R507

CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM
(See instructions on page 2)

Code: IRC–12/13
Sections

Proponent: Charles S. Bajnai, Chesterfield County, VA, ICC Building Code Action Committee

Revise as follows:

R507.1 Decks. Where supported by attachment to an exterior wall, decks shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both vertical and lateral loads.

Exception: Design for lateral loads, and connectors in accordance with Section R507.3, shall not be required for decks that do not require guards in accordance with Section R312.1.1, provided that the deck ledger is connected to the band joist in accordance with Section R507.2.

Such attachment shall not be accomplished by the use of toenails or nails subject to withdrawal. Where positive connection to the primary building structure cannot be verified during inspection, decks shall be self-supporting. For decks with cantilevered framing members, connections to exterior walls or other framing members, shall be designed and constructed to resist uplift resulting from the full live load specified in Table R301.5 acting on the cantilevered portion of the deck.

R507.2.3 R507.3 Deck lateral load connection. The lateral load connection required by Section R507.1 shall be permitted to be in accordance with Figure R507.2.3. Where the lateral load connection is provided in accordance with figure 507.2-3, hold-down tension devices shall be installed in not less than two locations per deck, and each device shall have an allowable stress design capacity of not less than 1500 pounds (6672 N).

(renumber Figure 507.2.3 to 507.3)

Reason: This proposal is submitted by the ICC Building Code Action Committee (BCAC) The BCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance an assigned International Code or portion thereof. This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. Since its inception in July, 2011, the BCAC has held 6 open meetings and numerous workgroup calls which included members of the BCAC as well as any interested party to discuss and debate the proposed changes. Related documentation and reports are posted on the BCAC website at: http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/BCAC/Pages/default.aspx.

The provisions for deck design and attachment to the house have evolved in recent years. The IRC is now very strong on appropriate attachment to the main structure, as it should be. However, the specific provision in R507.1 that requires design for lateral loads, and the prescriptive hold-down tension connector alternative of R507.2.3, seem overly conservative for decks that are at grade, when these decks do not even require guardrails. For at-grade decks, the lag screw/bolt connections from deck ledger to band joist required by R507.2 are adequate. Elevated decks would still be required to be designed for lateral loads in accordance with R507.1 or the prescriptive hold-down tension devices specified in R507.2.3 (figure included below for convenience).

The renumbering of current Section R507.2.3 to R507.3 is necessary because current Section R507.2.3 serves as a prescriptive alternative to the requirement for design for lateral loads in R507.1. The purpose of the exception is to retain the requirement for ledger-to-band joist lags or bolts in current R507.2, R507.2.1, and R507.2.2, but exempt low decks from the prescriptive hold-down tension devices (or design for lateral load) in current section R507.2.3. Moving current R507.2.3 to its own section allows easier reference to the lag/screw connection requirements.

Cost Impact: ?????????????
