

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM
FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES
(This form must be submitted electronically)

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1303 - #12

Proposed Code Change - Language

Floor openings. Openings around bathtubs, showers, water closets, pipes, wires, or other objects that penetrate the soil-gas membrane, concrete slabs, ~~and~~ or other floor assemblies shall be ~~sealed~~ caulked or filled with non-shrink mortar or expanding foam.

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

The draft language requires that penetrations of floor assemblies be “sealed”. The term “sealed” is not defined nor is there direction given as to how to achieve “sealed”. The EPA booklet “Build Radon Out” states that “major openings” should be sealed. This doesn’t give any direction because it is not easy to define what constitutes a “major opening” versus a “minor opening”. Therefore, in order to provide an understandable and enforceable rule, it is necessary to specify that all penetrations need to be treated. Again, the EPA booklet is used as a guide. It states that the penetrations be caulked or filled with a non-shrink mortar or expanding foam. This language is incorporated into the proposal.

This proposal is reasonable because it gives the necessary direction on how to comply with the intent of the rule using language in established government publications as a baseline.

After you pour the slab or place the floor assembly, seal major openings in the slab to retard soil gas entry through openings in the slab or floor assembly.

Use materials that provide a permanent airtight seal such as non-shrink mortar, grouts, expanding foam, or similar materials. When caulking slab openings, it is best to utilize a polyurethane caulk which has excellent adhesion characteristics for concrete. The following are some examples of locations to be caulked after the concrete slab has cured and before framing is installed.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

This proposal will have no impact on the cost of construction.

Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

Radon rules

delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Code officials, building designers, contractors, building owners

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No