LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
AUGUST 6, 2013 – REPORT #14

BBS ISSUES MEMO ON RCAC RAISED HEEL TRUSS DISCUSSION

After being brought to the Residential Construction Advisory Committee's (RCAC) attention by OHBA, confusion surrounding use of a raised heel truss to comply with the latest energy code standards has been addressed in a recent BBS Memo. The memo sets out details related to the insulation requirements found in the code and has been attached.

To summarize, a **code official does not have the authority to require a raised-heel truss.** Either the builder insulates to the higher value or chooses to use a raised-heel truss (or possibly some other method of framing or type of insulation which allows the full height of uncompressed insulation over the exterior wall top plate) to get the credit to insulate to the lesser value. As mentioned in the 2009 IECC Commentary provided to all building departments, when using rafters or a standard type truss, it is assumed that the insulation will be compressed toward the eaves and requires a higher R-value to make up for the lack of insulation over the wall plate and at the eaves. For example, if using the OHBA option, the R-49 is allowed to be at full depth at the roof peak and compressed to taper down at the eaves. There is no need to add additional types of insulation to achieve a uniform value of R-49 across the ceiling.