

2012 IECC Code Amendments – Residential Provisions

Idaho Code Collaborative Meeting December 3, 2012

DRAFT – Please Comment

Note: *Below are amendments to the 2012 IECC. At our December 3 meeting we discussed and agreed on bringing the air leakage rate when using a blower door testing option down to 5 air changes per hour at 50 pascals. Please note that I have not made that change and have left the 2009 language and 7 ACH 50 intact.*

I made this change because: 1) it allows a continuation of the 2009 air leakage standards so that a code built home will not typically trigger the need for whole house ventilation as now specified in the IECC and IMC; and, 2) leaving it at 7 continues to allow a trade off in the performance approach for lower leakage levels attained with above code programs such as Energy Star and LEED for homes.

Builders wishing to utilize the lower air leakage trade off would be required to test the home per the code, and if they are below 5 ACH @ 50 pa (Section 402.1 of the IMC), would require whole house ventilation per Section M1507.3 of the IRC.

So I'm suggesting we leave the air leakage standard at 2009 levels but leave the IMC and IRC sections for tight homes and whole house ventilation as they are for those builders that wish to build tighter homes.

The Amendments:

1. Table 402.1.1 and Table 402.1.3 of the 2012 IECC have been amended back to 2009 values.

Table 402.1.1.

Climate Zone 5 window u-factor ~~0.32~~ to 0.35

Climate Zone 6 wood frame wall ~~20 + 5 or 13 + 10~~ to 20 or 13 + 5

Climate Zone 5 ceiling r-value ~~49~~ to 38

Climate Zone 5 basement wall r-value ~~15/19~~ to 10/13

Climate Zone 5 crawlspace wall r-value ~~15/19~~ to 10/13

Table 402.1.3

Climate Zone 5 window u-factor ~~0.32~~ to 0.35

Climate Zone 6 wood frame wall ~~.048~~ to .057

Climate Zone 5 ceiling u-factor ~~.026~~ to .030

Climate Zone 5 basement wall u-factor ~~.05~~ to .059

Climate Zone 5 crawlspace wall u-factor ~~.055~~ to .065

2. Section R402.2.6 Steel Frame Ceilings, Walls and Floors, of the 2012 IECC is amended to maintain consistency with wood frame insulation amendments as provided in the amendments of Table 4.2.1.1.

Section 402.2.6, Steel frame ceilings walls and floors. Replace 2012 Table R402.2.6 with 2009 Table 402.2.5 but labeled as 402.2.6. *(This brings metal frame walls into alignment with Table 402.1.1 and 402.1.3 changes in ITEM 1 above)*

3. Air Leakage: 2012 Sections R402.4 through R402.4.1.2 is replaced with 2009 Sections 402.4 through 402.4.2.2. *402.4.2.1 Testing option shall remain as less than 7 air changes per hour when tested with a blower door . . .*

4. Lighting section R404 of the 2012 is amended back to requirements of 2009.

Section R404, R404.1 Lighting equipment . . . ~~75%~~ 50% of permanently installed lighting fixtures shall contain only high efficacy lamps. The low voltage lighting exception under R404.1 shall remain. Section R404.1.1 Lighting Equipment (Mandatory), Fuel gas lighting systems shall not have continuously burning pilot lights, shall remain.

5. New 2012 changes not amended:

1. R402.2.3 Eave Baffle is a new requirement
2. All of Section 403 Systems
3. All of Section R404 except that high efficacy lamp efficiency reduced from 75% to 50%