



PUBLIC CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM FOR PUBLIC PROPOSALS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODES 2012/2013 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

CLOSING DATES: Group B Codes: **January 3, 2013**

R408. Ventilation in under-floor spaces

1)

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3) **Code:** 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).

NOTE: Sections of the International Codes that have a letter designation in brackets in front of them are the responsibility of a different committee than the committee normally responsible for that code. For instance, Section 301.1.4 of the IEBC has a [B] in front of it, meaning that this section is the responsibility of one of the IBC Code Development Committees (in this case, IBC-S). Any proposed changes to Section 301.1.4 will be heard by the IBC-Structural committee.

Therefore, some code change proposals to Group B code text may be due in order to be heard by Group A code development committees, and vice versa. Please go to www.iccsafe.org/responsibilities for detailed information on Group A and Group B Code Development Committee responsibilities.

4) **E-mail address:** Your email address will be published with your code change proposal unless you check here: _____

Revise section R408.1 and following as modified

R408.1 ~~Ventilation~~Under-floor space ventilation. The under-floor space between the bottom of the floor joists and the earth under any building (except space occupied by a basement) shall ~~have ventilation~~be ventilated in accordance with this section. ~~openings through foundation walls or exterior walls. The minimum net area of ventilation openings shall not be less than 1 square foot (0.092 m²) for each 150 square feet (14m²) of under-floor space area, unless the ground surface is covered by a Class 1 vapor retarder material. When a Class 1 vapor retarder material is used, the minimum net area of the ventilation openings shall not be less than 1 square foot (.0929 m²) for each 1,500 square feet (140 m²) of under-floor space area. One such ventilation opening shall be within 3 feet (914 mm) of each corner of the building.~~

R408.2-1.1 Vented crawl spaces. Openings for under-floor ventilation. Ventilation openings shall be provided through foundation walls or exterior walls. The minimum net area of ventilation openings shall ~~not be less than at least~~ 1 square foot (0.0929 m²) for each 150 square feet (14 m²) of under-floor area. When a Class 1 vapor retarder material is used, the minimum net area of the ventilation openings shall be at least 1 square foot (0.092 m²) for each 1,500 square feet (140 m²) of under floor area space. As a minimum, there shall be ~~One~~four ventilation openings around the perimeter of the structure, one shall be within 3 feet (915 mm) on either side of each corner of the building. When the structure has a projection in the foundation greater than 8 feet, a ventilation opening shall be required within 3' of each outside corner. Vents shall be located in a readily convenient location, and not under low decks or porches. Vents may be centered on front wall projections for aesthetic reasons.

Ventilation openings shall be covered for their height and width with any of the following materials provided that the least dimension of the covering shall not exceed ¼ inch (6.4 mm):

1. Perforated sheet metal...
2. Expanded sheet metal plates....
3. Cast-iron grill or grating.
4. Extruded load-bearing bricks vents.
5. Hardware cloth....
6. Corrosion-resistant wire mesh....

Exception: ~~The total area of ventilation openings shall be permitted to be reduced to 1/1500 of the under-floor area where the ground surface is covered with an approved Class I vapor retarder material and the required openings are placed to provide cross-ventilation of the space.~~ The installation of operable louvers shall ~~not be prohibited~~ be permitted.

R408.31.2 Unvented Conditioned crawl spaces. Ventilation openings in foundation walls or the exterior walls under-floor spaces specified in Sections R408.1 and R408.2 shall not be ~~required~~ allowed where the under-floor space is conditioned in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Exposed earth is covered with a continuous Class 1 vapor retarder. Joints of the vapor retarder shall overlap by 6 inches and shall be sealed or taped. The edges of the vapor retarder shall extend at least 6 inches up the stem wall and shall be attached and sealed to the stem wall; and
2. One of the following is provided for the under-floor space:
 - 2.1 Continuously operated mechanical exhaust ventilation at a rate equal to 1 cubic foot per minute for each 50 square feet of crawl space floor area, including an air pathway to the common area (such as a duct or transfer grille), and perimeter walls insulated in accordance with Section N1102.2.9;
 - 2.2 Conditioned air supply sized to deliver at a rate equal to 1 cubic foot per minute for each 50 square foot of under-floor area, including a return air pathway to the common area (such as a duct or transfer grille), and perimeter walls insulated in accordance with Section N1102.2.9;
 - 2.3 Plenum in existing structures complying with Section M1601.5, if under-floor space is used as a plenum.

R408.42 Access. Access shall be provided...

R408.53 Removal of debris. The under-floor grade...

R408.64 Finish grade. The finished grade...

R408.75 Floor resistance. For buildings...

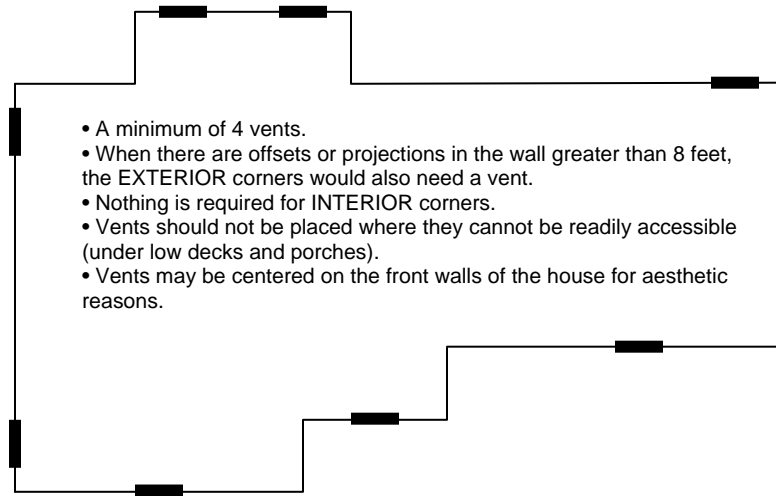
Reason statement:

These sections were rewritten to eliminate redundancy and double negatives, and make it easier to understand.

The text also clarifies:

1. that no matter what the calculation shows, at least four openings are required for vented crawl spaces.
2. only one opening is required per corner – not one opening on each side of each corner (a frequent misinterpretation),

3. offsets in the foundation wall create more corners, and whether ventilation openings are required within 3' of each is always subject to debate. I think that the code intends to ventilate dead pockets which might occur at offsets...the 8' offset is a random number subject to discussion.



Cost Impact: None.

Public Hearing: Committee: AS AM D DF

Assembly:

ASF

AMF
