

# **Understanding Energy Codes**

presented by

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# Some background

- The International Energy Conservation Code is a "model code" 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)
- The code can also provide a basis for construction claims-related litigation

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# Federal Register, May 17, 2012



Key points:

- US DOE has determined IECC 2012 will achieve greater energy efficiency in low-rise residential buildings than IECC 2009
- States must certify by May 17, 2014 their energy code meets or exceeds the levels of IECC 2012

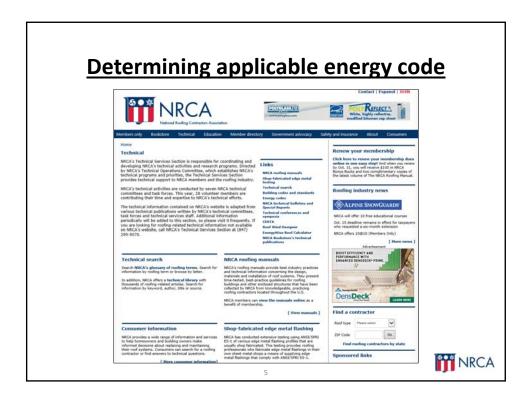
This triggers most states to update their state energy code

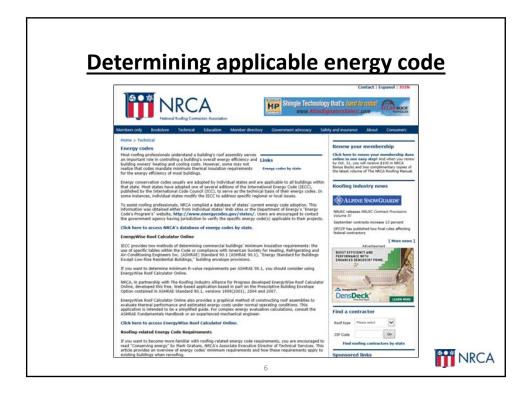
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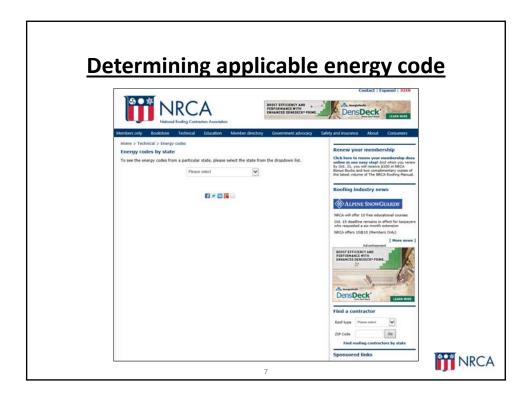
# **Determining applicable energy code**

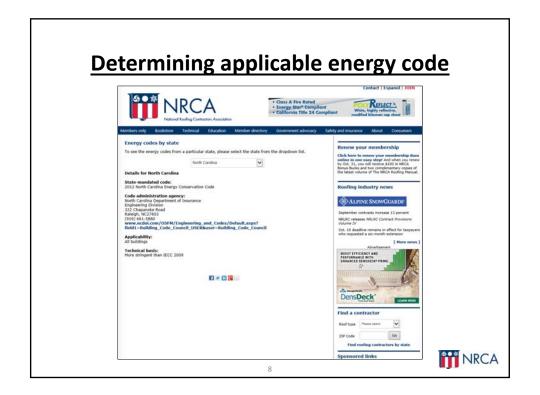


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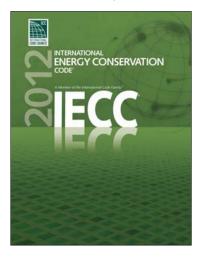








# International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition (IECC 2012)



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# Format of IECC 2012

#### <u> IECC – Commercial</u>

Ch. 1[CE]: Scope and Admin.

Ch. 2[CE]: Definitions

Ch. 3[CE]: General Req.

Ch. 4[CE]: Commercial Energy

Efficiency

Ch. 5[CE]: Referenced Stds.

Index

#### <u>IECC – Residential</u>

Ch. 1[RE]: Scope and Admin.

Ch. 2[RE]: Definitions

Ch. 3[RE]: General Req.

Ch. 4[RE]: Residential Energy

Efficiency

Ch. 5[RE]: Referenced Stds.

Index

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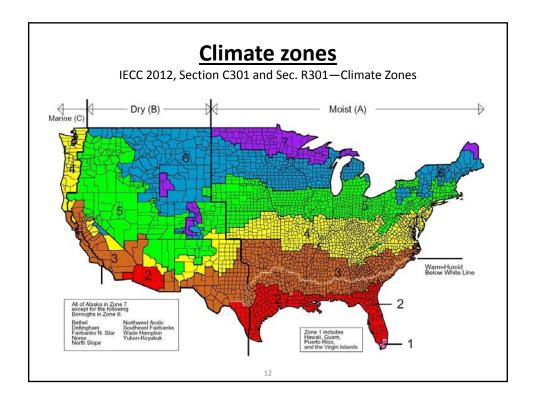
# **Commercial vs. Residential**

- Commercial unless Residential
- R202-General Definitions:

**Residential Building.** For this code, includes detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) as well as Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less in height above grade plane

11





# <u>IECC - Residential Provisions</u>

13



# Ch. 4[RE]—Residential Energy Efficiency

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

- Sec. R401—General
- Sec. R402—Building Thermal Envelope
- Sec. R403—Systems
- Sec. R404—Electrical Power and Lighting Systems
- Sec. R405—Simulated Performance Alternative

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#### Minimum thermal insulation requirements

IECC 2012, Section R402-Building Thermal Envelope

**R402.1 General (Prescriptive)**. The *building thermal envelope* shall meet the requirements of Sections R402.1.1 through R402.1.4.

**R402.1.1** Insulation and fenestration criteria. The building thermal envelope shall meet the requirements of Table R402.1.1 based upon the climate zone specified in Chapter 3.

**R402.1.2** *R*-value computation. Insulation material used in layers, such as framing cavity insulation and insulated sheathing, shall be summed to compute the component *R*-value. The manufacturer's settled *R*-value shall be used for blown insulation. Computed *R*-values shall not include an R-value for other building materials or air films



15

#### **Roofing-specific adaptation of Table R402.1**

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Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component <sup>a</sup>		
Climate zone	Ceiling R-value	
1	30	
2	38	
3		
4	49	
5		
6		
7		
8		
<sup>a</sup> R-values are minimums [Other footnotes omitted for clarity]		



**R402.2 Specific insulation requirements (Prescriptive).** In addition to the requirements of Section R402.1, insulation shall meet the specific requirements of Sections R402.2.1 through R402.2.12.

R402.2.1 Ceilings with attic spaces. When Section R402.1.1 would require R-38 in the ceiling, R-30 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-38 wherever the full height of uncompressed R-30 insulation extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. Similarly, R-38 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed R-38 insulation extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This reduction shall not apply to the U-factor alternative approach in Section R402.1.3 and the total UA alternative in Section R402.1.4.

17



**R402.2.2 Ceilings without attic spaces**. Where Section R402.1.1 would require insulation levels above R-30 and the design of the roof/ceiling assembly does not allow sufficient space for the required insulation, the minimum required insulation for such roof/ceiling assemblies shall be R-30. This reduction of insulation from the requirements of Section R402.1.1 shall be limited to 500 square feet (46 m²) or 20 percent of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This reduction shall not apply to the U-factor alternative approach in Section R402.1.3 and the total UA alternative in Section R402.1.4.

**R402.2.3 Eave baffle.** For air permeable insulations in vented attics, a baffle shall be installed adjacent to soffit and eave vents. Baffles shall maintain an opening equal or greater than the size of the vent. The baffle shall extend over the top of the attic insulation. The baffle shall be permitted to be any solid material.

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18

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## Air retarders

IECC 2012, Section R402.4-Air Leakage (Mandatory)

**R402.4** Air leakage (Mandatory). The building thermal envelope shall be constructed to limit air leakage in accordance with the requirements of Sections R402.4.1 through R402.4.4.

**R402.4.1 Building thermal envelope.** The building thermal envelope shall comply with Sections R402.4.1.1 and R402.4.1.2. The sealing methods between dissimilar materials shall allow for differential expansion and contraction.

**R402.4.1.1 Installation.** The components of the building thermal envelope as listed in Table R402.4.1.1 shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the criteria listed in Table R402.4.1.1, as applicable to the method of construction. Where required by the code official, an approved third party shall inspect all components and verify compliance. R402.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and 3 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8. Testing shall be conducted...

19

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10

## Roofing-specific adaptation of Table R402.4.1.1

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

Air Barrier and Insulation Installation				
Component	Criteria			
Air barrier and thermal barrier	A continuous air barrier shall be installed in the building envelope. Exterior thermal envelope contains a continuous air barrier. Breaks or joints sin the bar barrier shall be sealed. Air-permeable insulation shall not be used as a sealing material.			
Ceiling/attic	The air barrier in any dropped ceiling/soffit shall be aligned with the insulation and any gaps in the air barrier sealed.  Access openings, drop down stair or knee wall doors to unconditioned attic spaces shall be sealed.			

# <u>Summary – IECC 2012 – Residential Provisions</u>

- R-value increases
- Mandatory air barriers requirements

2



# <u>IECC – Commercial Provisions</u>



# Ch. 4[CE]—Commercial Energy Efficiency

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

- Sec. C401—General
- Sec. C402—Building Envelope Requirements
- Sec. C403—Building Mechanical Systems
- Sec. C404—Service Water Heating
- Sec. C405—Electrical Power and Lighting Systems
- Sec. C406—Additional Efficiency Package Options
- Sec. C407—Total Building Performance

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23

## Ch. 4—Commercial Energy Efficiency

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

**C401.2 Application.** Commercial buildings shall comply with one of the following:

- 1. The requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1
- 2. The requirements of Sections C402, C403, C404 and C405. In addition, commercial buildings shall comply with either Section C406.2, C406.3 or C406.4
- 3. The requirements of Section C407, C402.4, C403.2, C404, C405.2, C405.3, C405.4, C405.6 and C405.7. The building energy cost shall be equal to or less than 85 percent of the standard reference design building.

[Continued...]

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24

**C401.2.1 Application to existing buildings.** Additions, alterations and repairs to existing buildings shall comply with one of the following:

- 1. Sections C402, C403, C404 and C405; or
- 2. ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1

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2.5

## Minimum thermal insulation requirements

IECC 2009, Section C402.2—Specific insulation Requirements (Prescriptive)

**C402.2 Specific insulation requirements (Prescriptive).** Opaque assemblies shall comply with Table C402.2. Where two or more layers of continuous insulation board are used in a construction assembly, the continuous insulation boards shall be installed in accordance with Section C303.2. If the continuous insulation board manufacturer's installation instructions do not address installation of two or more layers, the edge joints between each layer of continuous insulation boards shall be staggered.

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26

**C402.2.1 Roof assembly.** The minimum thermal resistance (*R-value*) of the insulating material installed either between the roof framing or continuously on the roof assembly shall be as specified in Table C402.2, based on construction materials used in the roof assembly. Skylight curbs shall be insulated to the level of roofs with insulation entirely above deck or R-5, whichever is less.

#### **Exceptions:**

- 1. Continuously insulated roof assemblies where the thickness of insulation varies 1 inch (25 mm) or less and where the area-weighted *U-factor is* equivalent to the same assembly with the *R-value* specified in Table C402.2.
- 2. Unit skylight curbs included as a component of an NFRC 100 rated assembly shall not be required to be insulated.

Insulation installed on a suspended ceiling with removable ceiling tiles shall not be considered part of the minimum thermal resistance of the roof insulation,

#### **Roofing-specific adaptation of Table C402.2**

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

Opaque Thermal Envelope Assembly Requirements				
Climate zone	Roof assembly configuration			
	Insulation entirely above deck	Metal buildings (with R-5 thermal blocks)	Attic and other	
1	R-20ci			
2		R-19 + R-11 LS	R-38	
3				
4	R-25 ci			
5				
6	R-30ci	R-25 + R-11 LS		
7	R-35ci	R-30 + R-11 LS	R-49	
8		V-20 ± K-11 F2		

ci = Continuous insulation

28

LS = Liner system (a continuous membrane installed below the purlins and uninterrupted by framing members; uncompressed, faced insulation rests on top of the membrane between the purlins)

#### **R-value determination**

IECC 2012, Section C303.1.4-Insulation Product Rating

**C303.14** Insulation product rating. The thermal resistance (R-value) of insulation shall be determined in accordance with the U.S. Federal Trade commission R-value rule (CFR Title 16, Part 460) in units of h x ft<sup>2</sup> x  $^{\circ}$ F/Btu at a mean temperature of 75 $^{\circ}$ F (24 $^{\circ}$ C).

What about tapered insulation?



29

# <u>Tapered insulation</u>

International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition

**C402.2.1 Roof assembly.** The minimum thermal resistance (R-value) of the insulating material installed either between the roof framing or continuously on the roof assembly shall be as specified in Table C402.2, based on construction materials used in the roof assembly. Skylight curbs shall be insulated to the level of roofs with insulation entirely above deck or R-5, whichever is less.

#### **Exceptions:**

- 1. Continuously insulated roof assemblies where the thickness of insulation varies 1 inch (25 mm) or less and where the area-weighted *U-factor is* equivalent to the same assembly with the *R-value* specified in Table C402.2.
- 2....

IECC Commentary indicates Exception 1 applies to tapered insulation systems.



30

# **2012 IECC Code and Commentary**

Tapered insulation

"...The exception to this section permits a roof that is "continuously insulated" to have areas that do not meet the required *R*-values, provided that the area-weighted values are equivalent to the specified insulation values. This type of insulation referred to as tapered insulation is where the roof insulation varies to provide slope for drainage...."

[continued...]

31



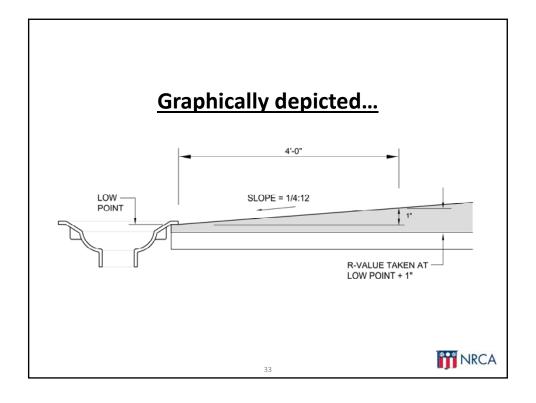
## **2012 IECC Code and Commentary**

Tapered insulation

"...This 1-inch (25 mm) limitation does not prevent the provisions from being applied to roofs that have a greater variation; it simply does not allow the additional thickness to be factored into the average insulation values. Where the variation exceeds 1 inch (25 mm), it would be permissible to go to the thinnest spot and measure the *R*-value at that point (for the example call this Point "a"). Then go to a point that is 1 inch (25 mm) thicker than Point "a" and measure the *R*-value there (for the example, call this Point "b"). The remaining portions of the roof that are thicker than the additional 1-inch (25 mm) portion (Point "b") would simply be assumed to have the same *R*-value that Point "b" had. All portions of the roof that meet or exceed the Point "b" *R*-value would simply use the Point "b" *R*-value when determining the area weighted *U*-factor for the roof. "

32





#### Solar reflectance and thermal emittance

IECC 2012, Section C402.2.1.1

**C402.2.1.1** Roof solar reflectance and thermal emittance. Low-sloped roofs, with a slope less than 2 units vertical in 12 horizontal, directly above cooled *conditioned spaces* in Climate Zones 1, 2, and 3 shall comply with one or more of the options in Table C402.2.1.1.

**Exceptions:** The following roofs and portions of roofs are exempt from the requirements in Table C402.2.1.1:

- 1. Portions of roofs that include or are covered by:
  - 1.1 Photovoltaic systems or components.
  - 1.2 Solar air or water heating systems or components.
  - 1.3 Roof gardens or landscaped roofs.
  - 1.4 Above-roof decks or walkways.
  - 1.5 Skylights.
  - 1.6 HVAC systems, components, and other opaque objects mounted above...

[Continued...]

34



# TABLE C402.2.1.1 MINIMUM ROOF REFLECTANCE AND EMITTANCE OPTIONS<sup>a</sup>

Three-year aged solar reflectance<sup>b</sup> of 0.55 and three-year aged thermal emittance of 0.75

Initial solar reflectance<sup>b</sup> of 0.70 and initial thermal emittance<sup>c</sup> of 0.75

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

Initial solar reflectance index<sup>d</sup> of 82

[Footnotes omitted for clarity]

35



## **Air retarders**

IECC 2012, Section C402.4-Air Leakage (Mandatory)

**C402.4 Air leakage (Mandatory).** The thermal envelope of buildings shall comply with Sections C402.4.1 through C402.4.8.

**C402.4.1 Air barriers.** A continuous air barrier shall be provided throughout the building thermal envelope. The air barriers shall be permitted to be located on the inside or outside of the building envelope, located within the assemblies composing the envelope, or any combination thereof. The air barrier shall comply with Sections C402.4.1.1 and C402.4.1.2.

**Exception:** Air barriers are not required in buildings located in Climate Zones 1, 2 and 3.

[Continued...]



**C402.4.1.1 Air barrier construction.** The *continuous air barrier* shall be constructed to comply with the following:

- 1. The air barrier shall be continuous for all assemblies that are the thermal envelope of the building and across the joints and assemblies.
- 2. Air barrier joints and seams shall be sealed, including sealing transitions in places and changes in materials. Air barrier penetrations shall be sealed in accordance with Section C402.4.2. The joints and seals shall be securely installed in or on the joint for its entire length so as not to dislodge, loosen or otherwise impair its ability to resist positive and negative pressure from wind, stack effect and mechanical ventilation.
- Recessed lighting fixtures shall comply with Section C404.2.8. Where similar objects are installed which penetrate the air barrier, provisions shall be made to maintain the integrity of the air barrier.

**Exception:** Buildings that comply with Section C402.4.1.2.3 are not required to comply with Items 1 and 3.

[Continued...]

37



**C402.4.1.2 Air barrier compliance options.** A continuous air barrier for the opaque building envelope shall comply with Section C402.4.1.2.1, C402.4.1.2.2, or C402.4.1.2.3.

**C402.4.1.2.1 Materials.** Materials with an air permeability no greater than 0.004 cfm/ft² (0.02 L/s  $\cdot$  m²) under a pressure differential of 0.3 inches water gauge (w.g.) (75 Pa) when tested in accordance with ASTM E 2178 shall comply with this section. Materials in Items 1 through 15 shall be deemed to comply with this section provided joints are sealed and materials are installed as air barriers in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

- 1. Plywood with a thickness of not less than 3/8 inch (10 mm).
- 2. Oriented strand board having a thickness of not less than 3/8 inch (10 mm).
- 3. Extruded polystyrene insulation board having a thickness of not less than 1/2 inch (12 mm).
- 4. Foil-back polyisocyanurate insulation board having a thickness of not less than 1/2 inch (12 mm).
- 5. Closed cell spray foam a minimum density of 1.5 pcf (2.4 kg/m³) having a thickness of not less than 1-1/2 inches (36 mm).

[Continued....]

38



- 6. Open cell spray foam with a density between 0.4 and 1.5 pcf (0.6 and 2.4 kg/m³) and having a thickness of not less than 4.5 inches (113 mm).
- Exterior or interior gypsum board having a thickness of not less than ½ inch (12 mm).
- Cement board having a thickness of not less than 1/2 inch (12 mm).
- 9. Built up roofing membrane.
- 10. Modified bituminous roof membrane.
- 11. Fully adhered single-ply roof membrane.
- 12. A Portland cement/sand parge, or gypsum plaster having a thickness of not less than 5/8 inch (16 mm).
- 13. Cast-in-place and precast concrete.
- 14. Fully grouted concrete block masonry.
- 15. Sheet steel or aluminum.

[Continued...]

39



**C402.4.1.2.2 Assemblies.** Assemblies of materials and components with an average air leakage not to exceed 0.04 cfm/ft² (0.2 L/s  $\cdot$  m²) under a pressure differential of 0.3 inches of water gauge (w.g.)(75 Pa) when tested in accordance with ASTM E 2357, ASTM E 1677 or ASTM E 283 shall comply with this section. Assemblies listed in Items 1 and 2 shall be deemed to comply provided joints are sealed and requirements of Section C402.4.1.1 are met.

- 1. Concrete masonry walls coated with one application either of block filler and two applications of a paint or sealer coating;
- 2. A Portland cement/sand parge, stucco or plaster minimum 1/2 inch (12 mm) in thickness.

**C402.4.1.2.3 Building test.** The completed building shall be tested and the air leakage rate of the *building envelope* shall not exceed 0.40 cfm/ft² at a pressure differential of 0.3 inches water gauge (2.0 L/s  $\cdot$  m² at 75 Pa) in accordance with ASTM E 779 or an equivalent method approved by the code official.

[Continued...]

40



**C402.4.2 Air barrier penetrations.** Penetrations of the air barrier and paths of air leakage shall be caulked, gasketed or otherwise sealed in a manner compatible with the construction materials and location. Joints and seals shall be sealed in the same manner or taped or covered with a moisture vapor-permeable wrapping material. Sealing materials shall be appropriate to the construction materials being sealed. The joints and seals shall be securely installed in or on the joint for its entire length so as not to dislodge, loosen or otherwise impair its ability to resist positive and negative pressure from wind, stack effect and mechanical ventilation.

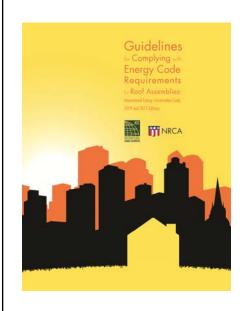
41



# <u>Summary – IECC 2012 – Commercial Provisions</u>

- R-value increases
- Mandatory reflectivity requirements in Climate Zones 1-3
- Air barriers requirements in Climate Zones 4-8





Guidelines for Complying with Energy Code Requirements for Roof Assemblies: International Energy Efficiency Code, 2009 and 2012 Editions

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43







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45