

2018 IRC CODE CHANGES

SECTION REF.

CHANGE

R102.5 APPENDICIES - ADOPTED:

- Appendix A. Sizing and capacities of gas piping.
- Appendix B. Sizing of venting systems serving appliances equipped with draft hoods, Category I appliances and appliances listed for use with Type B vents
- Appendix C. Exit terminals of mechanical draft and direct-vent venting systems
- Appendix D. Recommended procedure for safety inspection of an existing appliance installation
- Appendix E. Manufactured housing used as dwellings
- Appendix F. Radon control methods
- Appendix G. Piping standards for various appliances
- Appendix H. Patio covers
- Appendix J. Existing buildings and structures
- Appendix K. Sound Transmission
- Appendix M. Home day care - R-3 Occupancy
- Appendix N. Venting Methods
- Appendix O. Automatic vehicular gates
- Appendix P. Sizing of water piping
- Appendix Q. Tiny Houses

R302.13 Fire protection of floors. Floor assemblies directly over a crawl space intended for storage or for the installation of fuel-fired or electric-powered heating appliances shall be provided with a 1/2 inch gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8 inch wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member unless protected by a sprinkler system.

R308.4.2 Glazing adjacent to doors. Glazing in an individual fixed or operable panel adjacent to a door shall be considered to be a hazardous location where the bottom exposed edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches above the floor or walking surface and it meet either of the following conditions: 1) where the glazing is within 24 inches of either side of the door in the plane of the door in a closed position, or 2) where the glazing is on a wall less than 180 degrees from the plane of the door in a closed position and within 24 inches of the hinge side of an in-swinging door.

R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue opening required. Where the dwelling or townhouse is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system installed accordance with Section P2904, sleeping rooms in basements shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings provided that the basement has one of the following: 1) one means of egress complying with Section R311 and one emergency escape and rescue opening, or 2) two means of egress complying with Section R311.

R310.3 Emergency escape and rescue doors. The code now allows sliding glass doors to be used for emergency egress. The 2012 code required the door to be side-hinged.

R311.7.3 Vertical rise of stairs. A flight of stairs shall not have a vertical rise larger than 151 inches between floor levels or landings.

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- R311.7.4 Stair winders. The stair winders shall have a minimum tread depth of 10" as measured 12" from the narrowest point of the stair.
- R311.7.5.1 Stair risers. The riser height shall be not more than 7 3/4". The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest riser height by more than 3/8".
- R311.7.5.2 Stair treads. The tread depth shall be not less than 10".
- R311.7.8.2 Handrail projection. Handrails shall not project more than 4 1/2 inches on either side of the stairway. Exception: where nosings of landings, floors, or passing flights project into the stairway reducing the clearance at passing handrails, handrails shall project not more than 6 1/2 inches into the stairway, provided that the stair width and handrail clearance are not reduced to less than that required.
- R311.7.8.3 Handrail clearance. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1 1/2 inches between the wall and the handrails.
- R311.7.8.5 All stairs shall have graspable handrails.
- R312.2 Window fall protection. In dwellings where the top of the window sill of an operable window opening is located less than 24 inches above the finished floor and greater than 72 inches above the finished grade or surface below on the exterior of the building the operable window shall comply with one of the following:
1. Window openings will not allow a 4" diameter sphere to pass through where the openings are in their largest open position
 2. Windows are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090
 3. Windows are provided with window opening control devices that comply with Section R312.2.2
- R314.2.2 Alterations, repairs, and additions. Where alterations, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. Exception: 1) work involving the exterior surfaces of the dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing, or siding, the addition or replacement of windows, doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, or 2) installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems.
- R314.4 All smoke alarms shall be interconnected. The exemption for interconnection of alarms during alterations based on feasibility has been removed from the code.
- R315.2.2 Alterations, repairs, and additions. Where alterations, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms located as required for new dwellings.
- R408.3 Unvented crawl space. In lieu of a conditioned air supply in sealed crawl spaces, a dehumidification system sized to provide 70 pints of moisture removal per day for every 1,000 square feet of crawl space floor area.

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- R507.2.3 Deck fasteners and connectors. Metal fasteners and connectors used for all decks shall be in accordance with Section R317.3 and Table 507.2.3.
- R507.3 Deck footings. Decks shall be supported on concrete footings or other approved structural systems designed to accommodate all loads in accordance with Section R301. Deck footings shall be sized to carry the imposed loads from the deck structure to the ground as shown in Figure R507.3. The footing depth shall be in accordance with Section R403.1.4. Exception: 1) freestanding decks consisting of joists directly supported on grade over their entire length.
- R507.4.1 Deck post to deck footing connection. Where posts bear on concrete footings in accordance with Section R403 and Figure R507.4.1, lateral restraint shall be provided by manufactured connectors or a minimum post embedment of 12 inches in surrounding soils or concrete piers.
- R507.5.1 Deck beam bearing. Where multi-span beams bear on intermediate posts, each ply must have full bearing on the post.
- Table
R602.7(1)
R602.7(2) Girder and header span charts. The new span charts reduce the allowable span of girders and headers when using #2 Pine.
- Table
R602.7.5 Minimum number of studs required at each end of header. The length of the header before two studs are required has increased from 6' to 10'. Anything less than 10' now only requires one stud at each end.
- R1005.8 Insulation shield. Where factory-built chimneys pass through insulated assemblies, an insulation shield constructed of steel. Having a minimum thickness of 0.0187 inch (No. 26 gage) shall be installed to provide clearance between the chimney and the insulation material. The clearance shall not be less than the clearance to combustibles specified by the chimney manufacturer's installation instructions. Where chimneys pass through attic space, the shield shall terminate not less than 2" above the insulation materials and shall be secured in place to prevent displacement. Insulation shield provided as part of a listed chimney system shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instruction.
- Table
N1102.1.2
(R402.1.2) U-factor for windows is reduced from U-0.35 to U-0.32
- N1102.4.1
Table
N1102.4.1.1 Recessed lighting fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the finished surface.
- N1102.4.2 New wood-burning fireplaces shall have tight fitting flue dampers or doors and outside combustion air. Where using tight fitting doors on factory-built fireplaces listed and labeled in accordance with UL-127, the doors shall be tested and listed for the fireplace.
- N1103.3.5 Building cavities. Building framing cavities shall not be used as ducts or plenums.

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- N1103.3.6 Ducts buried within ceiling insulation. Where supply and return air ducts are partially or completely buried in ceiling insulation, such ducts shall comply with all of the following:
- 1) the supply and return ducts shall have an insulation value of not less than R-8;
 - 2) at all points along each duct, the sum of the ceiling insulation R-values above the top of the duct, and against and below the bottom of the duct shall be not less than R-19, excluding the duct R-value.
- N1104.1 Not less than 90% of permanently installed lighting shall contain only high efficacy lamps.
- M1502.3.1 Dryer exhaust termination outlet and passageway size. The passageway of dryer exhaust duct terminals shall be undiminished in size and shall provide an open area of not less than 12.5 square inches. (4" round duct)
- M1502.4.2 Dryer duct installation. Where dryer exhaust ducts are enclosed in wall or ceiling cavities, such cavities shall allow the installation of the duct without deformation.
- M1503.3 Domestic range hood exhaust discharge. Domestic cooking exhaust equipment shall discharge to the outdoors through a duct. The duct shall have a smooth interior surface, shall be air tight, shall be equipped with a backdraft damper and shall be independent of all other exhaust equipment. Ducts serving domestic cooking equipment shall not terminate in an attic or crawl space or areas inside the building.
- G2406.2 Clothes dryers may be located in a residential bathroom or toilet room having a permanent opening with an area of not less than 100 square inches that communicates with a space outside of a sleeping room, bathroom, toilet room, or storage closet.
- P2713.1 Bathtub waste outlets and overflows. The requirement for overflow outlets on bathtubs has been removed.