

APA-1
07/04

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control No. _____ Department or Agency Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Rule No. 305-2-4-.09

Rule Title: Residential Building Code

XX New _____ Amend XX Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? NO

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? NO

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? NO

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved and, if so, to what degree? NO

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? NO

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? YES

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? NO

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer

Date 7/21/15

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

APA-2
07/04

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
ALABAMA ENERGY AND RESIDENTIAL CODES BOARD**

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

RULE NO. & TITLE:

305-2-4-.09 "Residential Building Code"

INTENDED ACTION: Repeal and Replace

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes Board, under the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, proposes to repeal rule 305-2-4 -.09, "Residential Building and Energy Code", and to replace it with the provisions of the most recently adopted Alabama Residential Building Code.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

A session for oral comment will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 from 10:00 am until 11:00 am, at the Alabama Center for Commerce, 401 Adams Avenue, Room 342, 36104.

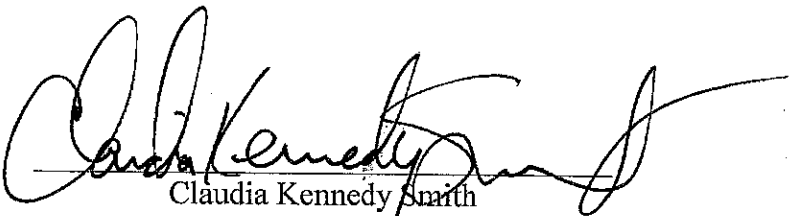
All interested parties may present their views in writing to Heather Goggin, ADECA Energy Division, P.O. Box 5690, Montgomery, AL 36103-5690. All comments must be received by the end of business on Friday, September 4, 2015.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

September 4, 2015

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Heather Goggin, ADECA Energy Division
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 560
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 242-5330 - Codes.Board@adeca.alabama.gov


Claudia Kennedy Smith
Alabama Department of Economic and
Community Affairs, General Counsel

~~305-2-4-.09 Residential Building and Energy Codes. (REPEALED)~~
The 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) as modified below;
and sections of the International Energy Conservation Code
(IECC) as modified below:

~~(1) IRC CHAPTER 3 BUILDING PLANNING~~

~~(a) SECTION R302 FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION.~~

~~1. R302.2 Townhouses.~~

~~(i) Exception: A common 2-hour fire resistance-rated wall assembly tested in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263 is permitted for townhouses if such walls do not contain plumbing or mechanical equipment, ducts or vents in the cavity of the common wall. The wall shall be rated for fire exposure from both sides and shall extend to and be tight against exterior walls and the underside of the roof sheathing. Electrical installations shall be installed in accordance with Chapters 34 through 43. Penetrations of electrical outlet boxes shall be in accordance with Section R302.4.~~

~~(b) SECTION R313 AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.~~

~~1. R313.1 Design and Installation. Where installed, automatic residential fire sprinkler systems shall be installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D.~~

~~(2) IRC CHAPTER 11 ENERGY EFFICIENCY~~

~~(a) N1101.7.1 Protection of exposed foundation insulation. Section deleted.~~

~~(b) N1101.8 Above Code Programs. Above code programs shall be permitted upon approval by the Alabama Residential and Energy Codes Board.~~

~~(c) N1101.9 Certificate. A permanent certificate shall be permitted to be posted on or in the electrical distribution panel. If posted, the certificate shall not cover or obstruct the visibility of the circuit directory label, service disconnect label or other required labels. The certificate shall be completed by the builder or registered design professional. The certificate shall list the predominant R-values of insulation installed in or on ceiling/roof, walls, foundation (slab, basement wall, crawlspace wall and/or floor) and ducts outside conditioned spaces; U-factors for fenestration; and the solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of fenestration. Where there is more than one value for each component, the certificate shall list the value covering the largest area. The certificate shall list the types and efficiencies of heating, cooling and service water heating~~

equipment. Where a gas-fired unvented room heater, electric furnace and/or baseboard electric heater is installed in the residence, the certificate shall list "gas-fired unvented room heater," "electric furnace" or "baseboard electric heater," as appropriate. An efficiency shall not be listed for gas-fired unvented room heaters, electric furnaces or electric base board heaters.

~~(d) N1102.1 Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component. Delete and substitute Table 402.1.1 Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component from the 2009 IECC. See Appendix A of this code.~~

~~(e) N1102.2.3 Access Hatches and Doors. Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces) shall be weather-stripped and insulated to a level in accordance with the following insulation values:~~

~~1. Hinged vertical doors shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 (R-5 minimum);~~

~~2. Hatches/scuttle hole covers shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.05 (R-19 minimum); and~~

~~3. Pull down stairs shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 with a minimum of 75 percent of the panel area having (R-5 minimum) insulation.~~

~~Access shall be provided to all equipment that prevents damaging or compressing the insulation. A wood framed or equivalent baffle or retainer is required to be provided when loose fill insulation is installed, the purpose of which is to prevent the loose fill insulation from spilling into the living space when the attic access is opened, and to provide a permanent means of maintaining the installed R-value of the loose fill insulation.~~

~~(f) N1102.2.8 Slab-on-grade floors. Section deleted.~~

~~(g) N1103.1.1 Programmable Thermostats. Section deleted.~~

~~(h) N1103.2.1 Insulation. All ducts not in a conditioned space shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6. Effective July 1, 2013 all supply ductwork in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-8.~~

~~Exception: Ducts or portions thereof located completely inside the building thermal envelope.~~

~~(3) IRC CHAPTER 15 EXHAUST SYSTEMS.~~

~~(a) M1502.4.4.1 Specified length. The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be 35 feet (10,668mm) from the connection to the terminus of the transition duct from the dryer to the outlet terminal. Where fittings are utilized, the maximum~~

~~length of the exhaust duct shall be reduced in accordance with Table M1502.4.4.1.~~

~~(4) IRC CHAPTER 16 DUCT SYSTEMS.~~

~~(a) M1601.4.1 Joints and seams. Joints of duct systems shall be made substantially airtight by means of tapes, mastics, liquid sealants, gasketing or other approved closure systems. Closure systems used with rigid fibrous glass ducts shall comply with UL181A and shall be marked 181A-P for pressure sensitive tape, 181A-M for mastic or 181A-H for heat sensitive tape. Closure systems used with flexible air ducts and flexible air connectors shall comply with UL181B and shall be marked 181B-FX for pressure sensitive tape or 181B-M for mastic. All metal to metal connections shall be mechanically fastened. All duct connections shall be sealed. Mechanical fasteners for use with flexible nonmetallic air ducts shall comply with UL181B and shall be marked 181B-C. Crimp joints for round metal ducts shall have a contact lap of at least 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) and shall be mechanically fastened by means of at least three sheet metal screws or rivets equally spaced around the joint. Closure systems used to seal metal ductwork shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.~~

~~(b) M1601.4.1.1 Duct leakage. Duct leakage testing shall not be required prior to July 1, 2013. Leakage of ducts to unconditioned space shall be less than or equal to 8 cfm (226.5 L/min) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area or a total leakage less than or equal to 12 cfm (12 L/min) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches w.g. (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure.~~

~~Exception: Duct tightness test is not required if the air handler and all ducts are located within conditioned space.~~

~~(5) IRC CHAPTER 24 FUEL GAS.~~

~~(a) SECTION G2418 (407) PIPING SUPPORT~~

~~1. G2418.2 (407.2) Design and installation. Piping shall be supported with metal pipe hooks, pipe straps, bands, brackets, hangers, building structural components, or other approved methods suitable for the size of piping, of adequate strength and quality, and located at intervals so as to prevent or damp out excessive vibration. Piping shall be anchored to prevent undue strains on connected equipment and/or appliances and shall not be supported by other piping. Manufactured pipe hangers and supports shall conform to the requirements of MSS~~

~~SP-58 and shall be spaced in accordance with Section G2424. Supports, hangers, and anchors shall be installed so as not to interfere with the free expansion and contraction of the piping between anchors. All parts of the supporting equipment shall be designed and installed so they will not be disengaged by movement of the supported piping.~~

~~(6) **Part VIII-Electrical**~~

~~(a) **IRC CHAPTER 34 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**~~

~~1. **SECTION E3401 GENERAL**~~

~~(i) **E3401.1 Applicability.** Electrical installations in compliance with the 2008 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA 70-2008]) or later editions shall be permitted.~~

~~(7) Additional energy provisions from the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as modified below:~~

~~(a) **IECC Chapter 4 Residential Energy Efficiency**~~

~~1. **401.3 Certificate.** A permanent certificate shall be permitted to be posted on or in the electrical distribution panel. If posted, the certificate shall not cover or obstruct the visibility of the circuit directory label, service disconnect label or other required labels. The certificate shall be completed by the builder or registered design professional. The certificate shall list the predominant R-values of insulation installed in or on ceiling/roof, walls, foundation (slab, basement wall, crawlspace wall and/or floor) and ducts outside conditioned spaces; U-factors for fenestration; and the solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of fenestration. Where there is more than one value for each component, the certificate shall list the value covering the largest area. The certificate shall list the types and efficiencies of heating, cooling and service water heating equipment. Where a gas-fired unvented room heater, electric furnace and/or baseboard electric heater is installed in the residence, the certificate shall list "gas-fired unvented room heater," "electric furnace" or "baseboard electric heater," as appropriate. An efficiency shall not be listed for gas-fired unvented room heaters, electric furnaces or electric base board heaters.~~

~~2. **401.4 Above Code Programs.** Above code programs shall be permitted upon approval by the Alabama Residential and Energy Codes Board.~~

~~3. **402.2.3 Access Hatches and Doors.** Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics~~

and crawl spaces) shall be weather-stripped and insulated to a level in accordance with the following insulation values:

- ~~(i) Hinged vertical doors shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 (R-5 minimum);~~
- ~~(ii) Hatches/scuttle hole covers shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.05 (R-19 minimum); and~~
- ~~(iii) Pull down stairs shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 with a minimum of 75 percent of the panel area having (R-5 minimum) insulation.~~

Access shall be provided to all equipment that prevents damaging or compressing the insulation. A wood framed or equivalent baffle or retainer is required to be provided when loose fill insulation is installed, the purpose of which is to prevent the loose fill insulation from spilling into the living space when the attic access is opened, and to provide a permanent means of maintaining the installed R-value of the loose fill insulation.

~~4. **402.2.8 Slab-on-grade Floors.** Section deleted.~~

~~5. **403.1.1 Programmable Thermostat.** Section deleted.~~

~~6. **403.2.1 Insulation.** All ducts not in a conditioned space shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6. Effective July 1, 2013 all supply ductwork in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-8.~~

~~7. **403.2.2 Sealing (Mandatory)** All ducts, air handlers, filter boxes and building cavities used as ducts shall be sealed. Joints and seams shall comply with Section M1601.4.1 of the International Residential Code.~~

~~(i) Effective July 1, 2013, duct tightness shall be verified by either of the following:~~

~~(I) Post construction test: Leakage to outdoors shall be less than or equal to 8 cfm per 100 ft² of conditioned floor area or total leakage less than or equal to 12 cfm per 100 ft² of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches w.g. (25Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test.~~

~~(II) Rough-in test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to 6 cfm per 100 ft² of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches w.g. (25Pa) across the roughed-in system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test. If the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, total~~

~~leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cfm per 100 ft² of conditioned floor area.~~

~~(ii) **Exceptions:** Duct tightness test is not required if the air handler and all ducts are located within conditioned space.~~

~~8. **403.9 Pools (Mandatory).** Section deleted.~~

~~9. **403.9.1 Pool Heaters.** Section deleted.~~

~~10. **403.9.2 Time Switches.** Section deleted.~~

~~11. **403.9.3 Pool Covers.** Section deleted~~

~~(b) **IECC CHAPTER 5 COMMERCIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY**~~

~~1. **504.7.1 Pool Heaters.** Pool heaters shall comply with ICC Fuel Gas Code or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58 as appropriate, and with the National Electric Code (NEC).~~

~~**Author:** Karen Clifton~~

~~**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 41-23-82, as amended~~

~~**History:** New Rule: Filed April 5, 2012; effective May 10, 2012.~~

~~Amended: January 16, 2014; Effective: March 18, 2014~~

APPENDIX A

**TABLE 402.1.1
INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT ^a**

<u>CLIMATE ZONE</u>	<u>FENESTRATION U-FACTOR^b</u>	<u>SKY-LIGHT U-FACTOR^b</u>	<u>GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC^{b, c}</u>	<u>CEILING R-VALUE</u>	<u>WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE</u>	<u>MASS WALL R-VALUE^d</u>	<u>FLOOR R-VALUE</u>	<u>BASEMENT WALL R-VALUE</u>	<u>SLAB^d R-VALUE & DEPTH</u>	<u>CRAWL SPACE^e WALL R-VALUE</u>
1	1.2	0.75	0.30	30	13	3/4	13	0	0	0
2	0.65 ^f	0.75	0.30	30	13	4/6	13	0	0	0
3	0.50 ^f	0.65	0.30	30	13	5/8	19	5/13 ^g	0	5/13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.60	NR	38	13	5/10	19	10/13	10 ₇ 2ft	10/13
5 and Marine 4	0.35	0.60	NR	38	20 or 13+5 ^h	13/17	30 ⁱ	10/13	10 ₇ 2ft	10/13
6	0.35	0.60	NR	49	20 or 13+5 ^h	15/19	30 ⁱ	15/19	10 ₇ 4ft	10/13
7 and 8	0.35	0.60	NR	49	21	19/21	30 ⁱ	15/19	10 ₇ 4ft	10/13

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. R-values are minimums, U-factors and SHGC are maximums. R-19 batts compressed into a nominal 2 x 6 framing cavity such that the R-value is reduced by R-1 or more shall be marked with the compressed batt R-value in addition to the full thickness R-value.
- b. The fenestration U-factor column excludes skylights. The SHGC column applies to all glazed fenestration.
- c. "15/19" means R-15 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. "15/19" shall be permitted to be met with R-13 cavity insulation on the interior of the basement wall plus R-5 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home. "10/13" means R-10 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.
- d. R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-values for heated slabs. Insulation depth shall be the depth of the footing or 2 feet, whichever is less in Zones 1 through 3 for heated slabs.
- e. There are no SHGC requirements in the Marine Zone.
- f. Basement wall insulation is not required in warm-humid locations as defined by Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1.
- g. Or insulation sufficient to fill the framing cavity, R-19 minimum.
- h. "13+5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 insulated sheathing. If structural sheathing covers 25 percent or less of the exterior, insulating sheathing is not required where structural sheathing is used. If structural sheathing covers more than 25 percent of the exterior, structural sheathing shall be supplemented with insulated sheathing of at least R-2.
- i. The second R-value applies when more than half the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.
- j. For impact-rated fenestration complying with Section R301.2.1.2 of the *International Residential Code* or Section 1608.1.2 of the *International Building Code*, the maximum U-factor shall be 0.75 in Zone 2 and 0.65 in Zone 3.

Author: ~~Karen Clifton~~

Statutory Authority: ~~Code of Ala. 1975, SS 41-23-82, as amended~~

History: ~~New Rule: Filed April 5, 2012; effective May 10, 2012.~~

305-2-4-.09. Residential Building Codes. (NEW RULE) The 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) as modified below.

(1) IRC CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS.

(a) **Automatic residential fire sprinkler systems:** For this code, an integrated and complete system of pipes, fittings, heads, and other components assembled as required by either P2904 or NFPA 13D.

(2) IRC CHAPTER 3 BUILDING PLANNING.

(a) SECTION R302 FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION.

1. R302.2 Townhouses.

(i) **Exception:** A common 2-hour fire resistance-rated wall assembly tested in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263 is permitted for townhouses; plumbing or mechanical equipment, ducts or vents shall not be installed in the cavity of the common wall. The wall shall be rated for fire exposure from both sides and shall extend to and be tight against exterior walls and the underside of the roof sheathing. Electrical installations shall be installed in accordance with Chapters 34 through 43. Penetrations of the electrical outlet boxes shall be in accordance with Section R302.4.

2. SELF-CLOSING DEVICES.

(i) **R302.5.1 OPENING PROTECTION.** Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted. Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with solid wood doors not less than 1 3/8 inches (35mm) in thickness, solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1 3/8 inches (35mm) thick, or 20 minute fire-rated doors.

(b) SECTION R312 GUARDS AND WINDOW FALL PROTECTION.

1. **R312.1.1 WHERE REQUIRED.** Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces of all decks, porches, balconies, including stairs, ramps and landings that are located more than 30 inches measured vertically to the floor or grade below. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard.

2. **R312.2 WINDOW FALL PROTECTION.** Where window fall protection devices are provided, the device shall be installed in accordance with Section R312.2.1.

(i) **R312.2.1 WINDOW OPENING CONTROL DEVICES.** Window opening control devices shall comply with ASTM F 2090. The

window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by Section R310.2.1.

(c) **SECTION R313 AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.**

1. **R313.1 Townhouse automatic fire sprinkler systems.**

Where installed, automatic residential fire sprinkler systems shall be installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D.

2. **R313.1.1 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION.** Section deleted.

3. **R313.2 ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS AUTOMATIC FIRE SYSTEMS.** Section deleted.

4. **R313.2.1 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION.** Section deleted.

(d) **SECTION R322 FLOOD-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION.**

1. **R322.3.5.1 PROTECTION OF BUILDING ENVELOPE.** Section deleted.

(e) **SECTION 324 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ROOF SYSTEMS.**

1. **R324.7.2.2 HIP ROOF LAYOUTS.** Panels and modules installed on dwellings with hip roof layouts shall be located in a manner that provides a clear access pathway not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels and modules are located. The access pathway shall be located along the structural members of the roof framing to support any person accessing the roof.

(i) **EXCEPTION:** These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.

2. **R324.7.2.5 ALLOWANCE FOR SMOKE VENTILATION OPERATIONS.** Section deleted.

(f) **SECTION 325 MEZZANINES.**

(1) **R325.5 OPENNESS.** Mezzanines shall be open and unobstructed to the room in which they are located except for walls not more than 36 inches (914 mm) in height, columns and posts.

(a) **EXCEPTIONS:** Deleted.

(3) **IRC CHAPTER 4 FOUNDATIONS.**

(a) **R403.1.6 FOUNDATION ANCHORAGE.** Wood sill plates and wood walls supported directly on continuous foundations shall be anchored to the foundation in accordance with this section.

Cold-formed steel framing shall be anchored directly to the foundation or fastened to wood sill plates anchored to the foundation. Anchorage of cold-formed steel framing and sill plates supporting cold-formed steel framing shall be in accordance with this section and Section R505.3.1 or R603.3.1.

Wood sole plates at all exterior walls on monolithic slabs, wood sole plates of braced wall panels at building interiors on monolithic slabs and all wood sill plates shall be anchored to the foundation with minimum 1/2-inch diameter (12.7 mm) anchor bolts spaced a maximum of 6 feet (1829 mm) on center or approved anchors or anchor straps spaced as required to provide equivalent anchorage to 1/2-inch diameter (12.7 mm) anchor bolts. Bolts shall extend a minimum of 7 inches (178 mm) into concrete or grouted cells of concrete masonry units. The bolts shall be located in the middle third of the width of the plate. A nut and washer shall be tightened on each anchor bolt. There shall be a minimum of two bolts per plate section with one bolt located not more than 12 inches (305 mm) or less than seven bolt diameters from each end of the plate section. Interior bearing wall sole plates on monolithic slab foundations that are not part of a brace wall panel shall be positively anchored with approved fasteners. Sill plates and sole plates shall be protected against decay and termites where required by Sections R317 and R318.

1. EXCEPTIONS:

(i) Walls 24 inches (610 mm) total length or shorter connecting offset braced wall panels shall be anchored to the foundation with a minimum of one anchor bolt located in the center third of the plate section and shall be attached to adjacent braced wall panels at corners as shown in Item 9 of Table R602.3(1).

(ii) Connection of walls 12 inches (305 mm) total length or shorter connecting offset braced wall panels to the foundation without anchor bolts shall be permitted. The wall shall be attached to adjacent braced wall panels at corners as shown in Item 9 on Table R602.3(1).

(iii) Where the basic wind speed in accordance with Figure R301.2(4)A does not exceed 115 miles per hour (51 m/s), the seismic design category is A or B and Method GB in accordance with Section R602.10 is used for a braced wall line on the

interior of the dwelling, anchor bolts shall not be required for the wood sole plates of the braced wall panels. Positive anchorage with approved fasteners shall be provided.

(4) IRC CHAPTER 11 ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

(a) SECTION N1101 GENERAL.

1. **N1101.3 (R101.5.1) Compliance materials.** The Alabama Residential and Energy Codes Board shall approve specific computer software, worksheets, compliance manuals and other similar materials that meet the intent of this code.

2. **N1101.4 (R102.1.1) Above code programs.** The Alabama Building and Energy Codes Board shall deem a national, state or local energy-efficiency program to exceed the energy efficiency required by this code. Buildings approved in writing by such an energy-efficiency program shall be considered in compliance with this code. The requirements identified as "mandatory" in Chapter 11 shall be met.

3. **N1101.5 (R103.2) Information on construction documents.** Construction documents shall be drawn to scale upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted when approved by the building official. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed, and show in sufficient detail pertinent data and features of the building, systems and equipment as herein governed. Details shall include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

1. Insulation materials and their R-values.
2. Fenestration U-factors and SHGCs where applicable.
3. Area-weighted U-factor and SHGC calculations.
4. Mechanical system design criteria.
5. Mechanical and service water heating system and equipment types, sizes and efficiencies.
6. Equipment and system controls.
7. Duct sealing, duct and pipe insulation and location.
8. Air sealing details.

4. N1101.6 (R202) DEFINED TERMS.

(i) **Projection factor.** The ratio of the horizontal depth of an overhang, eave, or permanently attached shading device, divided by the distance measured vertically from the bottom of the fenestration glazing to the underside of the overhang, eave, or permanently attached shading device.

(ii) **Semi conditioned space.** An unfinished area of the dwelling such as the attic or crawl space that is insulated as to limit or prevent air infiltration and maintain consistent temperatures commensurate with those inside the thermal envelope.

5. **N1101.7.2 (R301.3) International climate zones.** Section deleted.

6. **N1101.8 (R301.4) Tropical climate zone.** Section deleted.

7. **N1101.9 (R302.1) Interior design conditions.** The interior design temperatures used for heating and cooling load calculations shall be a maximum of 70°F (22° C) for heating and minimum of 75°F (24° C) for cooling.

8. **N1101.11.1 (R303.2.1) Protection of exposed insulation.** Section deleted

9. **N1101.13.1 (R401.2.1) Tropical zone.** Section deleted.

(b) SECTION N1102 (R402) BUILDING THERMAL ENVELOPE.

1. **N1102.2.2 (R402.2.2) Ceilings without attic spaces.** Where Section R402.1.2 (N1102.1.2) would require insulation levels above R-30 and the design of the roof/ceiling assembly does not allow sufficient space for the required insulation, the minimum required insulation for such roof/ceiling assemblies shall be R-30. This reduction of insulation from the requirements of Section R402.1.2 (N1102.1.2) shall be limited to 500 square feet (46 m²) or 20 percent of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This reduction shall not apply to the U-factor alternative approach in Section R402.1.4 (N1102.1.4) and the total UA alternative in Section R402.1.5 (N1102.1.5).

2. **N1102.2.2.1 (R402.2.2.1) Semi-conditioned attics.** Where table N1102.1.1 (R402.1.1) requires R-30 or Table N1102.1.3 (R402.1.3) requires a U-Factor of 0.035, Sprayed Polyurethane Foam (SPF) with a U-Factor of 0.05 or R-value of R-20 shall be deemed equivalent to the provisions in N1102.2.2 (R402.2.2).

3. **N1102.2.4 (R402.2.4) Access hatches and doors.** Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces) shall be weatherstripped and insulated to a level in accordance with the following insulation values:

1. Hinged vertical doors shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 (R-5 minimum) and comply with Section R-316

2. Hatches/scuttle hole covers shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.05 (R-19 minimum) and;
3. Pull down stairs shall have a maximum U-Factor of U-0.20 with a minimum of 75 percent of the panel area having (R-5 minimum) insulation.

Access shall be provided to all equipment that prevents damaging or compressing the insulation. A wood framed or equivalent baffle or retainer is required to be provided when loose fill insulation is installed the purpose of which is to prevent the loose fill insulation from spilling into the living space when the attic access is opened, and to provide a permanent means of maintaining the installed R-value of the loose fill insulation.

4. N1102.2.10 (R402.2.10) Slab on grade floors. Section deleted.

5. N1102.2.11 (R402.2.11) Crawl space walls. As an alternative to insulating floors over crawl spaces, crawl space walls shall be permitted to be insulated when the crawl space is not vented to the outside. The band joist shall be insulated and air sealed in accordance with Table N1102.4.1.1 (R402.4.1.1). A 3 inch (76mm) inspection/view strip shall be provided immediately below the floor joists to permit inspections for termites. Crawl space wall insulation shall be permanently fastened to the wall and extend downward from the bottom of the inspection/view strip to within 9 inches (229mm) of the finished interior grade adjacent to the foundation wall. Exposed earth in unvented crawl space foundations shall be covered with a continuous Class I vapor retarder in accordance with Section R408 of the International Residential Code. All joints of the vapor retarder shall overlap by 6 inches (153 mm) and shall extend up the stem wall not less than 6 inches (153mm) and shall be attached to the stem wall.

6. N1102.3.2.1 (R402.3.2.1) Glazed fenestration SHGC exception. In Climate Zones 2 and 3, permanently shaded vertical fenestration shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements. The projection factor of an overhang, eave, or permanently attached shading device shall be greater than or equal to the value listed in table N1102.2.3.1 for the appropriate orientation. The minimum projection shall extend beyond each side of the glazing a minimum of 12 inches (0.3m). Each orientation shall be rounded to the nearest cardinal orientation (+/-45 degrees or 0.79 rad) for purposes of calculations and demonstrating compliance.

7. N1102.4.1.1 (R402.4.1) Installation (Mandatory). The components of the building thermal envelope as listed in Table N1102.4.1.1 (Table R402.4.1.1) shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the criteria listed in Table N1102.4.1.1 (Table 402.4.1.1), as applicable to the method of construction.

8. N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2) Testing (Mandatory). The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour. Testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope. During testing:

1. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weatherstripping or other infiltration control measures;
2. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures;
3. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open;
4. Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed;
5. Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off; and
6. Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.

(9) N1102.4.5 (R402.4.5) Recessed lighting. Recessed luminaries installed in the building thermal envelope shall be installed sealed to limit air leakage between conditioned and unconditioned spaces. All recessed luminaries shall be IC-rated and labeled as having an air leakage rate not more than 2.0 cfm (0.944 L/s) when tested in accordance with ASTM E 283 at a 1.57 psf (75 Pa) pressure differential. All recessed luminaires shall be sealed with a gasket or caulk between the housing and the interior wall or ceiling covering.

(c) SECTION N1103 (R403) SYSTEMS.

1. N1103.1.1 (R403.1.1) Programmable thermostat. Section deleted.

2. N1103.9 (R403.9) Snow melt system controls. Section deleted.

3. N1103.10 (R403.10) Residential pools and permanent residential spas. Section deleted.

4. N1103.10.1 (R403.10.1) Residential pools and permanent residential spas. Section deleted.

5. N1103.10.2 (R403.10.2) Heaters. Section deleted.

6. N1103.10.3 (R403.10.3) Time Switches. Section deleted.

7. N1103.10.4 (R403.10.4) Covers. Section Deleted

8. N1103.11 (R403.11) Portable spas. Section deleted.

9. N1103.12 (R403.12) Residential pools and permanent residential spas. Section deleted.

(d) SECTION N1104 (R404) ELECTRICAL POWER AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS (MANDATORY).

1. N1104.1 (R404.1) Lighting equipment (Mandatory). Not less than 75 percent of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures at the time of inspection shall be high-efficacy lamps or not less than 75 percent of the permanently installed lighting fixtures shall contain only high efficacy lamps.

(e) SECTION N1105 (R405) SIMULATED PERFORMANCE ALTERNATIVE (PERFORMANCE).

1. N1105.1 (R405.1) Scope. This section establishes criteria for compliance using simulated energy performance analysis. Such analysis shall include heating cooling and service water heating energy only. The code official is not responsible for verification of compliance for documents submitted under this section.

2. N1105.3 (R405.3) Performance-based compliance. Compliance based on simulated energy performance requires that a proposed residence (*proposed design*) be shown to have an annual energy cost that is less than or equal to the annual energy cost of the standard reference design. Energy prices shall be taken from a source such as the Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration's *State Energy Price and Expenditure*

Report. Building officials shall be permitted to require time-or-use pricing in energy cost calculation.

(f) SECTION N1106 (R406) ENERGY RATING INDEX COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVE.

1. **N1106.1 (R406.1) Scope.** This section establishes criteria for compliance using an Energy Rating Index (ERI). Such analysis shall include heating cooling and service water heating energy only. The code official is not responsible for verification of compliance for documents submitted under this section.

2. **N1106.4 (R406.4) ERI-based compliance.** Compliance based on an ERI analysis requires that the rated design be shown to have an ERI less than or equal to a score of 70 in both zones 2 and 3 when compared to the ERI reference design.

3. **Table N1106.4 (Table R406.4) Maximum Energy Rating Index.** Table Deleted.

(5) IRC CHAPTER 39 POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION.

(a) SECTION E3902 GROUND-FAULT AND ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.

1. **E3902.15 Location of arc-fault circuit interrupters.** Section deleted.

2. **E3902.16 Arc-fault circuit interrupter protection.** Section deleted.

(6) EFFECTIVE DATE. For purposes of enforcement, this code shall become effective on October 1, 2016.

Author: Karen Clifton; Bret Warren

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§41-23-80 through 85, as amended

History: New Rule: filed April 5, 2012; Effective May 10, 2012.

Amended: January 16, 2014; Effective: March 18, 2014

Repealed:

New Rule: Filed

APPENDIX A

**TABLE N1102.1.1.1 (R402.1.1)
INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT ^a**

<u>CLIMATE ZONE</u>	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR ^b	SKY-LIGHT U-FACTOR ^b	GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC ^{b, c}	CEILING R-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	MASS WALL R-VALUE ^d	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT ^e WALL R-VALUE	SLAB ^d R-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE ^e WALL R-VALUE
1	1.2	0.75	0.30	30	13	3/4	13	0	0	0
2	0.65 ^j	0.75	0.30	30	13	4/6	13	0	0	0
3	0.50 ^j	0.65	0.30	30	13	5/8	19	5/13 ^f	0	5/13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.60	NR	38	13	5/10	19	10/13	10, 2ft	10/13
5 and Marine 4	0.35	0.60	NR	38	20 or 13+5 ^h	13/17	30 ^g	10/13	10, 2ft	10/13
6	0.35	0.60	NR	49	20 or 13+5 ^h	15/19	30 ^g	15/19	10, 4ft	10/13
7 and 8	0.35	0.60	NR	49	21	19/21	38 ^g	15/19	10, 4ft	10/13

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- k. R-values are minimums. U-factors and SHGC are maximums. R-19 batts compressed into a nominal 2 x 6 framing cavity such that the R-value is reduced by R-1 or more shall be marked with the compressed batt R-value in addition to the full thickness R-value.
- l. The fenestration U-factor column excludes skylights. The SHGC column applies to all glazed fenestration.
- m. "15/19" means R-15 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. "15/19" shall be permitted to be met with R-13 cavity insulation on the interior of the basement wall plus R-5 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home. "10/13" means R-10 continuous insulated sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.
- n. R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-values for heated slabs. Insulation depth shall be the depth of the footing or 2 feet, whichever is less in Zones 1 through 3 for heated slabs.
- o. There are no SHGC requirements in the Marine Zone.
- p. Basement wall insulation is not required in warm-humid locations as defined by Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1.
- q. Or insulation sufficient to fill the framing cavity, R-19 minimum.
- r. "13+5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 insulated sheathing. If structural sheathing covers 25 percent or less of the exterior, insulating sheathing is not required where structural sheathing is used. If structural sheathing covers more than 25 percent of the exterior, structural sheathing shall be supplemented with insulated sheathing of at least R-2.
- s. The second R-value applies when more than half the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.
- t. For impact rated fenestration complying with Section R301.2.1.2 of the *International Residential Code* or Section 1608.1.2 of the *International Building Code*, the maximum U-factor shall be 0.75 in Zone 2 and 0.65 in Zone 3.

Author: Karen Clifton; Bret Warren

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§41-23-80 through 85, amended

History: New Rule: filed April 5, 2012; Effective May 10, 2012.

Amended: January 16, 2014; **Effective:** March 18, 2014; **Repealed:**; **New Rule:** Filed

TABLE N1102.1.4
EQUIVALENT U-FACTORS*

Climate Zone	Fenestration U-Factor	Skylight U-Factor	Ceiling U-Factor	Frame Wall U-Factor	Mass Wall U-Factor ^b	Floor U-Factor	Basement Wall U-Factor	Crawl Space Wall U-Factor
2	0.65	0.75	0.035	0.084	0.165	0.064	0.360	0.477
3	0.50	0.65	0.035	0.084	0.141	0.047	0.360	0.136

- a. Nonfenestration Ufactors shall be obtained from measurement, calculation or an approved source.
- b. When more than half the insulation is on the interior, the mass wall Ufactors shall be a maximum of

**TABLE C402.5.2
 MAXIMUM AIR LEAKAGE RATE
 FOR FENESTRATION ASSEMBLIES**

FENESTRATION ASSEMBLY	MAXIMUM RATE (CFM/FT ²)	TEST PROCEDURE
Windows	0.20 ^a	AAMA/WDMA/ CSA101/1.S.2/A440 or NFRC 400
Sliding doors	0.20 ^a	
Swinging doors	0.20 ^a	
Skylights – with condensation weepage openings	0.30	
Skylights – all other	0.20 ^a	NFRC 400 or ASTME 283 at 1.57 psf (75 Pa)
Curtain walls	0.06	
Storefront glazing	0.06	
Commercial glazed swinging entrance doors	1.00	ASTME 283 at 1.57 psf (75 Pa)
Revolving doors	1.00	
Garage doors	0.40	ANSI/DASMA 105, NFRC 400, or ASTME 283 at 1.57 psf (75 Pa)
Rolling doors	1.00	
High-speed doors	1.30	

For SI: 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.471 L/s, 1 square foot = 0.093 m².

a. The maximum rate for windows, sliding and swinging doors, and skylights is permitted to be 0.3 cfm per square foot of fenestration or door area when tested in accordance with AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/1.S.2/A440 at 6.24 psf (300 Pa).

**TABLE N1102.2.2.1 (R402.3.3)
 MINIMUM PROJECTION FACTOR REQUIRED BY ORIENTATION FOR SHGC EXCEPTION**

ORIENTATION	PROJECTION FACTOR
North	$\geq 0.40^2$
South	≥ 0.20
East	≥ 0.50
West	≥ 0.50

a. For the north orientation, a vertical projection located on the west-edge of the fenestration with equivalent PF ≥ 0.15 shall also satisfy the minimum projection factor requirement.

**TABLE N1105.5.2(1) (R405.5.2(1))
SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE STANDARD REFERENCE AND
PROPOSED DESIGNS**

BUILDING COMPONENT	STANDARD REFERENCE DESIGN	PROPOSED DESIGN
Glazing ^a	<p>Total area^b =</p> <p>(a) The proposed glazing area; where proposed glazing area is less than 15% of the conditioned floor area.</p> <p>(b) 15% of the conditioned floor area; where the proposed glazing area is 15% or more of the conditioned floor area.</p> <p>Orientation: equally distributed to four cardinal compass orientations (N, E, S, & W)</p> <p>U-factor: from Table R402.1.3</p> <p>SHGC: From Table R402.1.1 except that for climates with no requirement (NR) SHGC = 0.40 shall be used.</p> <p>Interior shade fraction: $0.92 - (0.21 \times \text{SHGC for the standard reference design})$</p> <p>External shading: none</p>	<p>As proposed</p> <p>As proposed</p> <p>As proposed</p> <p>As proposed</p> <p>As proposed $0.92 - (0.21 \times \text{SHGC as proposed})$</p> <p>As proposed</p>
Heating Systems ^{f,g}	<p>As proposed for other than electric heating without a heat pump. Where the proposed design utilizes electric heating without a heat pump the standard reference design shall be an air source heat pump meeting the requirements of Section C403 of the IECC Commercial Provisions.</p> <p><u>Fuel type: same as proposed design</u></p> <p><u>Efficiencies:</u></p> <p><u>Electric: air-source heat pump with prevailing federal minimum standards</u></p> <p><u>Nonelectric furnaces: natural gas furnace with prevailing federal minimum standards</u></p> <p><u>Nonelectric boilers: natural gas boiler with prevailing federal minimum standards</u></p> <p>Capacity: sized in accordance with Section N1103.6</p>	<p>As proposed</p> <p><u>As proposed</u></p> <p><u>As proposed</u></p> <p><u>As proposed</u></p> <p><u>As proposed</u></p>
Cooling Systems ^{f,h}	<p>As proposed</p> <p>Fuel type: Electric</p> <p>Efficiency: in accordance with prevailing federal minimum standards</p> <p>Capacity: sized in accordance with Section N1103.6</p>	<p>As proposed</p> <p>As proposed</p>
Service Water Heating ^{f,g,h,i}	<p>As proposed</p> <p><u>Fuel type: same as proposed design</u></p> <p><u>Efficiency: in accordance with prevailing federal minimum standards</u></p> <p><u>Use: gal/day = $30 + 10 \times Nbr$</u></p> <p><u>Tank temperature: 120°F</u></p> <p>Use: same as proposed design</p>	<p>As proposed</p> <p><u>As proposed</u></p> <p><u>Same as standard reference</u> <u>Same as standard reference</u> <u>gal/day = $30 + (10 \times Nbr)$</u></p>