

GG172-14

408.3.2

Proponent: Jason Wilen, representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)
(jwilen@nrca.net)

Revise as follows:

408.3.2 Vegetative roofs. Vegetative roofs, where provided in accordance with Section 408.3, shall comply with the following:

1. All plantings shall be selected based on their hardiness zone classifications in accordance with USDA MP1475 and shall be capable of withstanding the climate conditions of the jurisdiction and the micro climate conditions of the building site including, but not limited to, wind, precipitation and temperature. Planting density shall provide foliage coverage, in the warm months, of not less than 80 percent within two years of the date of installation unless a different time period is established in the *approved* design. Plants shall be distributed to meet the coverage requirements. *Invasive plant species* shall not be planted.
2. The engineered soil medium shall be designed for the physical conditions and local climate to support the plants and shall consist of nonsynthetic materials. The planting design shall include measures to protect the engineered soil medium until the plants are established. Protection measures include, but are not limited to, installation of pregrown vegetated mats or modules, tackifying agents, fiber blankets and reinforcing mesh. The maximum wet weight and water holding capacity of an engineered soil medium shall be determined in accordance with ASTM E 2399.
3. Where access to the building facades is provided from locations on the perimeter of the roof, nonvegetated buffers adequate to support associated equipment and to protect the roof shall be provided.
4. Nonvegetated clearances as required for fire classification of vegetative roof systems shall be provided in accordance with the *International Fire Code*.
5. Plantings shall be capable of being managed to maintain the function of the vegetative roof as provided in the documents required by Section 904.3.
6. Installation of plantings shall be in accordance with the roof covering manufacturer's installation instructions and shall not diminish the weather protective properties of the roof covering.

Reason: This code change proposal is intended to clarify the code's intent by specifically requiring that the procedure used to install the vegetative portion of the roof assembly not compromise the roof covering's ability to serve as a weather barrier. The term "weather protective properties" is used because the roofing chapters of both the IBC and IRC use the term "weather protection" (IBC Section 1503—Weather Protection and IRC Section R903—Weather Protection).

Secondly, the referencing of roof covering manufacturer's installation instructions is important because it has become commonplace for roof covering manufacturers to offer products that are specifically intended to be used as part of a vegetative roof system, or to offer an entire vegetative roof system including the planting and roofing material. These products and systems typically have installation instructions that should be followed to ensure the proper functioning of the components.

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction.

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