

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM
FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES
(This form must be submitted electronically)

IRC-15, MR 1309.0318 [Final 12-29-2011]

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Proposed Code Change - Language

1309.0318 SECTION R318, MOISTURE VAPOR RETARDERS.

IRC Section R318.1 is amended to read as follows:

R318.1 Vapor retarders. In all above grade framed walls, floors, and roof/ceilings comprising elements of the building thermal envelope, a vapor retarder shall be installed on the warm side of the insulation. Vapor retarders installed under a concrete floor slab shall comply with section R506.2.3.

~~**Exception:** In construction where moisture or freezing will not damage the materials.~~

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

This proposal deletes a Minnesota Rule that addresses vapor retarders. There are two reasons why deletion of this language is necessary. First, vapor retarders are a requirement of the Minnesota Residential Energy Code section N1102.5 and are therefore unnecessary here. Also, the vapor retard requirements in the model code have been moved to Chapter 7 so the numbering would be out of order. It is necessary to avoid confusion and duplication of requirements that this language be deleted. It is reasonable to use the similar regulations found in the Minnesota Energy Code.

Minnesota Energy Code (for information only)

N1102.5.1 Exterior wall vapor retarder. Above grade frame walls, rim joists, floors, and ceilings shall be provided with an approved vapor retarder as defined in IRC Section R202. The vapor retarder shall be installed on the warm-in-winter side of the thermal insulation. Subfloor materials that meet the requirements of a vapor retarder are allowed. The vapor retarder does not need to be continuously sealed unless it also serves as an air barrier.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

This proposal will have no impact on the cost of construction.

Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

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neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Code officials, building designers, contractors, building owners

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No