

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

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Company /Organization: NH Home Builders Association

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RE-15-24-16

Applicable code: IRC 2015

Applicable code section: R404

Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):

R302.13 Fire protection of floors. Floor assemblies that are not required elsewhere in this code to be fire-resistance rated, shall be provided with a ½-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8-inch 916 mm) wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

Exceptions:

1. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.
2. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.
3. Portions of floor assemblies shall be permitted to be unprotected where complying with the following:
 - 3.1 The aggregate area of the unprotected portions does not exceed 80 square feet (7.4 m squared) per story.
 - 3.2 Fire blocking in accordance with Section R302.11.1 is installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
4. Wood floor assemblies using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch by 10-inch (50.8 mm by 254 mm) nominal dimension, or other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.

Check one: Delete without substitution: Add new section to read as follows:
 Delete section and substitute the following: Revise section to read as follows:
~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~ Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language: **None. Delete section.**

Reason / Justification:

This section of the IRC 2015 would add \$3,000 to \$5,000 to the cost of most homes (see attached 2,440 sq. ft. example home). NHHBA believes that this is too costly a requirement to impose on home buyers for the added protection that it offers. Many homes employ I-joists to meet load and span requirements and the percentage of new homes using I-joists is increasing.

The normal sequence of events on the building project is dramatically changed. All basement work must be entirely completed upon rough-in, or more likely, a 2nd mobilization of the drywall crew is needed.

The homeowner will no longer have easy access to run additional cables, wiring and other common after-market add-ons. Water shutoffs will have to protrude below the sheetrock. Typically, forced hot air homes have manual dampers in the basement on individual runs to control and balance the heat. These will now be a problem to access. Several other complications with traditional mechanical systems will surely result.

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

If left unamended, this code would add \$3,000 to \$5,000 of cost to NH home buyers with no offsetting add to building value.

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: _____ Approved: _____ Approved with modifications: _____

Scheduled Hearing Date: _____ Exhibit #: _____

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____