



Setting the Standards for Home Energy Efficiency

Interpretation: Air Barrier Requirements for Floor/Rim/Band in Unconditioned, Unvented Space

Designation: 380-2019-010

Approved: April 27, 2020 by RESNET SDC 300

Effective Date: May 26, 2020

Reference:

Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301-2019
Page Number(s): A-2 and A-3
Sections(s): A-1.2(2), A-1.3.2(2.b,c), A-1.3.3(5.b,c)
Table(s):
Relating to: Requirement to have a sixth side air barrier for floor, rim or band to unconditioned spaces

Request from:

Name: Sharla Riead, Accurate Rater Network
Affiliation: Rating Quality Assurance Provider
Address: 11601 Orchard Road
City: Kansas City State: MO Zip: 64134
Email: sharla@accuraterater.com

Background Statement: Provided by person requesting the interpretation.

Minimum Specific Application Requirements for insulation installed in a rim or band joist provides an exception to the requirement for an air barrier on the interior side provided there is an air barrier on the exterior side. However, the exceptions included for fibrous batt and sprayed loose fill insulation both state that the rim or band must be located in conditioned space. Does this mean that fibrous rim or band insulation located to an unconditioned, unvented crawl space or in an unconditioned basement or other unconditioned location that has an exterior air barrier will also require an interior air barrier in order to be graded at Grade I or II? Because the exceptions for frame floors allows for no air barrier when the floor is above an unvented crawl space, my assumption is that the sixth side air barrier for a floor or rim/band located above any unconditioned and unvented space is not required.



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

Proposed Interpretation: *Provided by person requesting the interpretation.*

Insulation installed in floor, rim or band areas that face unconditioned, but fully enclosed and unvented spaces (such as an unconditioned crawl space or unconditioned basement) does not require an air barrier below the floor or on the interior side of the rim or band provided there is an air barrier on the exterior side.

SDC Response:

Is the proposed interpretation correct? Yes No

SDC Comments:

When insulation is installed in floors that face unconditioned but fully enclosed and unvented spaces, separate rim or band insulation is typically not installed. Instead, the vertical edge of the floor insulation effectively acts as the rim/band insulation in this condition. Since the floor insulation does not require an air barrier below the floor in this scenario, the interior side of the rim or band also does not require an air barrier, provided there is an air barrier installed on the exterior side.