the-roof sheathing or not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3.18 mm) into the roof sheathing.

**Exception:** As an alternative, adhered underlayment complying with ASTM D1970 shall be permitted.

**1507.17.4.2 Ice barrier.** In areas where there has been a history of ice forming along the eaves causing a back-up of water, an ice barrier consisting of not fewer than two layers of underlayment cemented together or of a self-adhering polymer modified bitumen sheet shall be used instead of normal underlayment and extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point not less than 24 inches (610 mm) inside the exterior wall line of the building.

**Exception:** Detached accessory structures that do not contain conditioned floor area.

**1507.17.5 Material standards.** BIPV roof panels shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 7103 or with both UL 6170-1 and UL 6170-2.

**1507.17.6 Attachment.** BIPV roof panels shall be attached in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

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INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

SECTION 1508  
ROOF INSULATION

**[BF] 1508.1 General.** The use of above-deck thermal insulation shall be permitted provided that such insulation is covered with an approved roof covering and passes the tests of NFPA 276 or UL 1256 when tested as an assembly.

**Exceptions:**

1. Foam plastic roof insulation shall conform to the material and installation requirements of Chapter 24.
2. Where a concrete or composite metal and concrete roof deck is used and the above-deck thermal insulation is covered with an approved roof covering.

**SECTION 1509  
ROOF COATINGS**

**1509.1 General.** The installation of a roof coating on a roof covering shall comply with the requirements of Section 1505 and this section.

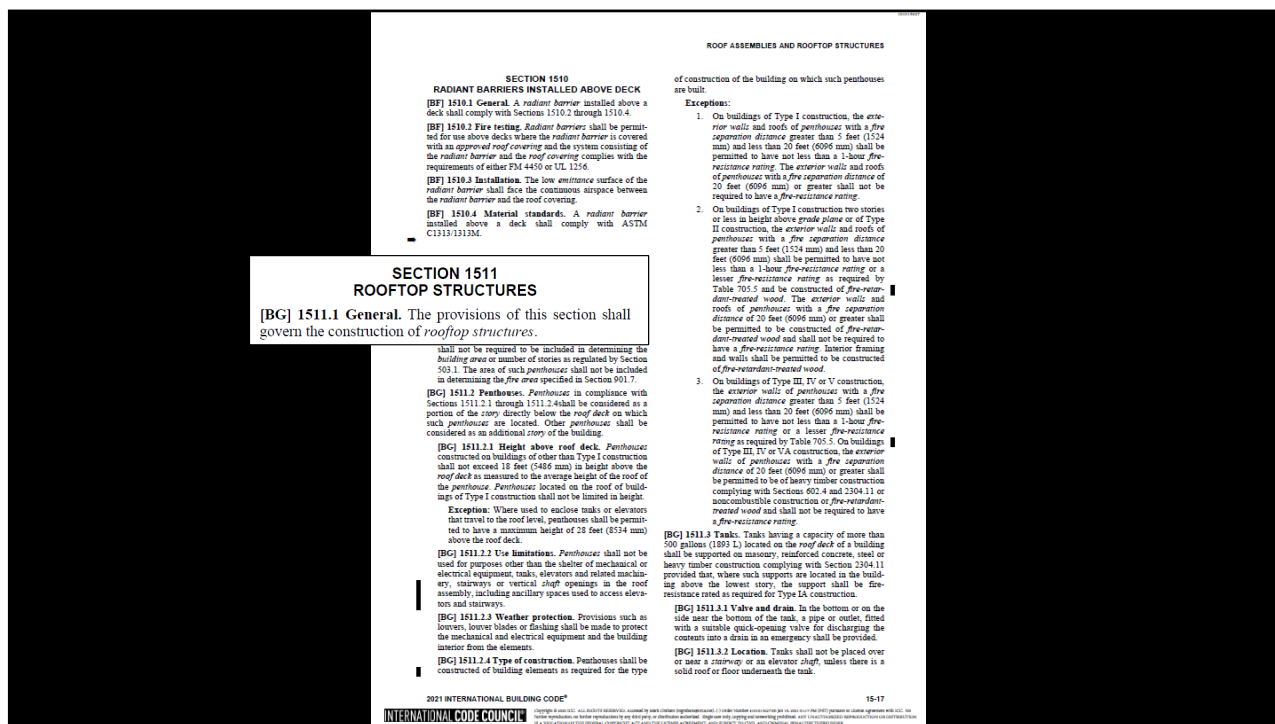
**1509.2 Material standards.** Roof coating materials shall comply with the standards in Table 1509.2.

**TABLE 1509.2  
ROOF COATING MATERIAL STANDARDS**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Acrylic coating	ASTM D6083
Asphaltic emulsion coating	ASTM D1227
Asphalt coating	ASTM D2823
Asphalt roof coating	ASTM D4479
Aluminum-pigmented asphalt coating	ASTM D2824
Silicone coating	ASTM D6694
Moisture-cured polyurethane coating	ASTM D6947

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## Types of roof structures

IBC 2021, Section 1511-Roof Structures

- Penthouses
- Tanks
- Cooling towers
- Towers, spires, domes and cupolas
- Mechanical equipment screens
- Photovoltaic panels and modules
- Other rooftop structures:
  - Aerial supports
  - Dormers
  - Fences
  - Flagpoles

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ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

**SECTION 1511  
REROOFING**

**1511.1 General.** Materials and methods of application used for recovering or replacing an existing roof covering shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 15.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Roof replacement* or *roof recover* of existing low-slope roof coverings shall not be required to meet the minimum design slope requirement of one-quarter unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent slope) in Section 1507 for roofs that provide positive roof drainage.
2. Recovering or replacing an existing roof covering shall not be required to meet the requirement for secondary (emergency overflow) drains or scuppers in Section 1503.4 for roofs that provide for positive roof drainage. For the purposes of this exception, existing secondary drainage or scupper systems required in accordance with this code shall not be removed unless they are replaced by secondary drains or scuppers designed and installed in accordance with Section 1503.4.

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**1511.3 Roof replacement.** *Roof replacement* shall include the removal of all existing layers of roof coverings down to the roof deck.

**Exception:** Where the existing roof assembly includes an ice barrier membrane that is adhered to the roof deck, the existing ice barrier membrane shall be permitted to remain in place and covered with an additional layer of ice barrier membrane in accordance with Section 1507.

**1511.3.1 Roof recover.** The installation of a new roof covering over an existing roof covering shall be permitted where any of the following conditions occur:

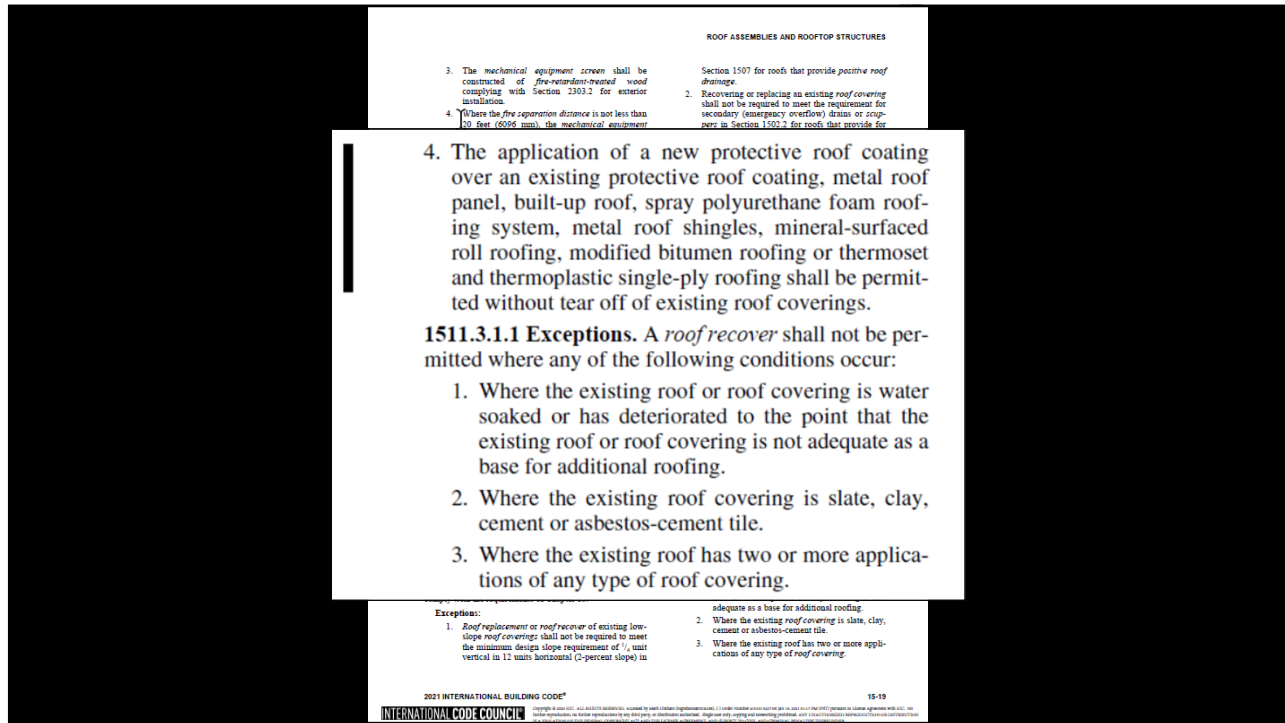
1. Where the new roof covering is installed in accordance with the roof covering manufacturer's approved instructions.
2. Complete and separate roofing systems, such as standing-seam metal roof panel systems, that are designed to transmit the roof loads directly to the building's structural system and that do not rely on existing roofs and roof coverings for support, shall not require the removal of existing roof coverings.
3. Metal panel, metal shingle and concrete and clay tile roof coverings shall be permitted to be installed over existing wood shake roofs when applied in accordance with Section 1511.4.

Continued...

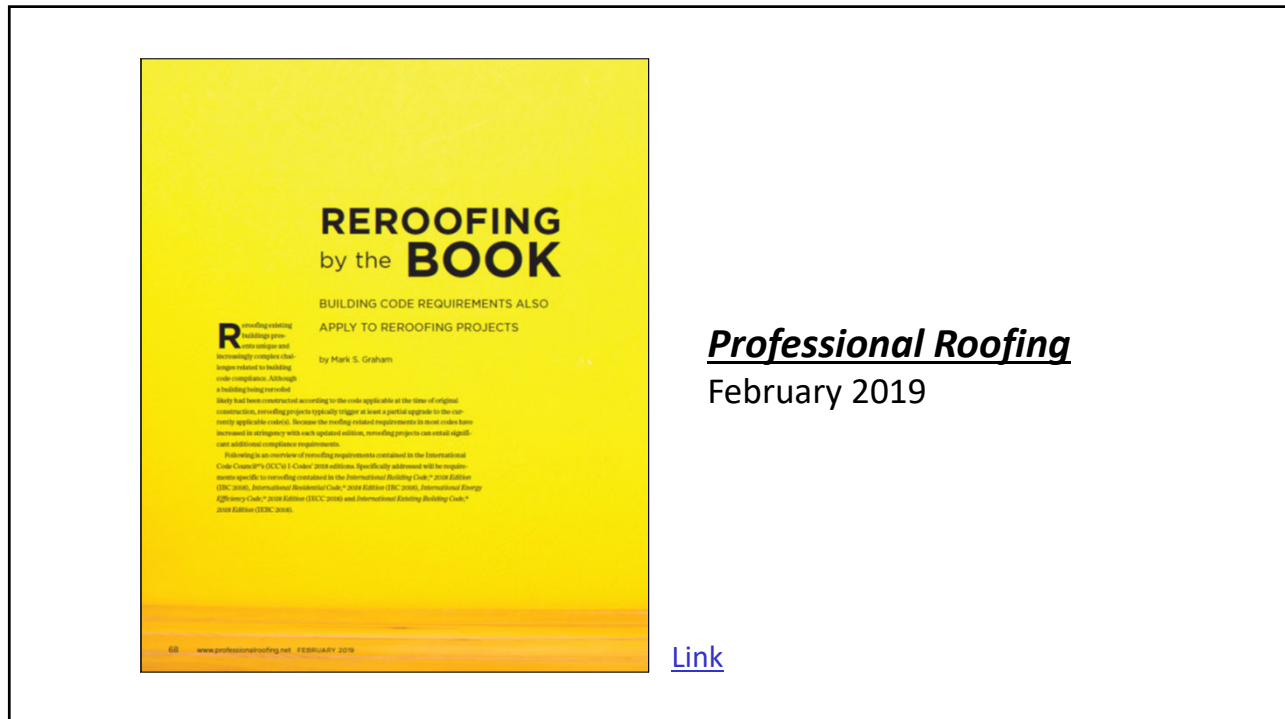
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## **International Residential Code, 2021 Edition**



- Applicable to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses no more than three stories in height
- Roofing-related requirements:
  - Ch. 8-Roof/ceiling construction
  - Ch. 9-Roof assemblies

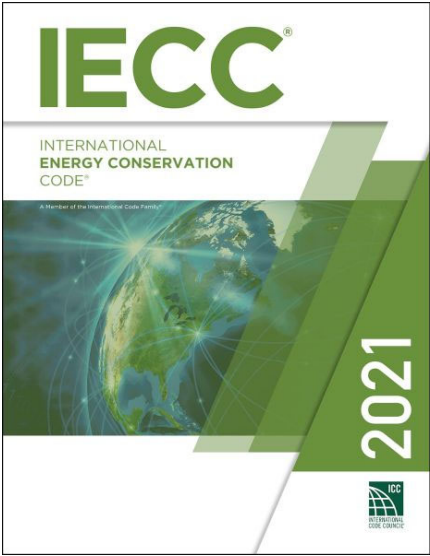
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## **Ch. 9-Roof assemblies**

*International Residential Code, 2021 Edition*

- Ch. 9 closely mirrors IBC Ch. 15's requirements
- Except IRC only requires fire classified roof assemblies where:
  - Required by local ordinance
  - Roof edge is less than 3 ft. from the lot line

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**Roof requirements:**

- R-value
- Roof reflectivity
- Air retarder

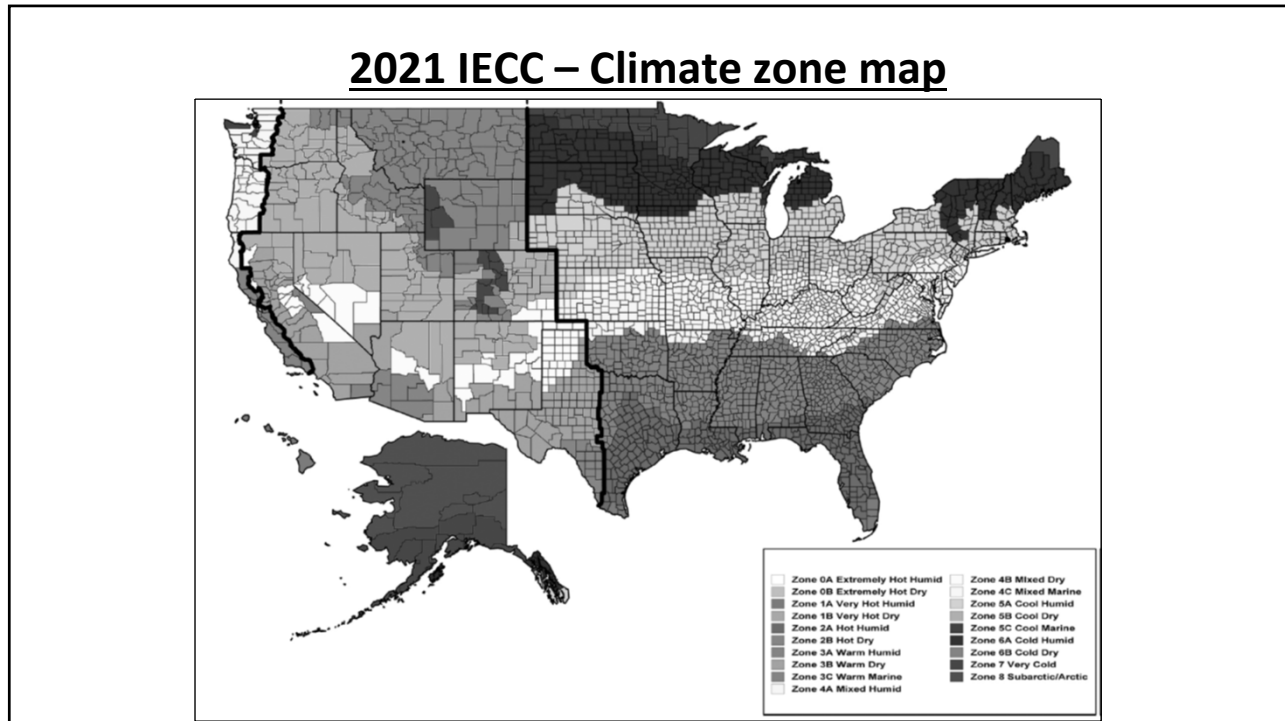
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**TABLE C402.1.3  
OPAQUE THERMAL ENVELOPE INSULATION COMPONENT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, R-VALUE METHOD<sup>a</sup>**

CLIMATE ZONE	0 AND 1		2		3		4 EXCEPT MARINE		5 AND MARINE 4		6		7		8	
	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R
<b>Roofs</b>																
Insulation entirely above roof deck	R-20ci	R-25ci	R-25ci	R-25ci	R-25ci	R-25ci	R-30ci	R-30ci	R-30ci	R-30ci	R-30ci	R-30ci	R-35ci	R-35ci	R-35ci	R-35ci
Metal buildings <sup>b</sup>	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-19 + R-11 LS	R-25 + R-11 LS	R-30 + R-11 LS	R-30 + R-11 LS	R-25 + R-11 + R-11 LS	R-25 + R-11 + R-11 LS
Attic and other	R-38	R-38	R-38	R-38	R-38	R-38	R-49	R-49	R-49	R-49	R-49	R-49	R-60	R-60	R-60	R-60
<b>Walls, below grade</b>																
Metal framed	R-13 + R-5ci	R-13 + R-5ci	R-13 + R-5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-10ci	R-13 + R-10ci	R-13 + R-12.5ci	R-13 + R-12.5ci	R-13 + R-15ci	R-13 + R-15ci	R-13 + R-18ci	R-13 + R-18ci
Wood framed and other	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-3.8ci or R-20	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci or R-20 + R-3.8ci
<b>Floors</b>																
Below-grade wall <sup>c</sup>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	R-7.5ci	R-10ci	R-7.5ci	R-10ci	R-10ci	R-15ci	R-15ci	R-15ci	R-15ci	R-15ci
<b>Slab-on-grade floors</b>																
Unheated slabs	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	R-10 for 24" below	R-15 for 24" below	R-15 for 24" below	R-15 for 24" below	R-20 for 24" below	R-20 for 24" below	R-20 for 24" below	R-20 for 48" below	R-20 for 48" below	R-20 for 48" below	R-25 for 48" below
Heated slabs <sup>d</sup>	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 fall slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 fall slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 fall slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 fall slab	R-10 for 24" below + R-5 fall slab	R-10 for 24" below + R-5 fall slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 fall slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 fall slab	R-15 for 36" below + R-5 fall slab	R-15 for 36" below + R-5 fall slab	R-15 for 36" below + R-5 fall slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 fall slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 fall slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 fall slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 fall slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 fall slab

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per square foot = 4.88 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 1 pound per cubic foot = 16 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

a. ci = Continuous Insulation, NR = No Requirement, LS = Linear System.

b. Where using R-value compliance method, a thermal spacer block shall be provided, otherwise use the U-factor compliance method in Table C402.1.4.

c. R-5.7ci is allowed to be substituted with concrete block walls complying with ASTM C90, augmented or partially augmented at 32 inches or less on center vertically and 48 inches or less on center horizontally, with augmented cores filled with material having a maximum thermal conductivity of 0.44 Btu-in-hr-ft<sup>2</sup>-°F.

d. Where heated slabs are below grade, below-grade walls shall comply with the exterior insulation requirements for heated slabs.

e. "Mass floors" shall be in accordance with Section C402.2.3.

f. "Mass walls" shall be in accordance with Section C402.2.2.

g. The first value is for perimeter insulation and the second value is for full, under-slab insulation. Perimeter insulation is not required to extend below the bottom of the slab.

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## Comparison of IECC's various editions

Commercial Buildings (Insulation component R-value-based method)

Climate Zone	IECC 2003	IECC 2006	IECC 2009	IECC 2012*	IECC 2015*	IECC 2018*
1	R-12 ci	R-15 ci	R-15 ci	R-20 ci	R-20 ci	R-20 ci
2	R-14 ci		R-20ci		R-25 ci	R-25 ci
3	R-10 ci				R-30 ci	R-30 ci
4	R-12 ci	R-20 ci	R-25 ci	R-30 ci	R-35 ci	R-35 ci
5	R-15 ci					
6	R-11 ci					
7	R-15 ci	R-25 ci	R-25 ci	R-30 ci	R-35 ci	R-35 ci
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\* Applies to roof replacement projects  
ci = continuous insulation

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## ICC 2021 Commercial – Roof Reflectivity

COMMERCIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

...parameter shall not be required to extend below the bottom of the heated slab and shall be continuous with the full slab insulation.

**Exception:** Where the slab-on-grade floor is greater than 24 inches (61 mm) below the finished exterior grade, perimeter insulation is not required.

**C402.2.5 Below-grade walls.** The C-factor for the below-grade exterior walls shall be in accordance with Table C402.1.4. The E-value of the unheated exterior wall shall be determined in accordance with Table C402.1.3. The C-factor or E-value required shall extend to a depth of not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) below the finished ground level, or to the area of the lowest floor of the conditioned space enclosed by the below-grade wall, whichever is less.

**C402.2.6 Foundation of radiant heating systems.** Radiant heating system panels, and their associated components that are installed in concrete or exterior insulation, shall be insulated to an E-value of not less than 0.5 U or all surfaces not facing the space being heated. Radiant heating system panels that are installed in the building thermal envelope shall be separated from the exterior of the building or unconditioned or exempt spaces by not less than the E-value of insulation installed in the exterior assembly in which they are installed or the assembly shall comply with Section C402.1.4.

**Exception:** Heated slabs on grade installed in accordance with Section C402.2.4.

**C402.2.7 Airspaces.** Where the E-value of an airspace is used for compliance in accordance with Section C402.1, the airspace shall be enclosed on an unventilated cavity constructed in unheated surface and not of the enclosed airspace. Airflow shall be deemed minimized where the enclosed airspace is located on the exterior side of the continuous air barrier and is bounded on all sides by building components.

**Exception:** The thermal resistance of airspaces located on the exterior side of the continuous air barrier and adjacent to, and behind the exterior wall-covering material shall be determined in accordance with ASTM C1363 modified with an airflow entering the bottom and exiting the top of the airspace at an air movement rate of not less than 75 mm/second.

**C402.3 Roof solar reflectance and thermal resistance.** Low-sloped roofs shall have unadorned conditioned spaces in Climate Zones 0 through 3 shall comply with one or more of the options in Table C402.3.

**Exception:** The following roofs and portions of roofs are exempt from the requirements of Table C402.3:

1. Portions of the roof that are or are covered by the following:
  - 1.1. Photovoltaic systems or components;
  - 1.2. Solar air or water-heating systems or components;
  - 1.3. Vegetative roofs or landscaped roofs;
  - 1.4. Above-roof decks or walkways;
  - 1.5. Skylights;
  - 1.6. HVAC systems and components, and other opaque objects mounted above the roof.
2. Portions of the roof shaded during the peak sun angle on the summer solstice by permanent features of the building or by permanent features of adjacent buildings;
3. Portions of roofs that are ballasted with a maximum mass ballast of 17 pounds per square foot (74 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) or 23 psf (117 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) parter;
4. Roofs where not less than 75 percent of the roof area complies with one or more of the exceptions in this section.

**TABLE C402.3**  
**MINIMUM ROOF REFLECTANCE AND EMITTANCE OPTIONS\***

Three-year aged solar reflectance index<sup>1</sup> of 17 and 1-year aged thermal emittance<sup>2</sup> of 0.75

Three-year aged solar reflectance index<sup>1</sup> of 64

<sup>1</sup> The use of area-weighted averages to comply with these requirements shall be permitted. Minimum lighting transmittance from the solar solar reflectance or thermal emittance shall be subject to a 1-year aged solar reflectance in accordance with Section C402.1.1 and 1-year aged thermal emittance of 0.65.

<sup>2</sup> Aged solar reflectance index is in accordance with ASTM C1363, ASTM D5033 or ASTM C1370 or C826-03B.

<sup>3</sup> Aged thermal emittance index is in accordance with ASTM C1371 or ASTM E1918 or C826-03B.

<sup>4</sup> Low reflectance index (RI) shall be determined in accordance with ASTM E1918 with a correction coefficient of 1.1.  $RI = \rho \cdot T$  (11 W/m<sup>2</sup> · K). Coefficient of aged (RI) shall be based on aged test values of area reflectance or thermal emittance.

**C402.3.1 Aged roof solar reflectance.** Where an aged solar reflectance is required by Section C402.3, if not available, it shall be determined in accordance with Equation 4-2:

$$R_{s,aged} = [0.2 + 0.7(R_{s,new}) - 0.2] \quad \text{(Equation 4-2)}$$

where:  
 $R_{s,aged}$  = The aged solar reflectance  
 $R_{s,new}$  = The annual solar reflectance determined in accordance with Section C402.3.1.0.

**C402.3.2 Frost-resistant.** Frost-resistant shall comply with Section C402.1.1 through C402.2.3 and Table C402.1. Daylight responsive controls shall comply with this section and Section C402.2.4.

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*How should we deal with alternatives other than what is specifically permitted by the Code?*


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**Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment**

- IBC 2021, Sec. 104.11
- IRC 2021, Sec. R104.11
- IECC 2021, Sec. C102 and Sec. R102
- IEBC 2021, Sec. 104.11
- IFC 2021, Sec. 104.9
- IPC 2021, Sec. 105.2

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RESEARCH+TECH



Consider alternatives

Code interpretations, modifications and alternatives provide some code compliance flexibility

by Mark S. Graham

**B**uilding codes by their nature tend to be relatively restrictive; they limit designs, materials and construction methods to those specifically prescribed in codes and meeting the code's performance requirements. However, most codes also contain provisions that allow code officials to accept limited, project-specific modifications and alternatives to code requirements.

You should be aware of a code's interpretation, modification and alternative acceptance provisions because these may provide a basis for acceptance of novel system designs and modifications that do not specifically comply with a code's requirements.

**Alternative acceptance**

In Chapter 5, Scope and Administration of the International Building Code®, 2018 Edition, Section 104.04(a) and Powers of Building Official grants a code official the authority to enforce the code, render interpretations and adopt procedures to carry the code's provisions. Such interpretations and procedures are not intended to waive code requirements.

Section 104.10, Modifications gives a code official authority to

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## ICC codes accessible online

[codes.iccsafe.org](http://codes.iccsafe.org)



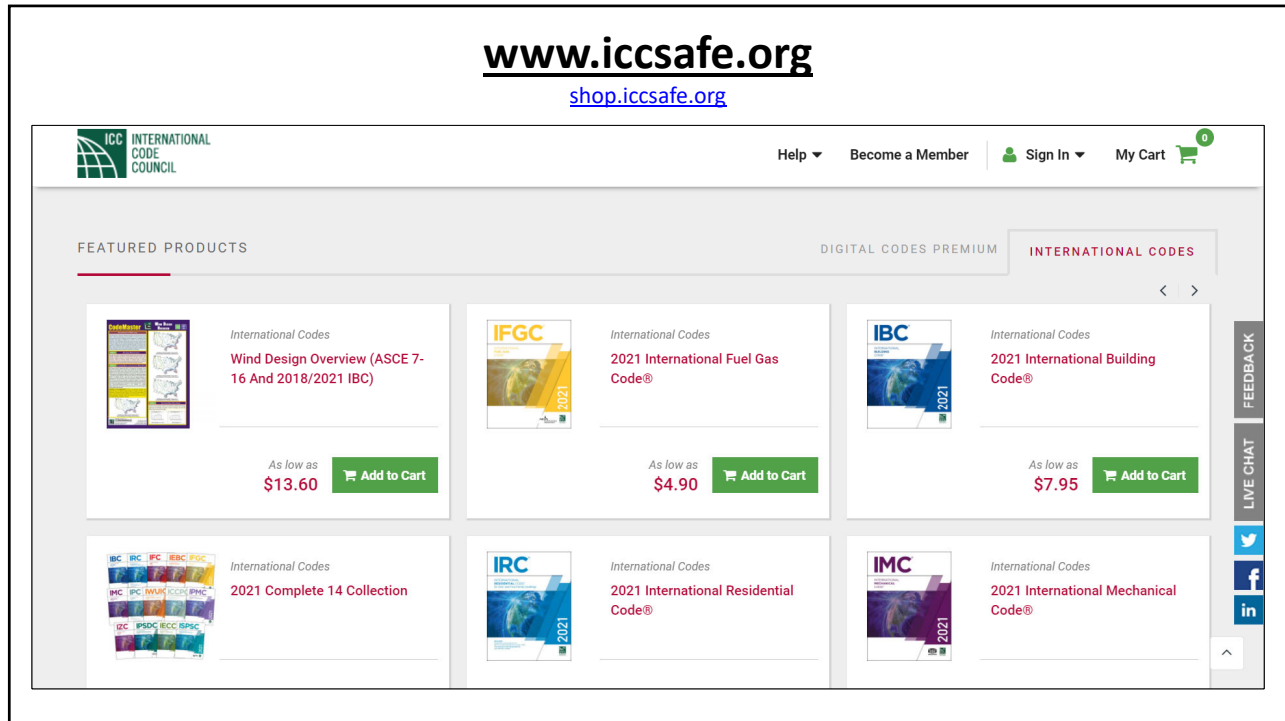
The screenshot shows the ICC Building Codes website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home > Find Codes'. Below that, a search bar and a 'Premium exclusive title requires subscription to access content' message. The main content area displays a grid of eight 2021 code book covers: IBC (International Building Code), IRC (International Residential Code), IFC (International Fire Code), IFGC (International Fuel Gas Code), IMC (International Mechanical Code), IPC (International Plumbing Code), IEBC (International Electrical Code), and IECC (International Energy Conservation Code). On the right side, there's a 'Bundle and Save' section for the '2012 International Codes, Designer Collection' and an 'Info' section about the ICC International Code Council and I-Codes. A sidebar on the left lists various categories like 'Collections', 'Commentaries', 'I-Codes', 'Legacy', 'ICBO', 'Publications', 'Resources', 'Revision History', 'Significant Changes', and 'Standards' (including AISC, APA, APSP, AWC, and ICC Standards).

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