

**CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM**

(See instructions on page 2)

**Code: IRC–12/13**  
**Sections R806.1.....**

**Proponent: Charles S. Bajnai, Chesterfield County, VA, ICC Building Code Action Committee and Joseph Lstiburek, Building Science Corporation**

Revise as follows:

**SECTION R806**  
**ROOF VENTILATION**

~~**R806.1 Ventilation required.** Enclosed attics and enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters shall have cross ventilation for each separate space by ventilating openings protected against the entrance of rain or snow. Ventilation openings shall have a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Ventilation openings having a least dimension larger than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) shall be provided with corrosion-resistant wire cloth screening, hardware cloth, or similar material with openings having a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Openings in roof framing members shall conform to the requirements of Section R802.7. Required ventilation openings shall open directly to the outside air.~~

~~**Exception:** Attic ventilation shall not be required when determined not necessary by the code official due to atmospheric or climatic conditions.~~

~~**R806.2 Minimum vent area.** The minimum net free ventilating area shall be 1/150 of the area of the vented space.~~

~~**Exception:** The minimum net free ventilation area shall be 1/300 of the vented space provided one or more of the following conditions are met:~~

- ~~1. In Climate Zones 6, 7 and 8, a Class I or II vapor retarder is installed on the warm-in-winter side of the ceiling.~~
- ~~2. 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 (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.~~

~~**R806.1 Ventilation.** The requirements for vented and unvented attic space and enclosed rafter space shall be in accordance with this section.~~

~~**R806.2 Vented attics.** Vented attics shall have a minimum net free ventilation area at least 1/300 of the area of the vented space. Between half and two thirds of the provided ventilation shall be installed at the eaves. The ventilation openings shall have a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Ventilation openings having a least dimension larger than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) shall be provided with corrosion-resistant wire cloth screening, hardware cloth, or similar material with openings having a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Openings in roof~~

# R806

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framing members shall conform to the requirements of Section R802.7. Required ventilation openings shall open directly to the outside air. ~~R806.3 Vent and insulation clearance.~~ Where eave or cornice vents are installed, insulation shall not block the free flow of air. A minimum of a 1-inch (25 mm) space shall be provided between the insulation and the roof sheathing and at the location of the vent.

**R806.4 R806.2.1 Installation and weather protection.** Ventilators shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions. Installation of ventilators in roof systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section R903. Installation of ventilators in wall systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section R703.1.

**R806.5 R806.3 Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies.** (no change to current text)

**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>.

1. This section was rewritten to clarify vented and unvented attics. The current charging language in the first sentence of Section R806.1 says that all attics shall have cross ventilation, and yet Section R806.5 acknowledges unvented attics. The new Section R806.1 offers charging language for both conditions.
2. More importantly however, Section 806.2 now incorporates the concepts that were passed in Portland for the IBC, namely that more than half of the incoming ventilation for attics should come from low sources (eaves) and exit up high (roof vent, mechanical vents, gable end vents, etc.). A range is provided: 1/2 to 2/3 should be low at the eaves for proper chimney effect. Currently the code would allow 100% of the roof vents to be ridge vents...where would the cross ventilation come from?

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