

**We built that.**

**Del E. Webb**  
School of Construction



**ASU** Ira A. Fulton Schools of  
Engineering  
Arizona State University



**Roofing Alliance Faculty Workshop**

# *Roofing and building codes*

presented by

**Mark S. Graham**

Vice President, Technical Services  
National Roofing Contractors Association

## 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).

## 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

## An ASTM primer

Establishing and maintaining standards for the roofing industry

by Mark S. Graham

A majority of the standards that apply within the roofing industry are developed by ASTM International. Although you most likely are aware of the "ASTM" designation, you may not be aware of how the organization operates and the different types of standards it develops and maintains.

ASTM International publishes more than 12,000 standards annually

### Overview

ASTM International is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards. ASTM International publishes more than 12,000 standards annually used around the world to establish product quality levels, enhance health and safety, facilitate market access and trade, and establish consumer confidence.

ASTM International has no technical research or testing facilities of its own. Instead, the organization relies on its members—more than 30,000 of the world's top technical experts and business professionals from more than 140 countries—and facilitates the process and provides venues for carrying out its mission.

ASTM International's standards development and maintenance activities are carried out by more than 140 ASTM technical committees. For example, its Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing is responsible for a majority of ASTM's roofing-related standards. Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation, Committee E05 on Fire Standards and Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings address roofing-related thermal insulation, fire testing and performance issues, respectively.

### Standards

ASTM International committees can develop four types of standards.

Test method standards define a specific method or series of methods for testing a material or product attribute. For example, ASTM D228, "Standard Test Methods for Sampling, Testing, and Analysis of Asphalt Roll Roofing, Cap Sheets, and Shingles Used in Roofing and Waterproofing," defines test methods for asphalt shingles, roll roofing and cap sheets.

Specification standards describe specific materials, products, systems or services and routinely include requirements for testing using ASTM International standard test methods. For example, ASTM D3462, "Standard Specification for Asphalt Shingles Made from Glass Felt and Surfaced with Mineral Granules," is the U.S. product standard defining fiberglass-reinforced asphalt shingles.

A standard practice is an accepted procedure for the performance of one or more operations or functions. In some cases, practices may include one or more test methods necessary for full use of the practice. For example, ASTM D7186, "Standard Practice for Quality Assurance Observation of Roof Construction and Repair," is the recognized consensus method for performing and reporting rooftop quality assurance observation during roof system application.

A standard guide is a compendium of information or series of options that does not recommend a specific course of action. Guides are intended to increase the awareness of information and approaches in a given subject area. Guides may propose a series of options or instructions that offer

direction without recommending a definite course of action. A guide standard offers guidance based on a consensus of viewpoints but not to establish a standard practice to follow in all cases. For example, ASTM D7877, "Standard Guide for Electronic Methods for Detecting and Locating Leaks in Waterproof Membranes," provides commentary regarding electrical conductance testing of waterproofing membranes but does not provide specific practice or test method information.

ASTM International test methods, specifications and practice standards are appropriate to be referenced in project specifications, contracts and building codes. Because of their "information only" nature, ASTM International guide specifications are not.

### Participation

A large number of NRCA member companies and, in some cases, individual company personnel are members of ASTM International, and many of them participate in various ASTM committees.

NRCA's Technical Services Section's staff members also are members of various ASTM technical committees. For example, I am a member of Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units, C16, D08, E05 and E06. I also serve on the Executive Committee for Committee D08.

Additional information regarding ASTM International is available at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org). If you are not already an ASTM member, I encourage you to consider joining and participating in one or more of ASTM's technical committees. ●●●

**MARK S. GRAHAM** is NRCA's vice president of technical services.

# Professional Roofing, November 2016

[Link](#)

# Consider becoming an ASTM member...

[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

## Become a Student Member

**Join Your Future Peers - Today. Become an ASTM Student Member!**

As a Student Member of ASTM International, you'll be part of a prestigious worldwide network of technical experts and business leaders who develop standards for quality and testing. An ASTM membership is more than an instant plus for your resume. It's a front row seat to the standardization process, enhancing your knowledge in the subject of standards before you start using them in the workplace.

---

### **Exciting Benefits for Student Members**

- Receive Electronic editions of ASTM Magazines and Newsletters
- Free Attendance at ASTM Symposia
- Participation in Student Competition and Opportunities to Publish
- Reduced Memberships Fees Upon Graduation

**Apply Online**

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

# Some background

## Building codes in roofing

- The I-codes are “model codes” developed by the International Code Council (ICC)
- The I-codes are updated and published on a three-year cycle
- 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

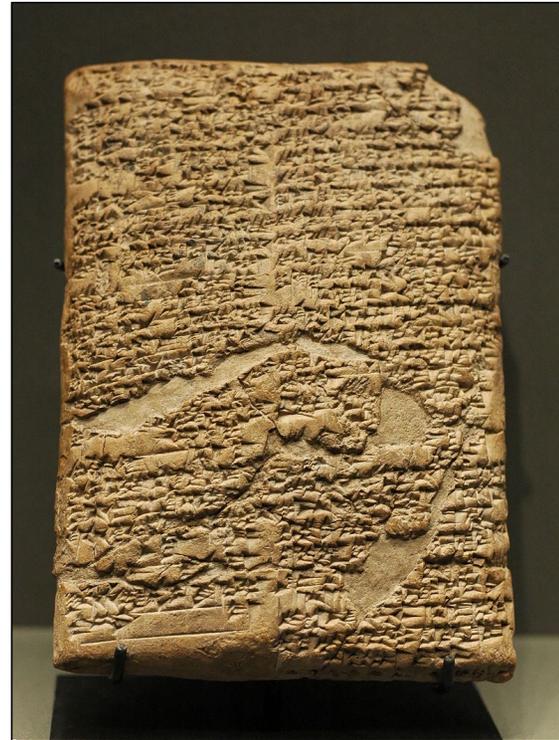
# The purpose of the code

*International Building Code, 2018*

**[A] 101.3 Intent.** The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, public health and general welfare through structural strength, *means of egress* facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire, explosion and other hazards, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

## 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



## 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



## Code enforcement

- Code official
- Construction litigation



## 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)*



# 2018 COMPLETE COLLECTION

## **I-codes commonly applicable to roofing**

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

## ***International Building Code, 2018 Edition***



- Applicable to all buildings and structures, excepts those applicable to IRC 2018
- 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

# **Significant roof requirements**

*International Building Code, 2018 Edition, Chapter 15-Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures*

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

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 such as photovoltaic shingles. Section 1510 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 2018 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. All other code change proposals will be considered by the IBC—Structural Code Development Committee during the 2019 (Group B) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.*

**[P]** 1502.1.1 **General.** Design and construction of roof drainage systems shall comply with Section 1502 of this code and Sections 1106 and 1108, as applicable, of the *International Plumbing Code*.

**[P]** 1502.2 **Secondary (emergency overflow) drains or scuppers.** Where roof drains are required, secondary (emergency overflow) roof drains or scuppers shall be provided where the roof perimeter construction extends above the roof in such a manner that water will be entrapped if the primary drains allow buildup for any reason. The installation and sizing of secondary emergency overflow drains, leaders and conductors shall comply with Sections 1106 and 1108, as applicable, of the *International Plumbing Code*.

**1502.3 Scuppers.** Where scuppers are used for secondary (emergency overflow) roof drainage, the quantity, size, location and inlet elevation of the scuppers shall be sized to prevent the depth of ponding water from exceeding that for which the roof was designed as determined by Section 1611.1. Scuppers shall not have an opening dimension of less than 4 inches (102 mm). The flow through the primary system shall not be considered when locating and sizing scuppers.

**1502.4 Gutters.** Gutters and leaders placed on the outside of buildings, other than Group R-3, private garages and buildings of Type V construction, shall be of noncombustible material or not less than Schedule 40 plastic pipe.

at intersections with parapet walls and other penetrations through the roof plane.

**1503.2.1 Location.** Flashing shall be installed at wall and roof intersections, at gutters, wherever there is a change in roof slope or direction and around roof openings. Where flashing is of metal, the metal shall be corrosion resistant with a thickness of not less than 0.019 inch (0.483 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet).

**1503.3 Coping.** Parapet walls shall be properly coped with noncombustible, 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:** Unit skylights installed in accordance with Section 2405.5 and flashed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted to be installed without a cricket or saddle.

## 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 such as photovoltaic shingles. Section 1510 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 2018 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. All other code change proposals will be considered by the IBC—Structural Code Development Committee during the 2019 (Group B) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

### SECTION 1501 GENERAL

**1501.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the design, materials, construction and quality of roof assemblies, and rooftop structures.

### SECTION 1502 ROOF DRAINAGE

**[P] 1502.1 General.** Design and installation of roof drainage systems shall comply with Section 1502 of this code and Sections 1106 and 1108, as applicable, of the *International Plumbing Code*.

**[P] 1502.2 Secondary (emergency overflow) drains or scuppers.** Where roof drains are required, secondary (emergency overflow) roof drains or scuppers shall be provided where the roof perimeter construction extends above the roof in such a manner that water will be entrapped if the primary drains allow buildup for any reason. The installation and sizing of secondary emergency overflow drains, leaders and conductors shall comply with Sections 1106 and 1108, as applicable, of the *International Plumbing Code*.

**1502.3 Scuppers.** Where scuppers are used for secondary (emergency overflow) roof drainage, the quantity, size, location and inlet elevation of the scuppers shall be sized to prevent the depth of ponding water from exceeding that for which the roof was designed as determined by Section 1611.1. Scuppers shall not have an opening dimension of less than 4 inches (102 mm). The flow through the primary system shall not be considered when locating and sizing scuppers.

**1502.4 Gutters.** Gutters and leaders placed on the outside of buildings, other than Group R-3, private garages and buildings of Type V construction, shall be of noncombustible material or not less than Schedule 40 plastic pipe.

### 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 be designed in accordance with this code, and installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's *approved* instructions.

**1503.2 Flashing.** Flashing shall be installed in such a manner so as to prevent water from entering the wall and roof through joints in copings, through moisture-permeable materials and at intersections with parapet walls and other penetrations through the roof plane.

**1503.2.1 Location.** Flashing shall be installed at wall and roof intersections, at gutters, wherever there is a change in roof slope or direction and around roof openings. Where flashing is of metal, the metal shall be corrosion resistant with a thickness of not less than 0.019 inch (0.483 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet).

**1503.3 Coping.** Parapet walls shall be properly coped with noncombustible, 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:** Unit skylights installed in accordance with Section 2405.5 and flashed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted to be installed without a cricket or saddle.

Deletion arrow

Revision bar

SECTION 1504  
PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

roof systems, metal panel roof systems applied to a solid or closely fitted deck and other types of membrane roof systems, FM 4474, UL

# SECTION 1504 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

**1504.1 Wind resistance of roofs.** Roof decks and roof coverings shall be designed for wind loads in accordance with Chapter 16 and Sections 1504.2, 1504.3 and 1504.4.

ASCE 7-16

**1504.2 Wind resistance of clay and concrete tile.** Wind loads on clay and concrete tile roof coverings shall be in accordance with Section 1609.5.

**1504.2.1 Testing.** Testing of concrete and clay roof tiles shall be in accordance with Sections 1504.2.1.1 and 1504.2.1.2.

**1504.2.1.1 Overturning resistance.** Concrete and clay roof tiles shall be tested to determine their resistance to overturning due to wind in accordance with Chapter 15 and either SBCCI SSTD 11 or ASTM C1568.

**1504.2.1.2 Wind tunnel testing.** Where concrete and clay roof tiles do not satisfy the limitations in Chapter 16 for rigid tile, a wind tunnel test shall be used to determine the wind characteristics of the concrete or clay tile roof covering in accordance with SBCCI SSTD 11 and Chapter 15.

**1504.3 Wind resistance of nonballasted roofs.** Roof coverings installed on roofs in accordance with Section 1507 that are mechanically attached or adhered to the roof deck shall be

**1504.3 Wind resistance of nonballasted roofs.** Roof coverings installed on roofs in accordance with Section 1507 that are mechanically attached or adhered to the roof deck shall be designed to resist the design wind load pressures for components and cladding in accordance with Section 1609.5.2. The wind load on the roof covering shall be permitted to be determined using allowable stress design.

ASCE 7-16's ASD method

2. Metal roofs constructed of aluminum shall be permitted to be designed and tested in accordance with the applicable referenced structural design standard in Section 2002.1.

**1504.3.3 Metal roof shingles.** Metal roof shingles applied to a solid or closely fitted deck shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D3161, FM 4474, UL 580 or UL 1897. Metal roof shingles tested in accordance with ASTM D3161 shall meet the classification requirements of Table 1504.1.1 for the appropriate maximum basic wind speed and the metal shingle packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with ASTM D3161 and the required classification in Table 1504.1.1.

**1504.4 Ballasted low-slope roof systems.** Ballasted low-slope (roof slope < 2:12) single-ply roof system coverings installed in accordance with Sections 1507.12 and 1507.13 shall be designed in accordance with Section 1504.8 and

systems. Where deck and roof system shall be tested in accordance with Chapter 16 and methods RE-1, RE-2, RE-3, RE-4, RE-5, RE-6, RE-7, RE-8, RE-9, RE-10, RE-11, RE-12, RE-13, RE-14, RE-15, RE-16, RE-17, RE-18, RE-19, RE-20, RE-21, RE-22, RE-23, RE-24, RE-25, RE-26, RE-27, RE-28, RE-29, RE-30, RE-31, RE-32, RE-33, RE-34, RE-35, RE-36, RE-37, RE-38, RE-39, RE-40, RE-41, RE-42, RE-43, RE-44, RE-45, RE-46, RE-47, RE-48, RE-49, RE-50, RE-51, RE-52, RE-53, RE-54, RE-55, RE-56, RE-57, RE-58, RE-59, RE-60, RE-61, RE-62, RE-63, RE-64, RE-65, RE-66, RE-67, RE-68, RE-69, RE-70, RE-71, RE-72, RE-73, RE-74, RE-75, RE-76, RE-77, RE-78, RE-79, RE-80, RE-81, RE-82, RE-83, RE-84, RE-85, RE-86, RE-87, RE-88, RE-89, RE-90, RE-91, RE-92, RE-93, RE-94, RE-95, RE-96, RE-97, RE-98, RE-99, RE-100.

formed steel and tested in accordance with Chapter 16 and methods RE-1, RE-2, RE-3, RE-4, RE-5, RE-6, RE-7, RE-8, RE-9, RE-10, RE-11, RE-12, RE-13, RE-14, RE-15, RE-16, RE-17, RE-18, RE-19, RE-20, RE-21, RE-22, RE-23, RE-24, RE-25, RE-26, RE-27, RE-28, RE-29, RE-30, RE-31, RE-32, RE-33, RE-34, RE-35, RE-36, RE-37, RE-38, RE-39, RE-40, RE-41, RE-42, RE-43, RE-44, RE-45, RE-46, RE-47, RE-48, RE-49, RE-50, RE-51, RE-52, RE-53, RE-54, RE-55, RE-56, RE-57, RE-58, RE-59, RE-60, RE-61, RE-62, RE-63, RE-64, RE-65, RE-66, RE-67, RE-68, RE-69, RE-70, RE-71, RE-72, RE-73, RE-74, RE-75, RE-76, RE-77, RE-78, RE-79, RE-80, RE-81, RE-82, RE-83, RE-84, RE-85, RE-86, RE-87, RE-88, RE-89, RE-90, RE-91, RE-92, RE-93, RE-94, RE-95, RE-96, RE-97, RE-98, RE-99, RE-100.

f. Low-slope system metal designed in accordance with Chapter 16 and methods RE-1, RE-2, RE-3, RE-4, RE-5, RE-6, RE-7, RE-8, RE-9, RE-10, RE-11, RE-12, RE-13, RE-14, RE-15, RE-16, RE-17, RE-18, RE-19, RE-20, RE-21, RE-22, RE-23, RE-24, RE-25, RE-26, RE-27, RE-28, RE-29, RE-30, RE-31, RE-32, RE-33, RE-34, RE-35, RE-36, RE-37, RE-38, RE-39, RE-40, RE-41, RE-42, RE-43, RE-44, RE-45, RE-46, RE-47, RE-48, RE-49, RE-50, RE-51, RE-52, RE-53, RE-54, RE-55, RE-56, RE-57, RE-58, RE-59, RE-60, RE-61, RE-62, RE-63, RE-64, RE-65, RE-66, RE-67, RE-68, RE-69, RE-70, RE-71, RE-72, RE-73, RE-74, RE-75, RE-76, RE-77, RE-78, RE-79, RE-80, RE-81, RE-82, RE-83, RE-84, RE-85, RE-86, RE-87, RE-88, RE-89, RE-90, RE-91, RE-92, RE-93, RE-94, RE-95, RE-96, RE-97, RE-98, RE-99, RE-100.

581
FM D3161
CLASSIFICATION
D or F
D or F
D or F
F
F
F
F
F
F

or less. Additional calculations are

**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, $V_{asd}$ <sup>a</sup> 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.

clay roof tiles do not satisfy the limitations in Chapter 1504 and the metal shingle packaging shall bear a label to indicate

RE-2 and RE-3 of ANSI/SPRI ES-1, except basic design wind speed,  $V$ , shall be determined from Figures 1609.3(1)

SECTION 1505  
FIRE CLASSIFICATION

## 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.

b. For interpenetrations, Tables 1505.1 and 1505.2 shall be used. Where the maximum value of  $V_{max}$  shall be used, or direct interpolation is permitted.  
c. NP = gravel and stone not permitted for any roof height.  
d.  $V_{max}$  shall be determined in accordance with Section 1609.3.1.

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.

**[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.

**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.

## ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

[BF] **1505.3 Class B roof assemblies.** Class B roof assemblies are those that are effective against moderate fire-test exposure. Class B roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class B by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.4 Class C roof assemblies.** Class C roof assemblies are those that are effective against light fire-test exposure. Class C roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class C by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.5 Nonclassified roofing.** Nonclassified roofing is *approved* material that is not *listed* as a Class A, B or C roof covering.

[BF] **1505.6 Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes.** *Fire-retardant-treated wood* shakes and shingles shall be treated by impregnation with chemicals by the full-cell vacuum-pressure process, in accordance with AWPA C1. Each bundle shall be marked to identify the manufactured unit and the manufacturer, and shall be *labeled* to identify the classification of the material in accordance with the testing required in Section 1505.1, the treating company and the quality control agency.

[BF] **1505.7 Special purpose roofs.** Special purpose wood shingle or wood shake roofing shall conform to the grading and application requirements of Section 1507.8 or 1507.9. In addition, an underlayment of  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (15.9 mm) Type X water-resistant gypsum backing board or gypsum sheathing shall be placed under minimum nominal  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick (12.7 mm) wood structural panel solid sheathing or 1-inch (25 mm) nominal spaced sheathing.

[BF] **1505.8 Building-integrated photovoltaic products.** *Building-integrated photovoltaic products* installed as the roof covering shall be tested, *listed* and *labeled* for fire classification in accordance with Section 1505.1.

**1506.3 Product identification.** Roof-covering materials shall be delivered in packages bearing the manufacturer's identifying marks and *approved* testing agency labels required in accordance with Section 1505. Bulk shipments of materials shall be accompanied with the same information issued in the form of a certificate or on a bill of lading by the manufacturer.

## SECTION 1507 REQUIREMENTS FOR ROOF COVERINGS

**1507.1 Scope.** Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**1507.1.1 Underlayment.** Underlayment for asphalt shingles, clay and concrete tile, metal roof shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, slate and slate-type shingles, wood shingles, wood shakes, metal roof panels and photovoltaic shingles shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter. Underlayment materials required to comply with ASTM D226, D1970, D4869 and D6757 shall bear a label indicating compliance with the standard designation and, if applicable, type classification indicated in Table 1507.1.1(1). Underlayment shall be applied in accordance with Table 1507.1.1(2). Underlayment shall be attached in accordance with Table 1507.1.1(3).

### Exceptions:

1. As an alternative, self-adhering polymer modified bitumen underlayment complying with ASTM D1970 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions for the deck material, roof ventilation configuration and climate exposure for the roof covering to be installed shall be permitted.

As an alternative, a minimum 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strip of self-adhering polymer modified bitumen membrane complying with ASTM D1970 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions for the deck material shall be applied over all joints in the roof decking. An approved underlayment for the applicable roof covering for design wind speeds less than 120 mph (54 m/s) shall be applied over the 4-inch-wide (102 mm) membrane strips.

As an alternative, two layers of underlayment complying with ASTM D226 Type II or ASTM D4869 Type IV shall be permitted to be installed as follows: Apply a 19-inch (483 mm) strip of underlayment parallel with the eave. Starting at the eave, apply 36-inch-wide (914 mm) strips of underlayment felt, overlapping successive sheets 19 inches (483 mm). The underlayment shall be attached with corrosion-resistant fasteners in a grid pattern of 12 inches (305 mm) between side laps with a 6-inch (152 mm) spacing at side and end laps. End laps shall

## SECTION 1506 MATERIALS

**1506.1 Scope.** The requirements set forth in this section shall apply to the application of roof-covering materials specified herein. Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with this chapter and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Installation of roof coverings shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 1507.

## ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

[BF] **1505.3 Class B roof assemblies.** Class B roof assemblies are those that are effective against moderate fire-test exposure. Class B roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class B by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.4 Class C roof assemblies.** Class C roof assemblies are those that are effective against light fire-test exposure. Class C roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class C by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.5 Nonclassified roofing.** Nonclassified roofing is *approved* material that is not *listed* as a Class A, B or C roof covering.

[BF] **1505.6 Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes.** *Fire-retardant-treated* wood shakes and shingles shall be treated by impregnation with chemicals by the full-cell vacuum-pressure process, in accordance with AWPA C1. Each bundle shall be marked to identify the manufactured unit and the manufacturer, and shall be *labeled* to identify the classification of the material in accordance with the testing required in Section 1505.1, the treating company and the quality control agency.

[BF] **1505.7 Special purpose roofs.** Special purpose wood shingle or wood shake roofing shall conform to the grading and application requirements of Section 1507.8 or 1507.9. In addition, an underlayment of  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (15.9 mm) Type X water-resistant gypsum backing board or gypsum sheathing shall be placed under minimum nominal  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick (12.7 mm) wood structural panel solid sheathing or 1-inch (25 mm) nominal spaced sheathing.

[BF] **1505.8 Building-integrated photovoltaic products.** *Building-integrated photovoltaic products* installed as the roof covering shall be tested, *listed* and *labeled* for fire classification in accordance with Section 1505.1.

[BF] **1505.9 Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panel systems.** Rooftop rack-mounted *photovoltaic panel systems* shall be tested, *listed* and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703 and UL 2703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.

[BF] **1505.10 Roof gardens and landscaped roofs.** Roof gardens and landscaped roofs shall comply with Section 1505.1 and 1507.16 and shall be installed in accordance with ANSI/SPRI VF-1.

## SECTION 1506 MATERIALS

**1506.1 Scope.** The requirements set forth in this section shall apply to the application of roof-covering materials specified herein. Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with this chapter and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Installation of roof coverings shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 1507.

**1506.2 Material specifications and physical characteristics.** Roof-covering materials shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter.

**1506.3 Product identification.** Roof-covering materials shall be delivered in packages bearing the manufacturer's identifying marks and *approved* testing agency labels required in accordance with Section 1505. Bulk shipments of materials shall be accompanied with the same information issued in the form of a certificate or on a bill of lading by the manufacturer.

## SECTION 1507 REQUIREMENTS FOR ROOF COVERINGS

**1507.1 Scope.** Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**1507.1.1 Underlayment.** Underlayment for asphalt shingles, clay and concrete tile, metal roof shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, slate and slate-type shingles, wood shingles, wood shakes, metal roof panels and photovoltaic shingles shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter. Underlayment materials required to comply with ASTM D226, D1970, D4869 and D6757 shall bear a label indicating compliance with the standard designation and, if applicable, type classification indicated in Table 1507.1.1(1). Underlayment shall be applied in accordance with Table 1507.1.1(2). Underlayment shall be attached in accordance with Table 1507.1.1(3).

### Exceptions:

1. As an alternative, self-adhering polymer modified bitumen underlayment complying with ASTM D1970 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions for the deck material, roof ventilation configuration and climate exposure for the roof covering to be installed shall be permitted.
2. As an alternative, a minimum 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strip of self-adhering polymer modified bitumen membrane complying with ASTM D1970 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions for the deck material shall be applied over all joints in the roof decking. An approved underlayment for the applicable roof covering for design wind speeds less than 120 mph (54 m/s) shall be applied over the 4-inch-wide (102 mm) membrane strips.
3. As an alternative, two layers of underlayment complying with ASTM D226 Type II or ASTM D4869 Type IV shall be permitted to be installed as follows: Apply a 19-inch (483 mm) strip of underlayment parallel with the eave. Starting at the eave, apply 36-inch-wide (914 mm) strips of underlayment felt, overlapping successive sheets 19 inches (483 mm). The underlayment shall be attached with corrosion-resistant fasteners in a grid pattern of 12 inches (305 mm) between side laps with a 6-inch (152 mm) spacing at side and end laps. End laps shall

Prescriptive  
requirements

# Roof system types

Prescriptive requirement in Section 1507

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

## ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

[BF] **1505.3 Class B roof assemblies.** Class B roof assemblies are those that are effective against moderate fire-test exposure. Class B roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class B by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.4 Class C roof assemblies.** Class C roof assemblies are those that are effective against light fire-test exposure. Class C roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class C by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] **1505.5 Nonclassified roofing.** Nonclassified roofing is *approved* material that is not *listed* as a Class A, B or C roof covering.

[BF] **1505.6 Fire-retardant-treated wood shingle and shakes.** *Fire-retardant-treated wood* shakes and shingles shall be treated by impregnation with chemicals by the full-cell vacuum-pressure process, in accordance with AWPA C1. Each bundle shall be marked to identify the manufactured unit and the manufacturer, and shall be *labeled* to identify the classification of the material in accordance with the testing required in Section 1505.1, the treating company and the quality control agency.

[BF] **1505.7 Special purpose roofs.** Special purpose wood shingle or wood shake roofing shall conform to the grading and application requirements of Section 1507.8 or 1507.9. In addition, an underlayment of 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) Type X water-resistant gypsum backing board or gypsum sheathing shall be placed under minimum nominal 1/2-inch-thick (12.7 mm) wood structural panel solid sheathing or 1-inch (25 mm) nominal spaced sheathing.

[BF] **1505.8 Building-integrated photovoltaic products.** *Building-integrated photovoltaic products* installed as the roof covering shall be tested, *listed* and *labeled* for fire classification in accordance with Section 1505.1.

[BF] **1505.9 Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panel systems.** Rooftop rack-mounted *photovoltaic panel systems* shall be tested, *listed* and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703 and UL 2703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.

[BF] **1505.10 Roof gardens and landscaped roofs.** Roof gardens and landscaped roofs shall comply with Section 1505.1 and 1507.16 and shall be installed in accordance with ANSI/SPRI VF-1.

## SECTION 1506 MATERIALS

**1506.1 Scope.** The requirements set forth in this section shall apply to the application of roof-covering materials specified herein. Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with this chapter and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Installation of roof coverings shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 1507.

**1506.2 Material specifications and physical characteristics.** Roof-covering materials shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter.

**1506.3 Product identification.** Roof-covering materials shall be delivered in packages bearing the manufacturer's identifying marks and *approved* testing agency labels required in accordance with Section 1505. Bulk shipments of materials shall be accompanied with the same information issued in the form of a certificate or on a bill of lading by the manufacturer.

## SECTION 1507 REQUIREMENTS FOR ROOF COVERINGS

**1507.1 Scope.** Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**1507.13 Thermoplastic single-ply roofing.** The installation of thermoplastic single-ply roofing shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**1507.13.1 Slope.** Thermoplastic single-ply membrane roofs shall have a design slope of not less than one-fourth unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent slope).

**1507.13.2 Material standards.** Thermoplastic single-ply roof coverings shall comply with ASTM D4434, ASTM D6754 or ASTM D6878.

**1507.13.3 Ballasted thermoplastic low-slope roofs.** Ballasted thermoplastic low-slope roofs (roof slope < 2:12) shall be installed in accordance with this section and Section 1504.4. Stone used as ballast shall comply with ASTM D448 or ASTM D7655.

strip of underlayment parallel with the eave. Starting at the eave, apply 36-inch-wide (914 mm) strips of underlayment felt, overlapping successive sheets 19 inches (483 mm). The underlayment shall be attached with corrosion-resistant fasteners in a grid pattern of 12 inches (305 mm) between side laps with a 6-inch (152 mm) spacing at side and end laps. End laps shall

ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

[BF] 1505.3 **Class B roof assemblies.** Class B roof assemblies are those that are effective against moderate fire-test exposure. Class B roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class B by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] 1505.4 **Class C roof assemblies.** Class C roof assemblies are those that are effective against light fire-test exposure. Class C roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be *listed* and identified as Class C by an *approved* testing agency.

[BF] 1505.5 **Nonclassified roofing.** Nonclassified roofing is *approved* material that is not *listed* as a Class A, B or C roof covering.

[BF] 1505.6 **Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes.** *Fire-retardant-treated wood* shakes and shingles shall be treated by impregnation with chemicals by the full-cell vacuum-pressure process, in accordance with AWPA C1. Each bundle shall be marked to identify the manufactured unit and the manufacturer, and shall be *labeled* to identify the classification of the material in accordance with the testing required in Section 1505.1, the treating company and the quality control agency.

[BF] 1505.7 **Special purpose roofs.** Special purpose wood shingle or wood shake roofing shall conform to the grading and application requirements of Section 1507.8 or 1507.9. In addition, an underlayment of 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) Type X water-resistant gypsum backing board or gypsum sheathing shall be placed under minimum nominal 1/2-inch-thick (12.7 mm) wood structural panel solid sheathing or 1-inch (25 mm) nominal spaced sheathing.

[BF] 1505.8 **Building-integrated photovoltaic products.** *Building-integrated photovoltaic products* installed as the roof covering shall be tested, *listed* and *labeled* for fire classification in accordance with Section 1505.1.

[BF] 1505.9 **Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panel systems.** Rooftop rack-mounted *photovoltaic panel systems* shall be tested, *listed* and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703 and UL 2703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.

[BF] 1505.10 **Roof gardens and landscaped roofs.** Roof gardens and landscaped roofs shall comply with Section 1505.1 and 1507.16 and shall be installed in accordance with ANSI/SPRI VF-1.

**SECTION 1506  
MATERIALS**

1506.1 **Scope.** The requirements set forth in this section shall apply to the application of roof-covering materials specified herein. Roof coverings shall be applied in accordance with this chapter and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Installation of roof coverings shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 1507.

1506.2 **Material specifications and physical characteristics.** Roof-covering materials shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter.

1507.7 **Slate shingles.** The installation of slate shingles shall comply with the provisions of this section.

1507.7.1 **Deck requirements.** Slate shingles shall be fastened to solidly sheathed roofs.

1507.7.2 **Deck slope.** Slate shingles shall only be used on slopes of four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (4:12) or greater.

1507.7.3 **Underlayment.** Underlayment shall comply with Section 1507.1.1.

1507.7.4 **Ice barrier.** Where required, ice barriers shall comply with Section 1507.1.2.

1507.7.5 **Material standards.** Slate shingles shall comply with ASTM C406.

1507.7.6 **Application.** Minimum headlap for slate shingles shall be in accordance with Table 1507.7.6. Slate shingles shall be secured to the roof with two fasteners per slate.

**TABLE 1507.7.6  
SLATE SHINGLE HEADLAP**

SLOPE	HEADLAP (inches)
4:12 < slope < 8:12	4
8:12 < slope < 20:12	3
slope ≥ 20:12	2

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

1507.7.7 **Flashing.** Flashing and counterflashing shall be made with sheet metal. Valley flashing shall be not less than 15 inches (381 mm) wide. Valley and flashing metal shall be a minimum uncoated thickness of 0.0179-inch (0.455 mm) zinc-coated G90. Chimneys, stucco or brick walls shall have not fewer than two plies of felt for a cap flashing consisting of a 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strip of felt set in plastic cement and extending 1 inch (25 mm) above the first felt and a top coating of plastic cement. The felt shall extend over the base flashing 2 inches (51 mm).

ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

1507.18.7 **Wind resistance.** BIPV roof panels shall be tested in accordance with UL 1897. BIPV roof panel packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with UL 1897.

**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 26.
2. Where a 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.

**SECTION 1510  
ROOFTOP STRUCTURES**

[BG] 1510.1 **General.** The provisions of this section shall govern the construction of rooftop structures.

1510.1.1 **Area limitation.** The aggregate area of penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not exceed one-third the area of the supporting roof deck. Such penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not be required to be included in determining the building area or number of stories as regulated by Section 503.1. The area of such penthouses shall not be included in determining the fire area specified in Section 901.7.

[BG] 1510.2 **Penthouses.** Penthouses in compliance with Sections 1510.2.1 through 1510.2.5 shall be considered as a portion of the story directly below the roof deck on which such penthouses are located. Other penthouses shall be considered as an additional story of the building.

[BG] 1510.2.1 **Height above roof deck.** Penthouses constructed on buildings of other than Type I construction shall not exceed 18 feet (5486 mm) in height above the

[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

height of the roof of buildings limited in height.

ose tanks or elevators houses shall be permitted of 28 feet (8534 mm)

penthouses shall not be letter of mechanical or rs and related machine roof assembly.

n. Provisions such as hall be made to protect ment and the building

n. Penthouses shall be pofs as required for the e on which such pent-

nstruction, the exterior ses with a *fire separa-* 5 feet (1524 mm) and ) shall be permitted to r fire-resistance rating. is of penthouses with a 20 feet (6096 mm) or ed to have a fire-resis-

nstruction two stories ide plane or of Type II walls and roofs of pent- *ation distance* greater less than 20 feet (6096 have not less than a 1- or a lesser fire-resis-

ONAL BUILDING CODE\*

1507.18.7 **Wind resistance.** BIPV roof panels shall be tested in accordance with UL 1897. BIPV roof panel packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with UL 1897.

**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 NFPA 276 or UL 1256 when tested as an assembly.

**Exceptions:**

1. Foam plastic roof insulation shall comply with the material and installation requirements of Section 1507.18.7.
2. Where a 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

**SECTION 1509**

**RADIANT BARRIERS INSTALLED ABOVE DECK**

[BF] 1509.1 **General.** A *radiant barrier* installed above a deck shall comply with Sections 1509.2 through 1509.4.

[BF] 1509.2 **Fire testing.** *Radiant barriers* shall be permitted for use above decks where the *radiant barrier* is covered with an approved roof covering and the system consisting of the *radiant barrier* and the roof covering complies with the requirements of either FM 4450 or UL 1256.

[BF] 1509.3 **Installation.** The low emittance surface of the *radiant barrier* shall face the continuous airspace between the *radiant barrier* and the roof covering.

[BF] 1509.4 **Material standards.** A *radiant barrier* installed above a deck shall comply with ASTM C1313/1313M.

**SECTION 1510  
ROOFTOP STRUCTURES**

**SECTION 1510  
ROOFTOP STRUCTURES**

[BG] 1510.1 **General.** The provisions of this section shall govern the construction of rooftop structures.

such penthouses are located. Other penthouses shall be considered as an additional story of the building.

[BG] 1510.2.1 **Height above roof deck.** Penthouses constructed on buildings of other than Type I construction shall not exceed 18 feet (5486 mm) in height above the roof deck as measured to the average height of the roof of the penthouse. Penthouses located on the roof of buildings of Type I construction shall not be limited in height.

**Exception:** Where used to enclose tanks or elevators that travel to the roof level, penthouses shall be permitted to have a maximum height of 28 feet (8534 mm) above the roof deck.

[BG] 1510.2.2 **Use limitations.** Penthouses shall not be used for purposes other than the shelter of mechanical or electrical equipment, tanks, elevators and related machinery, or vertical shaft openings in the roof assembly.

[BG] 1510.2.3 **Weather protection.** Provisions such as louvers, louver blades or flashing shall be made to protect the mechanical and electrical equipment and the building interior from the elements.

[BG] 1510.2.4 **Type of construction.** Penthouses shall be constructed with walls, floors and roofs as required for the type of construction of the building on which such penthouses are built.

**Exceptions:**

1. On buildings of Type I construction, the exterior walls and roofs of penthouses with a *fire separation distance* greater than 5 feet (1524 mm) and less than 20 feet (6096 mm) shall be permitted to have not less than a 1-hour fire-resistance rating. The exterior walls and roofs of penthouses with a *fire separation distance* of 20 feet (6096 mm) or greater shall not be required to have a fire-resistance rating.
2. On buildings of Type I construction two stories or less in height above grade plane or of Type II construction, the exterior walls and roofs of penthouses with a *fire separation distance* greater than 5 feet (1524 mm) and less than 20 feet (6096 mm) shall be permitted to have not less than a 1-hour fire-resistance rating or a lesser fire-resistance rating.

# Types of roof structures

IBC 2018, Section 1510-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



**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...

ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

wood complying with Section 2303.2 for exterior installation.

- Where exterior wall covering panels are used, the panels shall have a flame spread index of 25 or less when tested in the minimum and maximum thick-

[BC] 1510.8.1 **Aerial supports.** Aerial supports shall be constructed of noncombustible materials.

**Exception:** Aerial supports not greater than 12 feet (3658 mm) in height as measured from the roof deck to the highest point on the aerial supports shall be permit-

- The application of a new protective roof coating over an existing protective roof coating, metal roof panel, built-up roof, spray polyurethane foam roofing system, metal roof shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, modified bitumen roofing or thermoset and thermoplastic single-ply roofing shall be permitted without tear off of existing roof coverings.

**1511.3.1.1 Exceptions.** A *roof recover* shall not be permitted where any of the following conditions occur:

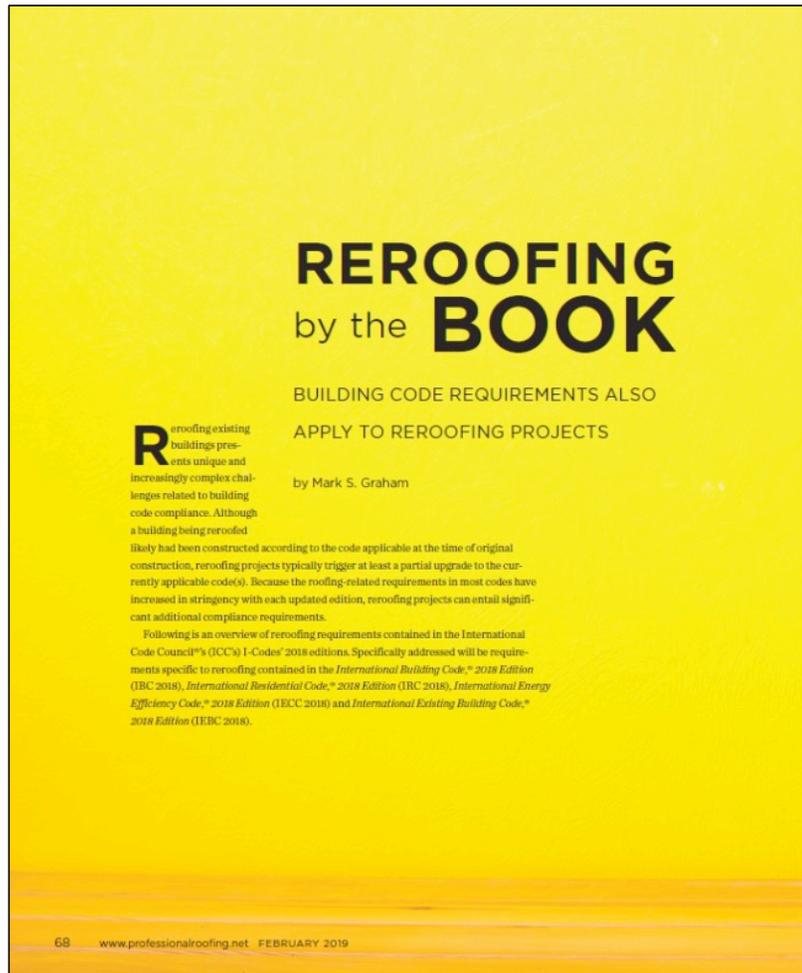
- Where the existing roof or roof covering is water soaked or has deteriorated to the point that the existing roof or roof covering is not adequate as a base for additional roofing.
- Where the existing roof covering is slate, clay, cement or asbestos-cement tile.
- Where the existing roof has two or more applications of any type of roof covering.

top-mounted *photovoltaic panels* and *modules* shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

[BC] 1510.8 **Other rooftop structures.** Rooftop structures not regulated by Sections 1510.2 through 1510.7 shall comply with Sections 1510.8.1 through 1510.8.5, as applicable.

removed unless they are replaced by secondary drains or scuppers designed and installed in accordance with Section 1503.4.

**1511.2 Structural and construction loads.** Structural roof components shall be capable of supporting the roof-covering system and the material and equipment loads that will be encountered during installation of the system.



## *Professional Roofing* February 2019

[Link](#)

## **International Residential Code, 2018 Edition**

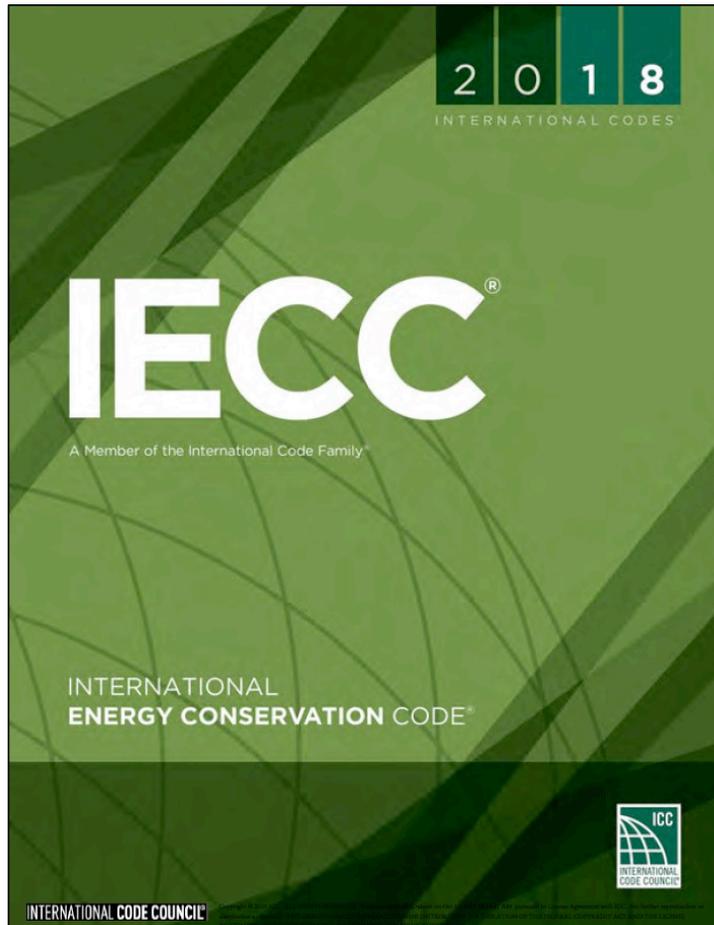


- Applicable to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses no more than three stories in height
- Roofing-related requirements:
  - Ch. 8-Roof/ceiling construction
  - Ch. 9-Roof assemblies

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

*International Residential Code, 2018 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



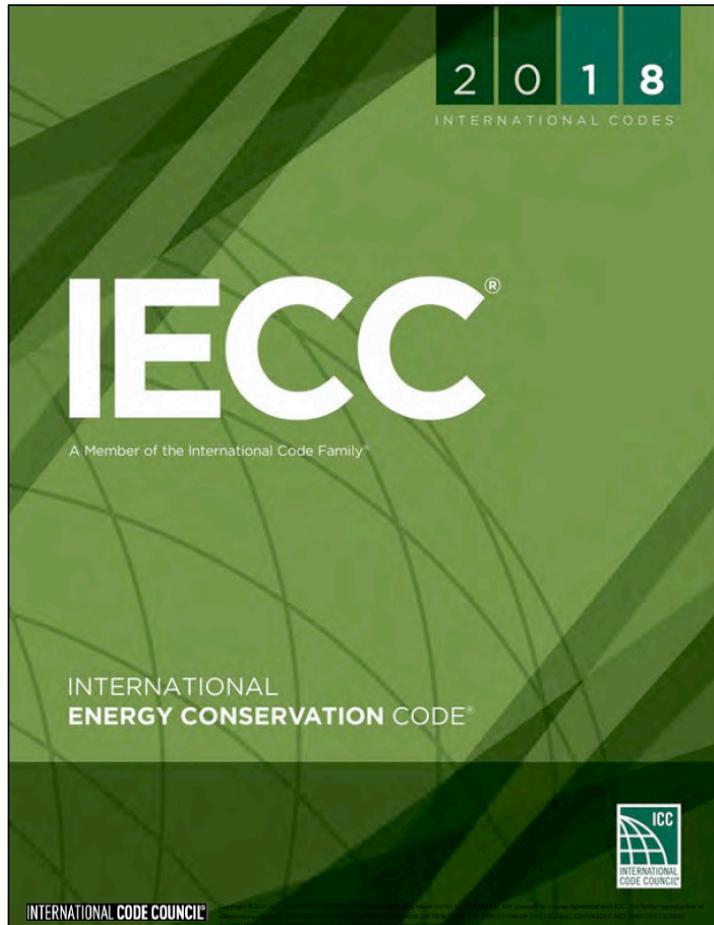
## **IECC 2018:**

Commercial buildings:

- All except “Residential Buildings”

Residential buildings:

- One- and two-family dwellings, multiple single-family dwellings and Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less

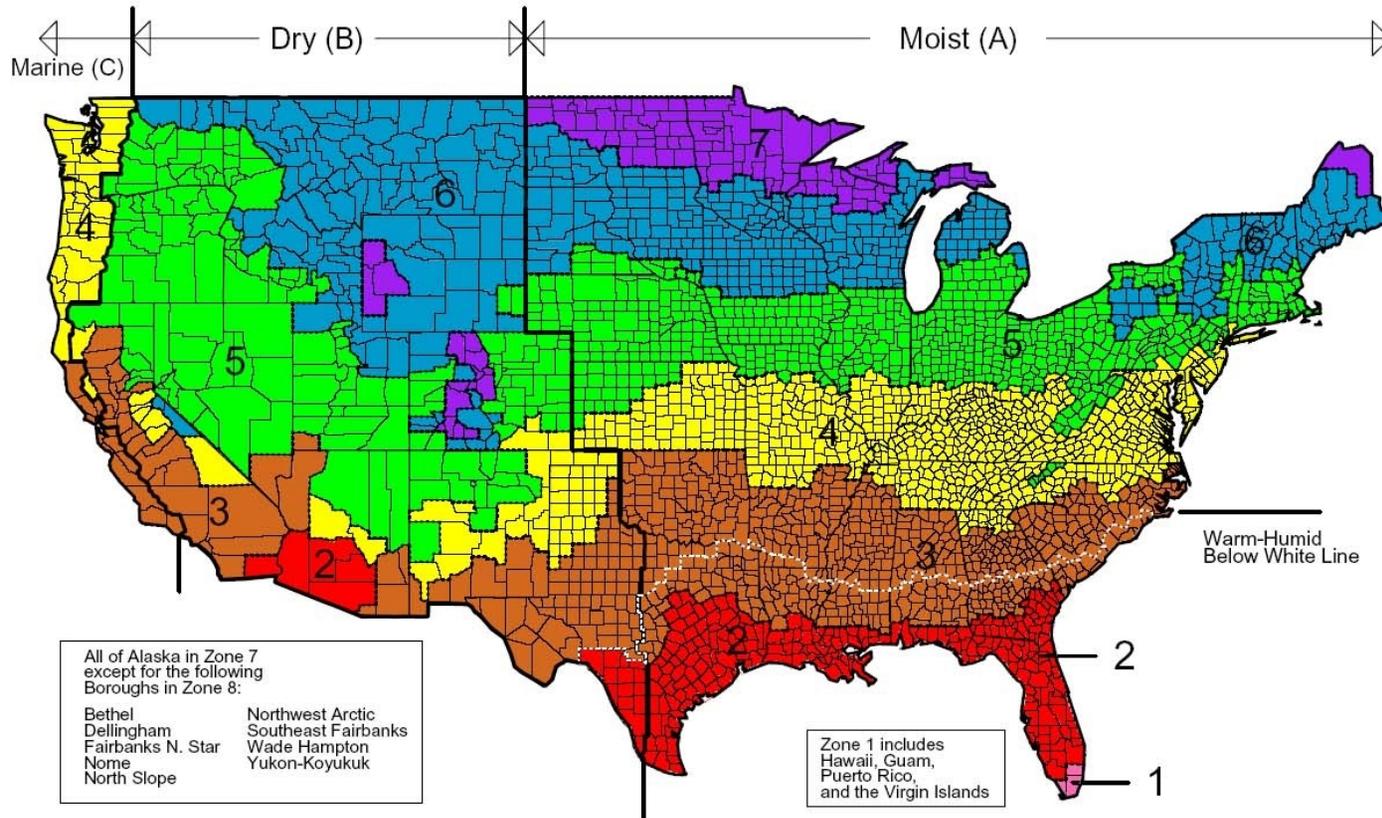


## Roof requirements:

- R-value
- Roof reflectivity
- Air retarder

# IECC 2018, Fig. C301.1-Climature zones

Fig. R301.1 (residential climate zones) is similar



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

CLIMATE ZONE	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-25 + R-11 LS	R-25 + R-11 LS	R-30 + R-11 LS									
Attic and other	R-38	R-38	R-38	R-49												

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-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-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci	R-13 + R-7.5ci
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-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			
<b>Walls, below grade</b>																	
Below-grade wall <sup>f</sup>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	R-7.5ci	R-10ci	R-10ci	R-12.5ci							
<b>Floors</b>																	
Mass <sup>g</sup>	NR	NR	R-6.3ci	R-8.3ci	R-10ci	R-10ci	R-10ci	R-10.4ci	R-10ci	R-12.5ci	R-12.5ci	R-12.5ci	R-15ci	R-16.7ci	R-15ci	R-16.7ci	R-16.7ci
Joist framing	NR	NR	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30	R-30
<b>Slab-on-grade floors</b>																	
Unheated slabs	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	R-10 for 24" below	R-15 for 24" below	R-20 for 24" below								
Heated slab <sup>h</sup>	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 full slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 full slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 full slab	R-7.5 for 12" below + R-5 full slab	R-10 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-10 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-15 for 24" below + R-5 full slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 full slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 full slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 full slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 full slab	R-20 for 48" below + R-5 full slab
<b>Opaque doors</b>																	
Nonswinging	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75	R-4.75

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>.

ci = Continuous insulation, NR = No Requirement, LS = Liner System.

a. Assembly descriptions can be found in ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Appendix A.

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, ungrouted or partially grouted at 32 inches or less on center vertically and 48 inches or less on center horizontally, with ungrouted cores filled with materials having a maximum thermal conductivity of 0.44 Btu-in/h<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. Steel floor joist systems shall be insulated to R-38.

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

h. The first value is for perimeter insulation and the second value is for slab insulation. Perimeter insulation is not required to extend below the bottom of the slab.

i. Not applicable to garage doors. See Table C402.1.4.

IBC® 2012. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Assembled by Mark Graham on Oct 15, 2012 10:51 AM pursuant to License Agreement with ICC. No further reproduction or distribution authorized. ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION IS A VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL COPYRIGHT ACT AND THE LICENSE AGREEMENT, AND SUBJECT TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES THEREUNDER.

# Roofing-specific adaptation of Table C402.1.3

*International Energy Conservation Code, 2018 Edition*

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

ci = Continuous insulation  
 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)

# 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-25 ci	R-25 ci
4	R-12 ci	R-20 ci	R-25 ci	R-30 ci	R-30 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
8						

\* Applies to roof replacement projects  
 ci = continuous insulation

# Reflectivity

*International Energy Conservation Code, 2018 Edition (Commercial)*

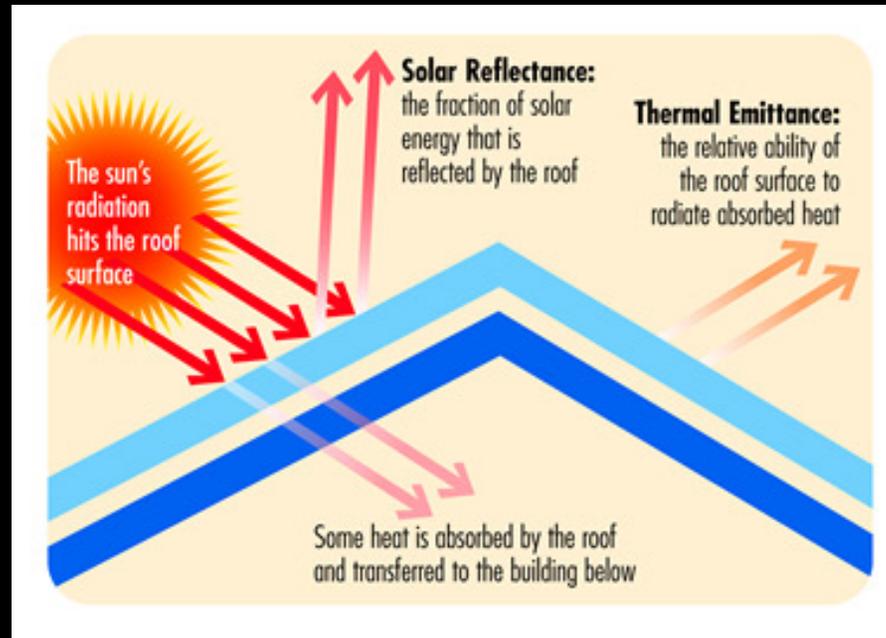
**C402.3 Roof solar reflectance and thermal emittance.** Low-sloped roofs directly above cooled conditioned spaces in Climate Zones 1, 2 and 3 shall comply with one or more of the options in Table C402.3.

**Exceptions:** [omitted for clarity]

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

Three-year solar reflectance of 0.55 and 3-year aged thermal emittance of 0.75
Three-year-aged solar reflectance index of 64

[Footnotes omitted for clarity]



Courtesy of the Cool Roofs Rating Council

## Definitions

**Solar reflectance:** The fraction of solar flux reflected by a surface expressed within the range of 0.00 and 1.00.

**Thermal emittance:** The ratio of radiant heat flux emitted by a surface to that emitted by a black body radiator at the same temperature expressed within a range of 0.00 to 1.00.

## Definitions – cont.

**Solar reflectance index (SRI):** The relative steady-state surface temperature of a surface with respect to the standard white (SRI = 100) and standard black (SRI = 0) under standard solar and ambient conditions.

--ASTM E 1980

## Air barriers

*International Energy Conservation Code, 2018 Edition (Commercial), Sec. C402.5*

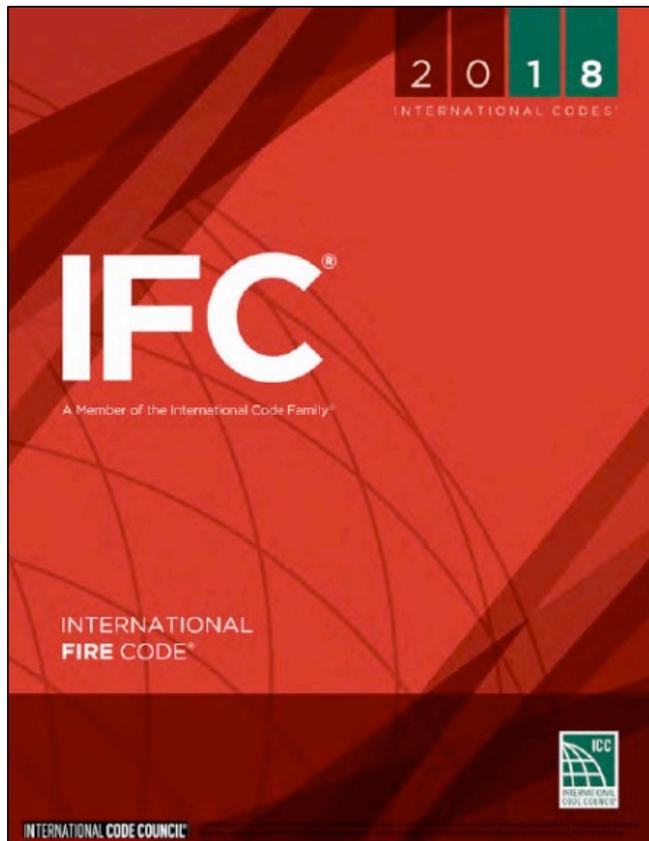
“A continuous building envelope air barrier shall be provided throughout the building envelope....” (Except 2B)

Test methods:

- Whole building: Not greater than 0.40 cfm/ft<sup>3</sup>
- Assembly: Not greater than 0.04 cfm/ft<sup>3</sup>
- Material: Not greater than 0.004 cfm/ft<sup>3</sup>
  - Deemed to comply: BUR, MB, adhered single ply and SPF

Air barrier not required in reroofing projects unless also recladding (IECC 2018: Sec. C503.3.1 and C504.2)

# *International Fire Code, 2018 Edition*



## Applicability:

- Structures, facilities and conditions
- Existing conditions and operations

# **Roofing-related provisions**

*International Fire Code, 2018 Edition*

- Sec. 303-Asphalt kettles
- Sec. 317-Rooftop gardens
- Sec. 1204-Solar photovoltaic systems
- Sec. 3317-Safeguarding roofing operations

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

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

- IBC 2018, Sec. 104.11
- IRC 2018, Sec. R104.11
- IECC 2018, Sec. C102 and Sec. R102
- IEBC 2018, Sec. 104.11
- IFC 2018, Sec. 104.9
- IPC 2018, Sec. 105.2



### 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 proscribed in codes and meeting the codes' 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 roof system designs and roofing products that do not specifically comply with a code's requirements.

#### Alternative acceptance

In Chapter I-Scope and Administration of the *International Building Code, 2018 Edition*, Section 104-Duties and Powers of Building Official grants a code official the authority to enforce the code, render interpretations and adopt procedures to clarify 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

# Professional Roofing

## April 2019

[Link](#)

# ICC codes accessible online

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

The screenshot displays the ICC codes website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ICC Digital Codes logo, links for 'Find Codes', 'Premium Features', and 'Premium for Teams', and a search icon. Below this, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Find Codes'. The main heading is 'I-Codes Building Codes'. A search bar contains '2021' and a search button. A premium notice states: 'Premium exclusive title requires subscription to access content.' The main content area features a grid of eight 2021 code 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 Existing Building Code), and IECC (International Energy Conservation Code). A 'Bundle and Save' section on the right promotes the '2012 International Codes, Designer Collection' with a 'Subscribe' button. Below this is an 'Info' section with the ICC logo and a description of I-Codes. The sidebar on the left lists categories: Collections, Commentaries, I-Codes, Legacy (ICBO, Publications), Resources (Revision History, Significant Changes), and Standards (AISC, APA, APSP, AWC, ICC). A vertical 'LIVE CHAT' button is on the right edge, and a 'FEEDBACK' button is at the bottom right.

# [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

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



Help ▾

Become a Member

Sign In ▾

My Cart

## FEATURED PRODUCTS

DIGITAL CODES PREMIUM

INTERNATIONAL CODES



International Codes  
**Wind Design Overview (ASCE 7-16 And 2018/2021 IBC)**

As low as  
**\$13.60**



International Codes  
**2021 International Fuel Gas Code®**

As low as  
**\$4.90**



International Codes  
**2021 International Building Code®**

As low as  
**\$7.95**



International Codes  
**2021 Complete 14 Collection**



International Codes  
**2021 International Residential Code®**



International Codes  
**2021 International Mechanical Code®**

FEEDBACK

LIVE CHAT





**Mark S. Graham**

Vice President, Technical Services  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
10255 West Higgins Road, 600  
Rosemont, Illinois 60018-5607

(847) 299-9070  
mgraham@nrca.net  
www.nrca.net

Twitter: @MarkGrahamNRCA  
Personal website: [www.MarkGrahamNRCA.com](http://www.MarkGrahamNRCA.com)  
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/MarkGrahamNRCA](https://www.linkedin.com/in/MarkGrahamNRCA)