

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
JANUARY 30, 2013 – REPORT #1

**RCAC ELECTS HOMEBUILDER CHAIRMAN AND TAKES ACTION ON RCO
INTERPRETATIONS**

At its organizational meeting today, the members of the RCAC voted homebuilder member, Bailey Stanbery, as its chairman, and Dave Hocevar, a building official member, vice-chair for the upcoming year.

Following the organizational meeting, the Committee held its first meeting of the new year and tackled several issues, including those raised by OHBA in a letter requesting formal interpretations on areas of the 2013 RCO. Specifically, OHBA asked for clarification or formal interpretations on the following 4 code issues.

1. Drywall Protection – This must be reiterated, even though the language is not in the code, nor ever considered, that this protection is not a fire rated assembly, the drywall can be butted together, it does not have to be taped; it does not have to fit tight around exterior walls. The protection is to delay the I-joists failure, not prevent failure.
2. Blower Door Testing – Need to state that this does not need to be done by an energy rater, as long as the person conducting the test is certified to use the particular blower door; a document showing the home passing the testing requirement, presented to the code official will suffice.
3. Emergency Escape Openings – The first four words in Section 310.1 need to be removed, it was never the intent to have all basements or habitable attics to have egress windows.
4. I-joists – It would be helpful if there could be some type of document stating what products are approved and what particular standard or test that the products must meet.

After detailed discussion on each item, the RCAC agreed it would be appropriate to use its authority to issue formal interpretations to deal with items 1 and 4, to ensure consistent enforcement. As a result, both a formal interpretation and an informal BBS Memo will be issued describing, in detail, the above intentions/requirements for the drywall protection provisions, as well as, the exact method for approval of an alternative product and the means needed to properly satisfy the process established to determine equivalency under the code.

Representatives from Weyerhaeuser, the manufacturer of an already approved alternative (Flak Jacket), demonstrated to the committee they did not foresee any

problems keeping up with future demand for their product, and had the capability to increase supply, if necessary.

Further, in resolving OHBA's concern in item 2, the RCAC recommended a BBS Memo be distributed clarifying when a blower door test would be required and emphasizing there is no required certification for the person doing the testing.

Lastly, the Committee addressed OHBA's concern with improper language included for Emergency Escape Openings. The mistake was a publisher error being remedied by the BBS Staff and the code book publishers. Corrections will be posted on the BBS website, and new pages will be printed reflecting the change.

The RCAC recognizes the importance of its role in issuing interpretations as the code is put to use and further questions are brought to its attention.

Please contact OHBA with any questions or concerns.