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Roof Assembly Ventilation Coalition Leads Efforts to Improve Code Requirements for Attic Ventilation

(WASHINGTON, DC) — The Roof Assembly Ventilation Coalition (RAVC) participated in the development of the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC), recently published by the International Code Council (ICC). The RAVC proposed language aimed at adding clarity to the code, provide for balanced intake and exhaust for ventilated attics, and help ensure that attic ventilators work as intended.

Section 806.2 of the 2012 IRC has been revised to include:

“At least 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required ventilating area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the attic or rafter space. Upper ventilators shall be located no more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space, measured vertically, with the balance of the required ventilation provided by eave or cornice vents. Where the location of wall or roof framing members conflicts with the installation of upper ventilators, installation more than 3 feet (914mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.”

The new revisions also include a requirement that ventilators be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions. With increased reliance on tested components, proper installation is just as important as proper design.

Attic ventilation is a proven design method that helps the roof assembly manage moisture, heat, and enhances roof covering durability. The RAVC was formed to provide a resource to advance building design through the use of ventilated attic spaces. By proposing and supporting detailed code provisions addressing the balanced approach to intake and exhaust, the RAVC is taking the lead role in advancing ventilated attic assemblies.

About RAVC

The Roof Assembly Ventilation Coalition, headquartered in Washington, DC, was formed in 2008 under the organization of the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association. The coalition represents roof vent manufacturers, suppliers of residential roofing materials, and other interested stakeholders whose mission is to be the leading authority and technical resource on ventilated roof assembly design and performance, and to be the responsible advocate for proper steep slope roof assembly ventilation.

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