

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

RE-15-40-18

Proposed amendment submitted by:

Name: Ari B. Pollack Esq., On Behalf of Applicant

Date: 1/4/2019

Company/Organization: NH Home Builders Association

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Applicable code: IRC 2015

Applicable code section: N1102

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

N1102.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8.

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:

N1102.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and ~~three~~seven air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8.

Reason/Justification:

Air sealing of a residence to less than three air changes per hour would necessitate a mechanical air change system. This could be a heat/energy recovery ventilator which would add approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the cost of an average size home. It could also be a less costly fan on a timer, but this would bring in unconditioned cold air during winter months which frustrates the purpose of this code which is aimed at energy efficiency. Having no mechanical ventilation at all, or if it were to be disabled by a homeowner, or if it simply fails in time, would lead to a dangerously unhealthy air situation at this level of envelope tightness.

The BCRB should work with the NH Home Builders Association to research what air tightness level can be required for energy efficiency purposes without triggering the need for mechanical ventilation, leaving this higher investment option to homeowners who wish to make such an investment.

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

If left unamended, this code would add \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the cost of an average size home, or would require a system between \$700 and \$1,000 plus the energy loss of unconditioned air that would have to be paid through higher energy bills.

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: _____

Approved:

Approved with modifications: _____

Scheduled Hearing Date: _____

Exhibit #: _____

Chair's Signature: Shawn G. Bergeron

Date: 1-11-2019

Printed Name: Shawn G. Bergeron Sr