

Office of Education  
and Data Management

Spring 2018  
Career Development

February 2018  
**Significant Changes to the  
2015 International Residential Code**  
Milton Gregory Grew, AIA

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2018 CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING CODE  
**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE  
2015 INTERNATIONAL  
RESIDENTIAL CODE**



Presented by  
MILTON GREGORY GREW, AIA  
for  
State of Connecticut  
Department of Administrative Services  
Office of Education & Data Management  
February 2018

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**Milton Gregory Grew, AIA**

- ◆ Licensed architect since 1988
- ◆ Licensed building official since 1999
  
- ◆ Director of Permits & Inspections,  
Town of East Hartford
- ◆ Grew Design, architectural practice  
Connecticut Code Consultants
- ◆ AIA National Codes & Standards Committee
- ◆ ICC Building Code Action Committee
- ◆ ICC IEBC Code Development Committee

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### Disclaimer

- ◆ The opinions expressed in this presentation are solely those of the speaker and do not represent the State of Connecticut, State Building Inspector or any municipality.
- ◆ While I have tried to be thorough there may be errors or omissions.
- ◆ All code users should obtain and familiarize themselves with the codes.

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### 2018 Connecticut State Building Code

- ◆ 2015 International Building Code
- ◆ **2015 International Residential Code**
- ◆ 2015 International Plumbing Code
- ◆ 2015 International Mechanical Code
- ◆ 2015 International Existing Building Code
- ◆ 2017 National Electrical Code
- ◆ 2009 ICC A117.1
- ◆ 2018 CT State Amendments

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### Objectives

- ◆ Review significant changes from the 2012 to 2015 IRC
- ◆ Highlight Connecticut Amendments to 2015 IRC

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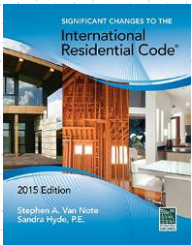
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## Resources

*Significant Changes*  
– Soft cover or  
PDF download from  
ICC Store



◆ ICC has videos of key changes:  
[www.iccsafe.org/codes-tech-support/codes/2015-changes/key-changes-irc/](http://www.iccsafe.org/codes-tech-support/codes/2015-changes/key-changes-irc/)

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## Tracking Changes in the 2015 IRC model code text

◆ Solid vertical line = technical change

**R301.2.1 Wind design criteria.** Buildings and portions thereof shall be constructed in accordance with the wind provisions of this code using the ultimate design wind speed in Table R301.2(1) as determined from Figure R301.2(4)A. The structural provisions of this code for wind loads are not permitted where wind design is required.

◆ Arrow = something was deleted

**R322.1.8 Flood-resistant materials.** Building materials and installation methods used for flooring and interior and exterior walls and wall coverings below the elevation required in Section R322.2 or R322.3 shall be flood damage-resistant materials that conform to the provisions of FEMA TB-2.

**R322.1.9 Manufactured homes.** The bottom of the frame of new and replacement *manufactured homes* on foundations that conform to the requirements of Section R322.2 or R322.3, as applicable, shall be elevated to or above the

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## Tracking Changes...

◆ Single asterisk = something moved from here

provided with footings that extend below the frost line.

Footings shall not bear on frozen soil unless the frozen condition is permanent.

\* **R403.1.5 Slope.** The top surface of footings shall be level. The bottom surface of footings shall not have a slope exceeding one unit vertical in 10 units horizontal (10-percent).

◆ Double asterisk = new location

**R404.1 Concrete and masonry foundation walls.** Concrete foundation walls shall be selected and constructed in accordance with the provisions of Section R404.1.3. Masonry foundation walls shall be selected and constructed in accordance with the provisions of Section R404.1.2.

\*\* **R404.1.1 Design required.** Concrete or masonry foundation walls shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice where either of the following conditions exist:

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### Accessory Structures (R101.2 & R202 Definition)

- ◆ An accessory structure's allowable height has been increased from 2 to 3 stories.
- ◆ Accessory structures no longer have a building area limitation but still must be incidental to the dwelling on the same lot.

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### Electrical (R101.4.5 – CT add)

- ◆ IRC is the default electrical code for IRC occupancies.

(Add) R101.4.5 Applicable electrical code. The applicable electrical code requirements for buildings constructed under this code are those of chapters 34-43 of this code. The permit applicant may elect at the time of application for permit to follow the requirements of the 2017 NFPA 70 National Electrical Code portion of the 2018 State Building Code, as an alternative compliance to the electrical requirements of this code. The applicant must indicate this choice on the permit application and on all construction documents.

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### Appendices (R102.5 – CT amd)

- ◆ CT Adopted Appendices:
  - E: Manufactured Housing Used As Dwellings
  - F: Passive Radon Gas Controls Methods (*heavily amended*)
  - G: Piping Standards for Various Applications
  - H: Patio Covers
  - K: Sound Transmission
  - O: Automatic Vehicular Gates
  - P: Sizing of Water Piping System
  - V: Wind Speeds, Seismic Design Categories & Ground Snow Loads (*CT completely*)

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## Accessibility Exemptions (R104.10.2 – CT amd)

- ◆ Only OSBI involved in reviewing and approving.

(Add) R104.10.2 Accessibility exemption. Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 29-269 of the Connecticut General Statutes, any variation of or exemption from any provisions relating to accessibility to, use of and egress from, buildings and structures as required herein shall be permitted only when approved by the State Building Inspector. Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 29-269 of the Connecticut General Statutes, any person aggrieved by the joint decision of the State Building Inspector may appeal to the Codes and Standards Committee within 30 days after such decision has been rendered.

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## CT Removed Provision for Research Reports

- ◆ This paragraph was in 2016 CSBC and has been removed from 2018 CSBC.

(Add) R104.11.2 Research reports. Submission to the local building official of a valid research report prepared by an approved evaluation service that supports the efficacy of use of any material, appliance, equipment or method of construction not specifically provided for in this code, or that demonstrates compliance with this code, may be deemed evidence of compliance with this code.

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## Flood Hazard Areas (R105.3.1.1)

- ◆ It is the building official's responsibility to make a determination of substantial improvement to existing buildings in flood hazard areas.

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### Wind Design Criteria for Existing Structures (R105.3.1.1.1 – CT Add)

- ◆ Shoreline flood damaged dwellings may be subject to some upgrading of structure for wind resistance.

(Add) R105.3.1.1.1 Wind design criteria for existing structures. For structures where the proposed work is determined to be a substantial improvement or restoration under R105.3.1.1 and having a wind Exposure D, structural elements that are uncovered shall be required to be improved to meet the wind speed design criteria in R301.2.1.

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### Wind Design Criteria (R301.2.1.4 – CT Amd)

- ◆ CT amends sections regarding exposure category, wind direction and sectors, surface roughness
- ◆ Surface Roughness B and Exposure Category B will be used most often.

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### Component & cladding loads (Table R301.2(2))

- ◆ The component and cladding table has replaced basic wind speeds with ultimate design wind speeds.
- ◆ Roof slopes are divided into new categories for determining component and cladding loads.

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## Sunrooms (R301.2.1.1.1)

- ◆ 5 categories of sunrooms that affect performance requirements:
- ◆ **I:** Thermally isolated; open or enclosed; screens or plastic film; nonhabitable; unconditioned.
- ◆ **II:** Thermally isolated; enclosed walls; plastic or glass, translucent or transparent openings; nonhabitable; unconditioned.
- ◆ **III:** Thermally isolated; enclosed walls; plastic or glass, translucent or transparent openings; fenestration rqmts for air/water & structural rqmts; nonhabitable; unconditioned.
- ◆ **IV:** Thermally isolated; enclosed walls; separate heat/cool system or controls; fenestration rqmts for air/water/thermal; structural rqmts; nonhabitable; conditioned.
- ◆ **V:** Enclosed walls; open to main structure incl. heat/cool; fenestration rqmts for air/water/thermal; habitable; conditioned

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## Sunrooms (R301.2.1.1.1)



II



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III

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## Sunrooms (R301.2.1.1.1)



IV



V

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### Townhouse Separation (R302.2)

- ◆ Provisions for structurally independent fire-resistant-rated walls have been removed in favor of common wall provisions.
- ◆ Common walls rated 2 hours w/o fire sprinklers

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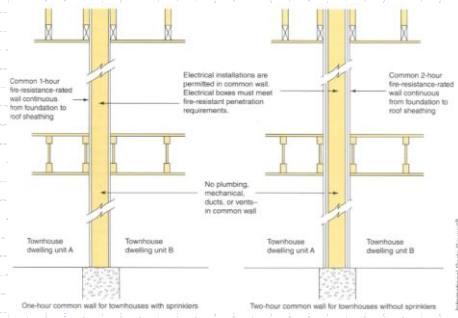
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### Townhouse Separation (R302.2)



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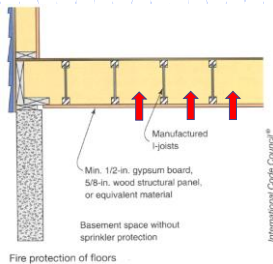
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### Fire Protection of Floors (R302.13)

- ◆ Clarified that penetrations are permitted.



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### Stairway Illumination (R303.7 & R303.8)

- ◆ Interior & exterior stairway illumination provisions have been placed in separate sections. Conflicting language has been removed.
- ◆ Code no longer prescribes location of light source for interior stairs, allowing design flexibility.
- ◆ No minimum illumination level for exterior stairs.

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### Stairway Illumination (R303.7 & R303.8)

**R303.7 Interior stairway illumination.** Interior stairways shall be provided with an artificial light source to illuminate the landings and treads. The light source shall be capable of illuminating treads and landings to levels of not less than 1 foot-candle (11 lux) as measured at the center of treads and landings. There shall be a wall switch at each floor level to control the light source where the stairway has six or more risers.

**Exception:** A switch is not required where remote, central or automatic control of lighting is provided.

**R303.7.1 Light activation.** Where lighting outlets are installed in interior stairways, there shall be a wall switch at each floor level to control the lighting outlet where the stairway has six or more risers. The illumination of exterior stairways shall be controlled from inside the *dwelling* unit.

**Exception:** Lights that are continuously illuminated or automatically controlled.

**R303.8 Exterior stairway illumination.** Exterior stairways shall be provided with an artificial light source located at the top landing of the stairway. Exterior stairways providing access to a *basement* from the outdoor *grade* level shall be provided with an artificial light source located at the bottom landing of the stairway.

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### Minimum habitable room area (R304.1)

- ◆ Requirement for one habitable room with a minimum floor area of 120 SF has been removed from IRC.
- ◆ New language: "Habitable rooms shall have a floor area of not less than 70 square feet." (Exception: Kitchens)

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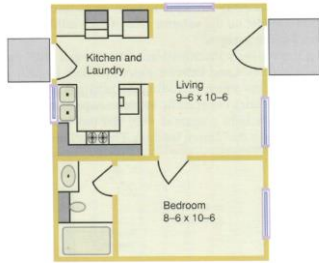
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### Minimum habitable room area (R304.1)



Small dwelling complying with minimum area requirements

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### Ceiling Height (R305)

- ◆ Min. ceiling height for bathrooms, toilet rooms & laundry rooms reduced to 6'-8".
- ◆ The exception for allowing beams, girders, ducts or other obstructions to project to within 6'-4" is expanded to include basements w/ habitable space.

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### Glazing Adjacent to Doors (R308.4.2)

- ◆ Glazing installed perpendicular to a door in a closed position & within 24" of the door only requires safety glazing if it is on the hinge side of an in-swinging door.

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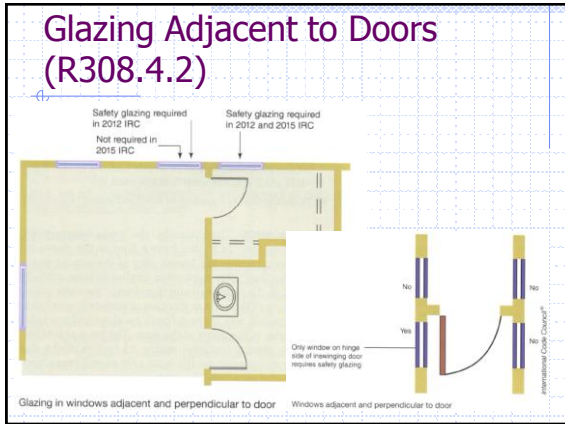
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### Glazing & Wet Surfaces (R308.4.5)

- ◆ The exception from the safety glazing requirements for glazing that is 60" or more from the water's edge of a bathtub, hot tub, spa, whirlpool or swimming pool has been expanded to include glazing that is an equivalent distance from the edge of a shower, sauna or steam room.

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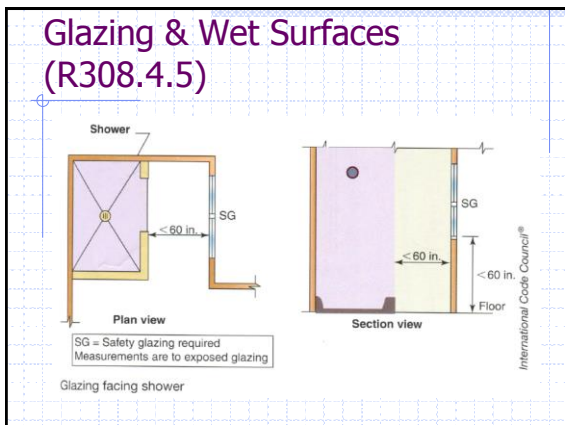
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### Emergency Escape & Rescue Openings – EERO (R310)

- ◆ Section has been reorganized. Separate provisions spell out the requirements for windows & doors used for emergency escape & rescue.
- ◆ No technical changes.

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### EERO for Additions, Alterations & Repairs (R310.5, R310.6)

- ◆ Remodeling a basement does not trigger installing in EERO
- ◆ Creation of new bedroom requires EERO
- ◆ Addition of a basement does not require EERO if there is access to existing basement w/ EERO
- ◆ CT deletes R310.6 – Alterations or repairs of existing basements. CT's R310.1(2) says the same thing.

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### Means of Egress (R311.1)

- ◆ Added "The required egress door shall open directly into a public way or to a yard or court that opens to a public way."



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### Stair Headroom (R311.7.2 – CT Amd)

- ◆ Lowered from 6'-6" to 6'-4" for existing or replacement stairways serving basements or attics being converted to habitable space.

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### Stair Risers (R311.7.3, R311.7.5.1)

- ◆ Vertical rise between landings has increased from 12' to 147"
- ◆ Fully open risers permitted up to 30" high rise, then reduced to less than 4" opng.
- ◆ Open risers permitted on spiral stairs.

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### Alternating Tread Devices & Ship Ladders (R311.7.11, R311.7.12)

- ◆ Brought in same provisions as in IBC.
- ◆ Cannot be used as an element of MOE.
- ◆ Can be used where MOE is not required or required MOE serving that space is located elsewhere.

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## Ramps (R311.8)

- ◆ Ramps that do not serve the required egress door are now permitted to have a slope not greater than 1:8.

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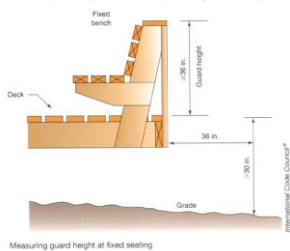
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## Guard Height (R312.1.2)

- ◆ Removed requirement to measure deck guard height from adjacent fixed seating.



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## Smoke Alarms (R314)

- ◆ New provisions address smoke alarms installed in new bathrooms and cooking appliances.
- ◆ R314.3(4): *Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3.*

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## Smoke Alarms (R314)

R314.3.1: *Smoke alarms shall not be installed in the following locations unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm in a location required by Section R314.3.*

1. *Ionization smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 20 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.*
2. *Ionization smoke alarms with an alarm-silencing switch shall not be installed less than 10 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.*
3. *Photoelectric smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 6 feet horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.*

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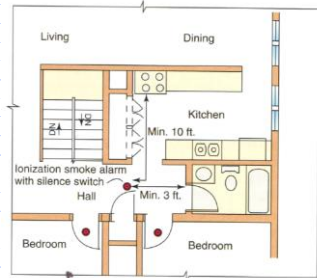
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## Smoke Alarms (R314)



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## Mezzanines (R325)

- ◆ New provisions place limitations on the construction of mezzanines related to ceiling height and openness consistent with the IBC, so as not to be considered a story.
- ◆ Definition (R202): MEZZANINE. *An intermediate level or levels between the floor and ceiling of any story.*

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### Mezzanines (R325)

- ◆ Clear height above or below: 7 ft min.
- ◆ Aggregate area not more than 1/3 of the area of the room in which it is located and open to.
- ◆ Openness with walls not more than 42", except when not more than 10% of the mezzanine, or except 2 stories w/ sprinklers & 2 MOE

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### Mezzanines (R325)



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### Swimming Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs (R326 – CT Amd)

- ◆ IRC model text points to ISPSC.
- ◆ CT is adding all text from previous 2012 IRC Appendix G.
- ◆ Updated ANSI reference standards.

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## Minimum Footing Sizes (R403.1.1)

- ◆ The table for minimum footing sizes has been expanded into 3 tables based on the type of construction being supported: light frame, light frame w/ veneer, and concrete or masonry.
- ◆ Tables apply to concrete footings only.
- ◆ Footing sizes increase for homes with a crawl space or basement.

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## Minimum Footing Sizes (R403.1.1)

**Two-story house with basement foundation:**  
 Light-frame construction  
 Soil-bearing strength = 2000 psf  
 Snow Load = 30 psf  
 28 ft. wide building with interior load-bearing wall (see footnote b)  
 Footnote b allows buildings with roof widths smaller than 32 ft. to subtract 2 in. from the footing width for every 2 ft. of width less than 32 ft.

Minimum Footing Width		
2012	2015	Larger footing width required
12x6	17" - 2x2" = 13" 13x6	

4-inch brick veneer over light-frame construction  
 Soil-bearing strength = 2000 psf  
 Snow Load = 30 psf  
 32 ft. wide building with interior load-bearing wall

Minimum Footing Width		
2012	2015	Larger footing width required
16x6	21x6	



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
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## Foundation Anchorage (R403.1.6)

- ◆ Anchor bolts are now required to be placed in the middle third of sill plates.




2x4 plates


2x4 plates are 3.5 in. wide. If a bolt needs to be in the middle third of the plate, then:

$$3\frac{1}{2} / 3 = 1\frac{1}{6}"$$

The edge of the bolt, not the bolt head, should begin at least 1 1/6 in. in from the edge of the plate.



3.5 in.




2x6 plates

2x6 plates are 5.5 in. wide. If a bolt needs to be in the middle third of the plate, then:

$$5\frac{1}{2} / 3 = 1\frac{5}{6}"$$

The edge of the bolt, not the bolt head, should begin at least 1 5/6 in. in from the edge of the plate.



5.5 in.

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## Retaining Walls (R404.4)

- ◆ Retaining walls, freestanding walls not supported at the top with more than 48" of unbalanced backfill or resist additional lateral loads with more than 24" of unbalanced backfill must be designed "*in accordance with accepted engineering practice*".

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## Floor Joist Spans (Table R502.3.1(1), R502.3.1(2))

- ◆ Changes to lumber capacities
- ◆ Spans for Southern Pine (SP) decreased.
- ◆ Spans for Douglas-Fir-Larch (DFL) and Hemlock Fir (HF) have increased.
- ◆ 2015 IRC span tables now in agreement with wood standards' span tables.

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## Decking (R507.1, R507.5)

- ◆ New Table R507.4 provides maximum deck joist spacing depending on type of decking and its orientation.

TABLE R507.4  
MAXIMUM JOIST SPACING

MATERIAL TYPE AND NOMINAL SIZE	MAXIMUM ON-CENTER JOIST SPACING	
	Perpendicular to joist	Diagonal to joist <sup>A</sup>
1 1/2-inch-thick wood	16 inches	12 inches
2-inch-thick wood	24 inches	16 inches
Plastic composite	In accordance with Section R507.3	In accordance with Section R507.3

For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft. = 304.8 mm; 1 degree = 0.0175 rad.  
A. Maximum angle of 45 degrees from perpendicular to wood deck boards.

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### Deck Ledger Connection (R507.2)

- ◆ The deck ledger section is reorganized to better describe minimum requirements for connection of deck ledgers to band joists. No real technical changes.

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### Deck Lateral Load Connection (R507.2.4)

- ◆ When the prescriptive deck lateral load connection that appeared in previous editions is chosen, IRC now requires the 2 hold-down devices to be within 2 ft of the end of the deck.
- ◆ A new lateral load connection option prescribes 4 hold-downs installed below the deck structure.

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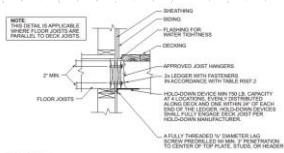
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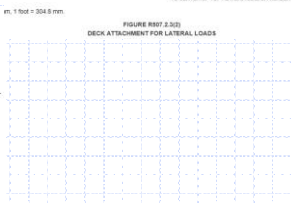
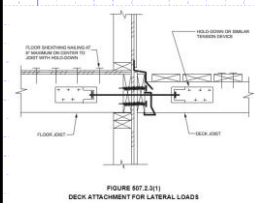
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### Deck Lateral Load Connection (R507.2.4)



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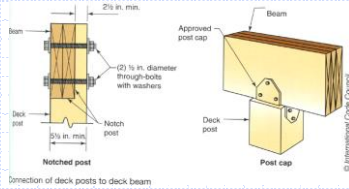
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## Deck Joists & Beams (R507.5, R507.6, R507.7)

- ◆ New Table R507.5 Deck Joist Spans
- ◆ New Table R507.6 Deck Beam Spans
- ◆ R507.7 Joist to beam bearing




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## Deck Posts (R507.8)

- ◆ New section establishes minimum sizes of wood posts supporting decks & describes requirements for connection to footing.

**R507.8 Deck posts.**  
For single-level wood-framed decks with beams sized in accordance with Table R507.6, deck post size shall be in accordance with Table R507.8.

**TABLE R507.8  
DECK POST HEIGHT<sup>a</sup>**

DECK POST SIZE	MAXIMUM HEIGHT <sup>a</sup>
4 x 4	8'
4 x 6	8'
6 x 6	14'

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.  
<sup>a</sup> Measured to the underside of the beam.

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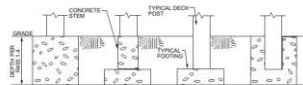
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## Deck Posts (R507.8)

**R507.8.1 Deck post to deck footing.**  
Posts shall bear on footings in accordance with Section R403 and Figure R507.8.1. Posts shall be restrained to prevent lateral displacement at the bottom support. Such lateral restraint shall be provided by manufactured connectors installed in accordance with Section R507 and the manufacturer's instructions or a minimum post embedment of 12 inches (305 mm) in surrounding soils or concrete piers.



**FIGURE R507.8.1  
TYPICAL DECK POSTS TO DECK FOOTINGS**

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## Fastening Schedule - Roof (Table R602.3(1))

- ◆ The Fastening Schedule now contains multiple nail size options. Clarification of roof rafter connections at ridge, valley and hip has been added.

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## Fastening Schedule - Roof (Table R602.3(1))

**TABLE R602.3(1) Fastening Schedule for Structural Members**

Item	Description of Building Elements	Number and Type of Fastener <sup>a,b</sup>	Spacing and Location of Fasteners
			Roof
1	Blocking between ceiling joists or rafters to top plate-see note	4-6d 4-10d box (17" x 0.117") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.131") or 3-10d box (17" x 0.140") or 3-2" x 0.131" nails	Top nail
2	Ceiling joists to top plate-see note	4-6d 4-10d box (17" x 0.117") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.131") or 3-10d box (17" x 0.140") or 3-2" x 0.131" nails	Two joist, top nail
3	Ceiling joist not attached to parallel rafters, laps over partitions-see note (See Sections R802.3.1, R802.3.2, Table R802.5.1(b))	4-6d 4-10d box (17" x 0.117") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.140") or 3-2" x 0.131" nails	Face nail
4	Ceiling joist attached to parallel rafters-see note (See Sections R802.3.1, R802.3.2, Table R802.5.1(b))	Per Table R802.3.1(b)	Face nail
5	Collar tie to rafter, face nail or 1/4" x 20 edge strap to rafter	3-6d 4-10d box (17" x 0.117") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.140") or 4-2" x 0.131" nails	Face nail each rafter
6	Rafter or roof truss to plate-see note	3-16d box nails (17" x 0.131") or 3-16d common nails (17" x 0.140") or 4-10d box (17" x 0.140") or 4-2" x 0.131" nails	2 top nails on one side and 1 top nail on opposite side of each rafter or truss
7	Roof rafters to ridge, valley or hip rafters or roof rafter to minimum 2" ridge beam-see note	4-16d box (17" x 0.131") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.140") or 4-10d box (17" x 0.140") or 4-2" x 0.131" nails	Top nail
		3-16d box (17" x 0.131") or 3-16d common (17" x 0.140") or 4-10d box (17" x 0.140") or 4-2" x 0.131" nails	End nail

(Illustrative not shown for brevity and clarity.)

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## Fastening Schedule - Wall (Table R602.3(1))

- ◆ The Fastening Schedule now contains multiple nail size options. Clarification of double top plate splicing has been added.
- ◆ Coordinated with IBC Table 2304.10.1.

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## Fastening Schedule - Floor (Table R602.3(1))

**TABLE R602.3(1) Fastening Schedule for Structural Members**

Item	Description of Building Elements	Number and Type of Fasteners <sup>a, b</sup>	Spacing of Fasteners and Location
<b>Floor</b>			
11	Joist to sill, top plate or gable	4-6d nails 12" x 0.1313" or 2-16d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	Top nail
12	Row joint, head joint, or blocking to sill or top plate (roof applications steel)	6d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 2-16d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	End nail, face nail
13	1" x 6" subfloor or joist to each joist	2-6d box nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-6d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-16d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	Face nail
14	1" x 6" subfloor to joist or gable head joint	2-6d box nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-6d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-16d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	End and face nail
15	2" x 4" joists (rafters & beams) - floor & roof	3-6d box nails 12" x 0.1125" or 3-16d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 4-16d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 4-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	At each bearing, face nail
16	Joist to joist	2-16d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 4-16d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 4-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	End nail
17	Build-up girders and beams, 2-inch flange layers	2-16d common nails 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	
18	16d box 12" x 0.125" or 2-16d common 12" x 0.1125" nails	2-16d common 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	Nail each layer as follows: 32" o.c. at top and bottom and stagger. The number of nails used at each option, 24" o.c. face nail, end nail, bottom, staggered on opposite side. Face nail all ends and at each splice.
19	Ledges (only supporting joists or rafters)	2-16d common 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125" or 2-16d common 12" x 0.1125" or 2-20d box nails 12" x 0.125"	Against joist or rafter, face nail
20	Brillings to joist	2-16d 12" x 0.1125"	Face nail, bottom

<sup>a</sup>Fasteners not shown for beauty and finish.



## Stud Size, Height & Spacing (R602.3.1)

- Deleted 2012 IRC Table R602.3.1 for Max. Allowable Length of Wood Studs...
- The process for determining whether walls studs, a wall, or a story must be engineered based on stud height now checks:
  - Table R602.3(5) – next slide
  - Section R602.10 - Wall Bracing
  - Section R602.3.1, Exception 2 (N/A in CT)



## Stud Size, Height & Spacing (R602.3.1)

**TABLE R602.3(1) SIZE, HEIGHT AND SPACING OF WOOD STUDS<sup>a</sup>**

STUD SIZE (inches)	BEARING WALLS				NONBEARING WALLS	
	Laterally unsupported stud height <sup>b</sup> (feet)	Maximum spacing when supporting a roof-ceiling assembly or a habitable attic assembly, only (inches)	Maximum spacing when supporting one floor, plus a roof-ceiling assembly or a habitable attic assembly (inches)	Maximum spacing when supporting two floors, plus a roof-ceiling assembly or a habitable attic assembly (inches)	Maximum spacing when supporting one floor height <sup>c</sup> (inches)	Maximum spacing (inches)
2 x 3 <sup>d</sup>	—	—	—	—	10	16
2 x 4	10	24 <sup>e</sup>	16 <sup>f</sup>	—	24	14, 24
3 x 4	10	24	24	16	24	14, 24
2 x 5	10	24	24	—	24	16, 24
2 x 6	10	24	24	16	24	20, 24

For S1: 1 inch = 25.4 mm; 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

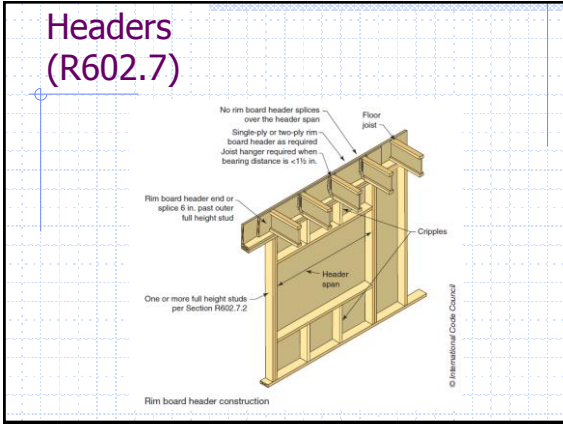
<sup>a</sup> Lateral heights and distances between points of lateral support placed perpendicular to the plane of the wall. Bearing walls shall be sheathed on not less than one side or bracing shall be installed not greater than 8 feet apart measured vertically from either end of the stud. Increases in unsupported height are permitted where in compliance with Exception 2 of Section R602.3.1 or designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.

<sup>b</sup> Stud not be used in exterior walls.

<sup>c</sup> A habitable attic assembly supported by 2 x 4 studs is limited to a roof span of 12 feet. Where the roof span exceeds 12 feet, the wall studs shall be increased to 2 x 6 or the studs shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.








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### Headers (R602.7)

**R602.7.5 Supports for headers.** Headers shall be supported on each end with one or more jack studs or with approved framing anchors in accordance with Table R602.7(1) or R602.7(2). The full-height stud adjacent to each end of the header shall be end nailed to each end of the header with four-16d nails (3.5 inches x 0.135 inches). The minimum number of full-height studs at each end of a header shall be in accordance with Table R602.7.5.

**TABLE R602.7.5**  
MINIMUM NUMBER OF FULL HEIGHT STUDS AT EACH END OF HEADERS IN EXTERIOR WALLS

HEADER SPAN (feet)	MAXIMUM STUD SPACING (inches) [per Table R602.3(9)]	
	16	24
≤ 3'	1	1
4'	2	1
8'	3	2
12'	5	3
16'	6	4

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- ### Bracing Rqmts Based on Wind Speed (Table R602.10.3(1))
- ◆ Table values have changed slightly due to use of ultimate design wind speed to calculate required bracing length.
  - ◆ Changed from 4 winds speeds (85, 90, 100, 110) to 5 (110, 115, 120, 130, 140)
  - ◆ All bracing methods are now specifically listed in the table.

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## Bracing Rqmts Based on Wind Speed (Table R602.10.3(1))

**TABLE R602.10.3(1) Bracing Requirements Based on Wind Speed**

• Exposure Category B  
• 20-Foot Mean Wall Height  
• 10-Foot Face-to-Edge Height  
• 10-Foot Wall Height  
• 2 Braced Wall Lines

Minimum Total Length (ft) of Braced Wall Panels Required Along Each Braced Wall Line<sup>a</sup>

Ultimate Design Wind Speed (mph)	Story Location	Braced Wall Line Spacing (feet)	Method 1107 <sup>b</sup>		Method 1208		Method 1210		Methods CS-WSP, CS-SC, CS-PF
			Method 1107 <sup>b</sup>	Method 1208	Method 1210	Method 1210			
10	1st	10	3.5	3.5	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.5	
		20	5.5	5.5	3.3	3.3	5.5	5.5	
		30	6.5	6.5	3.5	3.5	6.5	6.5	
	2nd	10	11.5	11.5	2.0	2.0	7.5	7.5	
		20	13.0	13.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	9.0	
		30	15.0	15.0	3.3	3.3	10.5	10.5	
15	1st	10	7.0	7.0	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.5	
		20	11.5	11.5	2.3	2.3	6.5	6.5	
		30	13.0	13.0	2.5	2.5	9.0	9.0	
	2nd	10	23.5	23.5	12.5	12.5	13.5	13.5	
		20	25.0	25.0	15.5	15.5	18.0	18.0	
		30	26.5	26.5	16.0	16.0	19.0	19.0	
20	1st	10	NP <sup>c</sup>	10.0	8.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
		20	NP	15.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
		30	NP	21.0	13.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
	2nd	10	NP	31.0	20.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
		20	NP	37.0	23.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
		30	NP	43.0	25.5	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0

(Portions of table not shown for brevity and clarity.)

## Contributing Length of CS-PF Panels (Table R602.10.5)

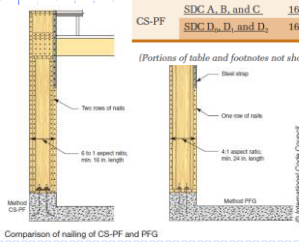
- ◆ The contributing length of continuously sheathed portal frames (Method CS-PF) in low seismic regions has increased by 50%.
- ◆ Based on testing and number of fasteners.

## Contributing Length of CS-PF Panels (Table R602.10.5)

**TABLE R602.10.5 Minimum Length of Braced Wall Panels**

Method (See Table R602.10.4)	SDC A, B, and C, SDC D, D <sub>1</sub> , and D <sub>2</sub>	Minimum Length <sup>a</sup> (in.)					Contributing Length (in.)
		Wall Height					
		8 ft.	9 ft.	10 ft.	11 ft.	12 ft.	
CS-PF	SDC A, B, and C,	16	18	20	22 <sup>b</sup>	24 <sup>b</sup>	1.5 × Actual <sup>b</sup>
	SDC D, D <sub>1</sub> , and D <sub>2</sub>	16	18	20	22 <sup>b</sup>	24 <sup>b</sup>	Actual <sup>b</sup>

(Portions of table and footnotes not shown for brevity and clarity.)



### Method PFH: Portal Frame w/ Hold-Downs (R602.10.6.2)

- ◆ Min. req'd capacity of the hold-downs is lowered to 3,500 lbs from 4,200 in 2012 IRC.
- ◆ New testing confirms 2 sill plates are sufficient instead of 3 req'd in 2012 IRC.

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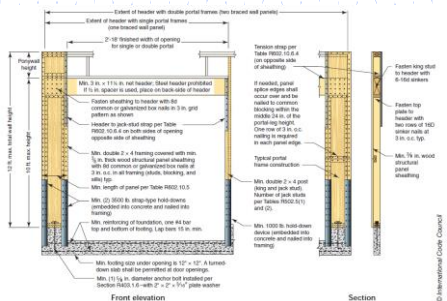
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### Method PFH: Portal Frame w/ Hold-Downs (R602.10.6.2)




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### Simplified Wall Bracing (R602.12)

- ◆ Now allowed for up to 3-story dwellings, wind exp. B or C w/ ult design wind speed of 130 mph or less.

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### Masonry Walls (R606)

- ◆ Sections R606, R607, R608 & R609 have been organized into one section providing requirements for masonry construction.
- ◆ Masonry unit requirements now defined, same as IBC.
- ◆ *Masonry veneer in Chapter 7 & masonry foundations in Chapter 4.*

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### Exterior Covering (R703)

- ◆ Numerous changes regarding standards for siding & veneer materials and attachment methods.

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### Ceiling Joist & Rafter Tables (Tables R802.4, R802.5)

- ◆ Changes to Southern Pine, Douglas Fir-Larch, and Hemlock Fir capacities have changes the maximum spans.
- ◆ Shorter spans for SP; slightly longer spans for DF-L & HF.
- ◆ New design values apply only to new construction.

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### Attic Ventilation (R806.1)

- ◆ The 2012 IRC exception allowing the building official to waive ventilation requirements due to atmospheric or climatic conditions has been deleted.

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### Underlayment for Roofing (R905.1.1)

- ◆ Reorganizes underlayment provisions and adds 3 new tables for unlayment type, application, & attachment.
- ◆ Easier to locate provisions & highlights key differences

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### Photovoltaic Shingles (R905.16)

- ◆ Additional requirements and limits for PV shingles have been added.



Photovoltaic shingle

Photo Courtesy of Fabco Roofing Company

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### Rooftop-Mounted PV Systems (R907)



- ◆ Specific requirements for roof mounted PV panels and modules have been added.
- ◆ Mirror provisions in 2015 IBC.

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### Energy Compliance Paths (N1101.13)

- ◆ Compliance paths have been clarified.
- ◆ Mandatory provisions combined with **either** the prescriptive **or** the performance provisions are deemed compliant.

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### Permanent Energy Certificate (N1101.14)

- ◆ Code now requires the permanent energy certificate to be placed on a wall in proximity to the furnace, in a utility room, or in another approved location.

Energy Efficiency Certificate	
Insulation Rating	
Ceiling/roof	
Walls	
Floors	
Ducts	
Air-leakage Test Results	
Blower door	Duct testing
Fenestration Rating	
Window	
Opaque door	
Skylight	
Equipment Performance	
Heating system	
Cooling system	
Water heater	
Designer/builder	

© International Code Council

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### R-Value – Insulated Siding (N1102.1.3)

- ◆ Insulated siding is considered continuous insulation & can be used in calculating wall insulation when R-2 minimum.
- ◆ The labeled R-value is reduced by 0.6 for the calculation.

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### Access Hatches & Doors (N1102.2.4)

- ◆ Clarification that vertical doors that access unconditioned attics & crawl spaces do not require an R-value to match wall insulation.
- ◆ Must comply with fenestration U-factor requirements in Table N1102.1.2.

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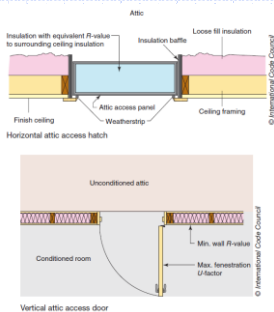
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### Access Hatches & Doors (N1102.2.4)



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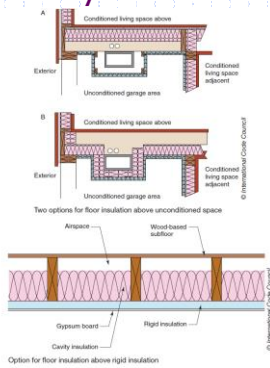
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## Floor Framing Cavity Insulation (N1102.2.8)

◆ Added option for air space above floor insulation.




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## Reformatted Table N1102.4.1.1

TABLE N1102.4.1.1 (402.4.1.1) AIR BARRIER AND INSULATION INSTALLATION		
COMPONENT	AIR BARRIER CRITERIA	INSULATION INSTALLATION CRITERIA
General requirements	A continuous air barrier shall be installed in the building envelope. The exterior thermal envelope contains a continuous air barrier. Breaks or joints in the air barrier shall be sealed.	Air-permeable insulation shall not be used as a sealing material.
Ceiling/joints	The air barrier in any dropped ceiling/voftis shall be aligned with the insulation and any gaps in the air barrier sealed. Access openings, drop down stairs or knee wall doors to unconditioned attic spaces shall be sealed.	The insulation in any dropped ceiling/voftis shall be aligned with the air barrier.
Walls	The junction of the foundation and sill plate shall be sealed. The junction of the top plate and the top of exterior walls shall be sealed. Knee walls shall be sealed.	Cavities within corners and headers of frame walls shall be insulated by completely filling the cavity with a material having a thermal resistance of R-3 per inch minimum. Exterior thermal envelope insulation for framed walls shall be installed in substantial contact and continuous alignment with the air barrier.
Windows, skylights and doors	The space between window/door jamba and framing, and skylights and framing shall be sealed.	
Rim joints	Rim joints shall include the air barrier.	Rim joints shall be insulated.
Floors (including above garage and cantilevered floors)	The air barrier shall be installed at any exposed edge of insulation.  Exposed earth in unvented crawl spaces shall be	Floor framing cavity insulation shall be installed to maintain permanent contact with the underside of subfloor decking, or floor framing cavity insulation shall be permitted to be in contact with the top side of sheathing, or continuous insulation installed on the underside of floor framing, and extends from the bottom to the top of all perimeter floor framing members.  Where provided instead of floor insulation,

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## Reformatted Table N1102.4.1.1

Crawl space walls	Exposed earth in unvented crawl spaces shall be covered with a Class I vapor retarder with overlapping joints taped.	of all perimeter floor framing members. Where provided instead of floor insulation, insulation shall be permanently attached to the crawl space walls.
Skulls, penetrations	Drain skulls, utility penetrations, and flue skulls opening to exterior or unconditioned space shall be sealed.	
Narrow cavities		Rims in narrow cavities shall be cut to fit, or narrow cavities shall be filled by insulation that conforms to the available cavity space.
Garage separation	Air sealing shall be provided between the garage and conditioned spaces.	
Recessed lighting	Recessed light fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the drywall.	Recessed light fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be air tight and IC rated.
Plumbing and wiring		Butt insulation shall be cut neatly to fit around wiring and plumbing in exterior walls, or insulation that conforms to available space shall extend behind piping and wiring.
Showertub on exterior wall	The air barrier installed at exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall separate them from the showers and tubs.	Exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall be insulated.
Electrical/phone box on exterior walls	The air barrier shall be installed behind electrical or communication boxes or air-sealed boxes shall be installed.	
HVAC register boots	HVAC register boots that penetrate building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the subfloor or drywall.	
Recessed speakers	When required to be sealed, recessed fire speakers shall only be sealed in a manner that is recommended by the manufacturer. Caulking or other adhesive sealants shall not be used to fill voids between fire speaker cover plate and walls or ceilings.	

a. In addition, inspection of log walls shall be in accordance with the provisions of IRC 408.

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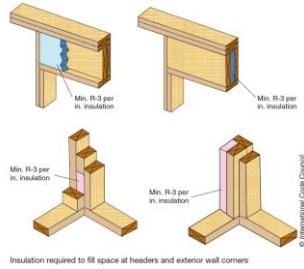
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### Insulation @ Corners & Headers (Table N1102.4.1.1)

◆ Insulation requirements only apply when there is space to install insulation. Must be minimum R-3 per inch.



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### Wood-Burning Fireplace Doors (N1102.4.2, Table N1102.4.1.1)

- ◆ New wood-burning fireplaces shall have tight-fitting flue dampers **or doors**.
- ◆ Doors to be tested & listed.
- ◆ Requirement for gasketed doors has been removed.

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### Air Leakage Testing (N1102.4.1.2 – CT Amd)

- ◆ CT requires 3 ACH maximum.
- ◆ CT Exceptions:
  - DU's >850 SF: Threshold 5 ACH
  - DU's ≤850 SF: Threshold 6.5 ACH
  - Testing & protocol provisions involving multiple units

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### Duct Sealing & Testing (N1103.3)

- ◆ Duct sealing and testing provisions have been reorganized to clarify the application.
- ◆ Maximum duct leakage rates are now prescriptive rather than mandatory to accommodate design flexibility.

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### Dryer Exhaust Duct Power Ventilators (M1502.4.4)

- ◆ Code now recognizes the use of dryer exhaust duct power ventilators (DEDPVs) to increase the allowable exhaust duct length for clothes dryers.



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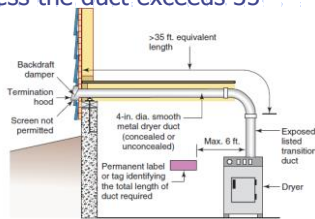
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### Dryer Duct Length Identification (M1502.4.6)

- ◆ Label identifying the concealed length of the dryer exhaust duct no longer required, unless the duct exceeds 35 feet.



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## Makeup Air for Range Hoods (M1503.4)

- ◆ Automatic operation of a mechanical damper is no longer required for supplying makeup air for kitchen exhaust systems exceeding 400 cfm.
- ◆ Transfer openings are permitted to obtain makeup air from rooms other than the kitchen.
- ◆ CT Amendment gives a 400 CFM credit for amount of MUA required.

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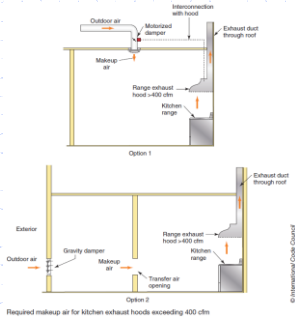
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## Makeup Air for Range Hoods (M1503.4)




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## Exhaust Duct Length (M1506.2)

- ◆ New prescriptive table for sizing exhaust ducts.

TABLE M1506.2 Duct Length

Duct Type	Flex Duct								Smooth-Wall Duct							
Fan airflow rating, (CFM @ 0.25 inch w.c.)	50	80	100	125	150	200	250	300	50	80	100	125	150	200	250	300
Diameter <sup>a</sup> (inches)	Maximum length <sup>c,d,e</sup> (feet)															
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4	38	4	X	X	X	X	X	114	31	10	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	NL	81	42	16	2	X	X	NL	152	91	51	28	4	X	X	X
6	NL	NL	158	91	53	18	1	X	NL	NL	NL	168	112	53	25	9
7	NL	NL	NL	NL	161	78	40	19	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	148	88	54
8 and above	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	189	111	69	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	198	133

a. Fan airflow rating shall be in accordance with ANSI/AMCA 210-ANSI/ASHRAE 51.  
 b. For non-circular ducts, calculate the diameter as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter.  
 c. This table assumes that elbows are not used. Fifteen feet (1.5 m) of allowable duct length shall be deducted for each elbow installed in the duct run.  
 d. NL = no limit on duct length of this size.  
 e. X = not allowed. Any length of duct of this size with assumed turns and fittings will exceed the rated pressure drop.

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### Electrical Bonding of Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (G2411)

- ◆CT amends this section.
- ◆CT keeps the IRC model code language for bonding to apply to CSST not listed with an arc resistant jacket or coating system.

(Add) G2411.3 Arc-resistant CSST. This section applies to corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) that is listed with an arc-resistant jacket or coating system in accordance with ANSI LC 1/CSA 6.26. The CSST shall be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground fault current path. Where any CSST component of a piping system does not have an arc-resistant jacket or coating system, the bonding requirements of Section G2411.2 shall apply. Arc-resistant-jacketed CSST shall be considered to be bonded where it is connected to an appliance that is connected to the appliance grounding conductor of the circuit that supplies that appliance.

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### Maximum Gas Demand (G2413.2)

- ◆Table G2415.2 (Approx. Gas Input for Typ. Appliances) has been deleted.
- ◆Code requires actual maximum input rating of the appliances to be known and used for gas pipe sizing purposes.

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### Protection of Concealed Gas Piping (G2415.7)

- ◆Completely rewritten to address more than just bored holes & notches.
- ◆Now addresses piping parallel to & within framing members.
- ◆New text requires that protection extend well beyond the edge of members that are bored or notched.
- ◆Does not apply to black steel or galv steel piping

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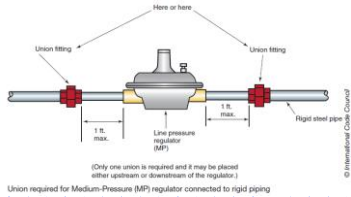
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### Medium-Pressure Regulators (G2421.2)

- ◆ Medium-Pressure (MP) line regulators installed in rigid piping must have a union installed to allow removal.



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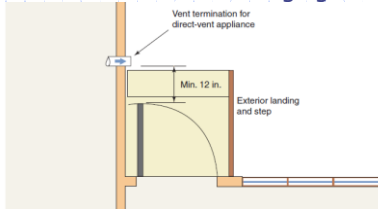
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### Door Clearance to Vent Terminals (G2426.7.1)

- ◆ Requirement added that an appliance vent terminal is not permitted within 12 inches of the arc of a swinging door.



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### Drain, Waste & Vent Systems Testing (P2503.5)

- ◆ The head pressure for a water test on DWV systems has been reduced from 10 ft to 5 ft.
- ◆ Reasoning is that 5 ft head test is sufficient to reveal any leaks or defects.
- ◆ Easier for installer & inspector to observe the water level inside the pipe without using a ladder.

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### Protection Against Physical Damage (P2603.2.1)

- ◆ Where piping (other than C.I. or galv) is installed thru holes or notches, the minimum clearance has been reduced from 1-1/2 to 1-1/4".
- ◆ Protection required for piping less than 1-1/4" from the edge of framing member.

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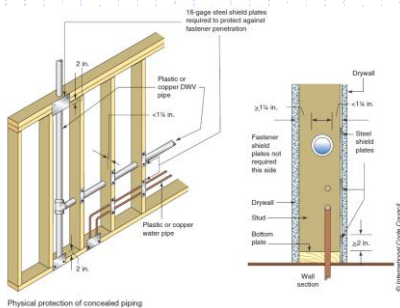
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### Protection Against Physical Damage (P2603.2.1)



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### Nonpotable Water Systems (P2901, P2910 – P2913)

- ◆ New sections P2910 – P2913 are taken from IgCC to provide guidance on collection, storage & distribution of various types of nonpotable water for residential buildings.



Purple piping is required for nonpotable water distribution.



Nonpotable water is not for drinking. CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER. DO NOT DRINK. (This water is not for drinking. It is for other uses only.)

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### Lead Content of Drinking Water Pipe & Fittings (P2906.2)

- ◆ Code has a more stringent limitation for lead content in pipe, pipe fittings, joist, valves, faucets, and fixture fittings that convey water for drinking and cooking.
- ◆ Complies w/ newer federal law.

**2015 CODE: P2905.2 P2906.2 Lead Content.** The lead content in pipe and fittings used in the water-supply system shall have lead content of ~~be~~ not greater than 8 percent lead.

**P2906.2.1 Lead Content of Drinking Water Pipe and Fittings.** Pipe, pipe fittings, joints, valves, faucets, and fixture fittings utilized to supply water for drinking or cooking purposes shall comply with NSF 372 and shall have a weighted average lead content of 0.25 percent lead or less.

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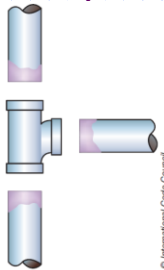
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### Solvent Cementing of PVC Joints (P3003.9)



Purple primer is no longer required for joints of non-pressure PVC DWV piping 4 inches or less in diameter.

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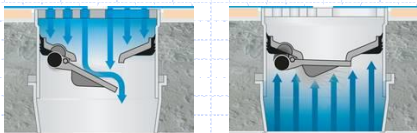
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### Trap Seal Protection Against Evaporation (P3201.2)

- ◆ Can now be accomplished in a variety of ways, including trap seal primer valves supplied with nonpotable water and barrier-type trap seal protection devices.



Example: Kessel Multistop. Not an endorsement.

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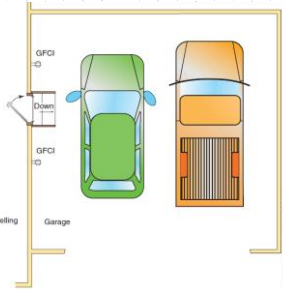
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### Receptacle Outlets for Garages (E3901.9)

- ◆ Garage receptacle outlets must be served by a separate branch circuit that does not supply other outlets. At least one receptacle for each car space.



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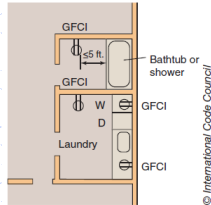
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### GFCI Protection (E3902.8, E3902.9, E3902.10)

- ◆ Laundry areas now require GFCI.
- ◆ Receptacles within 6 ft of bathtubs & showers, & for DW also require GFCI.



GFCI protection required for 125-volt, 15- and 20-amp receptacle outlets in laundry areas and near showers or bathtubs

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### Low-Voltage Luminaires Adjacent to Swimming Pools (E4203.4.3)

**2015 CODE: E4203.4.3 Low-Voltage Luminaires.** Listed low-voltage luminaires not requiring grounding, not exceeding the low-voltage contact limit, and supplied by listed transformers or power supplies that comply with Section E4206.1 shall be permitted to be located less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from the inside walls of the pool. [680.22(B)(6)]

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