



PUBLIC CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM FOR PUBLIC PROPOSALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CODES

2006/2007 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

CLOSING DATE: All Proposals Must Be Received by March 24, 2006

The 2006/2007 Code Development Hearings are scheduled for
September 20 to 30, 2006 in Orlando, FL

- 1) **Name:** Ronald Majette **Date:** March 24, 2006
Jurisdiction/Company: United States Department of Energy
Submitted on Behalf of: United States Department of Energy
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- 2) ***Signature:** _____
** I hereby grant and assign to ICC all rights in copyright I may have in any authorship contributions I make to ICC in connection with this proposal. I understand that I will have no rights in any ICC publications that use such contributions in the form submitted by me or another similar form and certify that such contributions are not protected by the copyright of any other person or entity.*

Signature for electronic submittal: When submitting proposals electronically, to complete the submittal process, print a copy of the ICC Electronic [Copyright Release](http://www.iccsafe.org) form found at www.iccsafe.org, fill in the requested information, send to ICC. One completed form is required. This must be done for each code change cycle and can be used for code changes and public comments.

- 3) Indicate appropriate International Code(s) associated with this Public Proposal – Please use Acronym: IRC
 If you have also submitted a separate coordination change to another I-Code, please indicate the code: _____
 (See section below for list of names and acronyms for the International Codes).

- 4) **Be sure to format your proposal and include all information as indicated on Page 2 of this form.**

- 5) Proposals should be sent to the following offices via regular mail or email. An e-mail submittal is preferred, including an electronic version, in either Wordperfect or Word. The only formatting that is needed is **BOLDING**, ~~STRIKEOUT~~ AND UNDERLINING. Please do not provide additional formatting such as tabs, columns, etc., as this will be done by ICC

Please use a separate form for each proposal submitted. Note: All code changes received will receive an acknowledgment.

Please check here if separate graphic file provided.

Graphic materials (Graphs, maps, drawings, charts, photographs, etc.) must be submitted as separate electronic files in .CDR,.IA,.TIF or .JPG format (300 DPI Minimum resolution; 600 DPI or more preferred) even though they may also be embedded in your Word or Wordperfect submittal.

Code	Send to:	Acronym	ICC Code Name
IBC	International Code Council	IBC	International Building Code
ICC EC	Chicago District Office	ICC EC	ICC Electrical Code–Administrative Provisions
IEBC	Attn: Diane Schoonover	IECC	International Energy Conservation Code
IFC	4051 West Flossmoor Road	IEBC	International Existing Building Code
IFGC	Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795	IFC	International Fire Code
IPC	Fax: 708/799-0320	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code
IPSDC	codechanges@iccsafe.org	IMC	International Mechanical Code
IPMC		ICC PC	ICC Performance Code
IWUIC		IPC	International Plumbing Code
IZC		IPSDC	International Private Sewage Disposal Code
		IPMC	International Property Maintenance Code
IECC	International Code Council	IRC	International Residential Code
ICC PC	Birmingham District Office	IWUIC	International Wildland-Urban Interface Code
IMC	Attn: Annette Sundberg	IZC	International Zoning Code
IRC	900 Montclair Road		
	Birmingham, AL 35213-1206		
	Fax: 205/592-7001		
	codechangesbhm@iccsafe.org		

CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL

Please provide all of the following items in your code change proposal. Your proposal may be entered on the following form, or you may attach a separate file. However, please read the instructions provided for each part of the code change proposal. The sections identified in parentheses are the applicable sections from CP #28 Code Development. The full procedures can be downloaded from www.iccsafe.org.

Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision (3.3.2): 703.2

Name/Company/Representing (3.3.1): Ronald Majette/United States Department of Energy

Proposal:

•Add new text as follows:

703.2 Weather-resistant Sheathing Paper. One layer of No. 15 asphalt felt, free from holes and breaks, complying with ASTM D266 for Type 1 felt or other approved weather-resistive materials shall be applied over studs or sheathing of all exterior walls. Such felt or material shall be applied horizontally, with the upper layer lapped over the lower layer not less than 2 inches (51 mm). Where joints occur, felt shall be lapped not less than 6 inches (152 mm). Such felt or other approved material shall be continuous to the top of walls and terminated at penetrations and building appendages in a manner to meet the requirements of the exterior wall envelope as described in Section R703.1.

Exceptions: Omission of such felt or material is permitted in the following situations:

1. In detached accessory buildings.
2. Under exterior wall finish materials as permitted in Table R703.4.
3. Under paperbacked stucco lath when the paper backing is an approved weather-resistive sheathing paper.
4. Insulating sheathing with corrosion-resistive flashings extending not less than 2 inches (51 mm) behind top boards and overlapping bottom boards by not less than 2 inches (51 mm) on all horizontal joints, and with vertical joints taped with an approved sheathing tape or ship-lapped or tongue-and-grooved with a ship-lap or tongue-and-groove width of not less than 3/4 inch (19 mm).

Supporting Information (3.3.4 & 3.4):

Purpose: The purpose of this code change proposal is to permit insulating sheathing as an alternative to weather resistant sheathing paper without requiring additional testing and approval. Insulating sheathing with drainage joints exceeds the performance of sheathing papers as a weather resistant barrier in preventing water from entering the wall system.

Reason: The proposed change has been identified by the teams of the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program as the number one priority for code changes needed to allow techniques employed by Building America. Insulating sheathing can be used as weather resistant barriers only if they meet AC-71 criteria developed by the ICC Evaluation service or meet similar requirements now part of IRC R-703.1 and R-703.2 requirements for weather resistant barriers. These requirements mean that insulating sheathing joints must be taped, and all flanged windows must have flanges taped on all four sides. This adds significant cost and disallows drained joints and flashings, which are longer term cost-effective solutions. In several jurisdictions, Building America teams have obtained approval from local authorities to use insulating sheathing as weather resistant barriers as an alternative material using the provision R104.11. Use of insulating sheathing as weather resistant barrier has been effective in new homes built under the Building America program.

Substantiation: Section R703.2 in the IRC require a weather-resistant sheathing paper in wall assemblies and requires nearly all other weather resistant materials to be "approved" by the code official. For many years confusion has existed regarding whether foam plastic sheathing meets the requirement for a weather-resistant barrier. The ICC Evaluation Service developed an "Interim Criteria For Foam Plastic Sheathing Panels Used As Weather-Resistive Barriers" – AC71 that became effective March 1, 2003. This interim criteria, AC71 provides strict performance requirements. The specific requirement is a two hour water test under ASTM E-331 under 6.24 psf without the presence of a cladding. In comparison, windows need only perform to a 15 minute test at 1/3 of the pressure. This requirement means that draining joints are not allowed. This requirement places an artificially high barrier to a new technology that is superior to existing "grandfathered" technologies. It has not been proven that building paper passes such a requirement. In addition, insulating sheathing panels can be provided with flashing and drainage joints that are durable and long term strategies for a weather resistive barrier. The Building America teams believe insulating sheathings in general perform favorably compared to building paper. This code change is needed to permit this technology as a alternative method of preventing accumulation of water within the wall assembly.

Referenced Standards (3.4 & 3.6): N/A

Cost Impact (3.3.4.6): The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

