

Date: February 8, 2011

To: State Building Officials

From: Donald J Sivigny
Sr. Bldg. Code Representative/Energy Specialist

Subject: Staff opinion on the use of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) Section R806.4 “Unvented Attic Assemblies” as an alternate method in accordance with MN Rules Chapter 1300 Section 1300.0110 Subp. 13 “Alternate materials, design and methods of construction and equipment”.

The 2006 IRC Section 806.4 “Unvented Attic Assemblies” was deleted by a Minnesota amendment from the IRC due to lack of clarity and the improper use of an ASTM Standard that only defined “air impermeable” as requirements for fenestration products and not for roof or wall assemblies.

Recent inquiries have brought to our attention the changes to section R806.4, “Unvented Attic Assemblies”, in the 2009 IRC and how this change addresses those situations typically known as a “Hot Roof “ applications for buildings built in Minnesota.

The Building Official has the authority to allow a conditioned attic assembly such as an “Unvented Attic Assembly” as an alternate method in accordance with MN Rules Chapter 1300 Section 1300.0110 Subp. 13 “Alternate materials, design and methods of construction and equipment”.

In the most current version (2009) of the IRC, section R806.4 has been dramatically changed. These changes to the code now incorporate additional building science research on for unvented attic assemblies. This research expands the details of air-impermeable and air-permeable insulation systems and how they are used to create assemblies that will perform in Minnesota climatic conditions.

These changes have been reviewed and scrutinized in the 2012 national code adoption process and the 2012 IRC is consistent with the language in the 2009 IRC.

It is the opinion of this Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD) Staff, that this could be considered by the Building Official in determining compliance with MN Rules Chapter 1300 Section 1300.0110 Subp. 13 “Alternate materials, design and methods of construction and equipment”. However it is important to note that this opinion does not address any other code requirements for specific products, nor does it address any of the additional requirements set forth by the manufacturers of roofing or other materials, thermal barrier requirements or warranties of products installed in this type of assembly, or any other applicable code requirement.