



Setting the Standards for Home Energy Efficiency

**Interpretation:** Determination of Conditioned Space Volume and Infiltration Volume for Crawl Spaces with No Access from the Conditioned Living Area.

**Designation:** 380-2019-004

**Approved:** May 29, 2020 by RESNET SDC 300

**Effective Date:** June 28, 2020

**Reference:**

Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 and ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2019  
Page Number(s): 301: 5 and 9, 380: 6 and 7  
Sections(s): 301: 3.2 Definitions, 380: 4.2.3.2  
Table(s):  
Relating to: Infiltration Testing

**Request from:**

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**Background Statement:** Provided by person requesting the interpretation.

In Standard 380 section 4.2. Procedure to Prepare the Building or Dwelling Unit for Testing, item 4.2.3.2. states “If a crawlspace is not vented to the exterior, all access doors and hatches between the Conditioned Space Volume and crawlspace shall be opened.” The case where there is no access between the main living area and a sealed crawl space which may or may not be conditioned, is not specifically addressed. However, Standard 380, item 4.2.4 addresses specifically the lack of access for a sealed attic, excluding that area from both Conditioned Space Volume and Infiltration Volume. This is very much the same for a sealed crawl space that is not a conditioned crawl space. In Standard 301, section 3.2. Definitions, includes, in the Conditioned Space Volume definition, the access location of a mechanical closet and provides specifics on when to include this type of area in the Conditioned Space Volume. Many crawl spaces are accessed through an



exterior door and do not have access from the main living area, however, if they are determined to be conditioned crawl spaces the volume of air within that crawl space will be included with the Infiltration Volume since it is included in the Conditioned Space Volume. *This is very much the same as a mechanical closet with no access from the living space.*

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

A crawl space that is considered Conditioned Space Volume is included in Infiltration Volume and all access doors and hatches (if any) between the main living space and crawlspace shall be opened.

If a crawl space is not considered Conditioned Space Volume and does not have an access door to the Conditioned Space Volume, it shall be excluded from the Infiltration Volume, even if it is not vented to the exterior.

**SDC Response:**

Is the proposed interpretation correct?      Yes      No

**SDC Comments:**

The interpretation correctly states that a crawl space that is considered Conditioned Space Volume is included in Infiltration Volume and all access doors and hatches (if any) between the main living space and crawlspace shall be opened.

The interpretation also correctly states that if a crawl space is not Conditioned Space Volume and does not have an access door to the Conditioned Space Volume, it shall be excluded from the Infiltration Volume, even if it is not vented to the exterior. Per the definition of Infiltration Volume, crawlspaces that are not Conditioned Space Volume are only included when the access doors or hatches between the crawlspace and Conditioned Space Volume are open during the enclosure airtightness test. Therefore, if there are no doors or hatches to open, then this space shall be excluded.

Note that in response to this interpretation request, future amendments will be considered to ensure a consistent approach to test set-up and classification of space types (e.g., unvented attics, unvented crawlspaces, and mechanical closets) without access doors, hatches, or vents between them and the main body of the house. Thank you for noting this inconsistency so that the standard may be improved.