

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

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Proposed Code Change - Language

~~**Vent pipe drainage.** All components of the radon vent pipe system shall be installed to provide drain positive drainage back to the ground beneath the soil-gas membrane by gravity. Vent pipes shall not be trapped and shall have a minimum slope of one eighth unit vertical in 12 units horizontal.~~

Vent pipe drainage. All components of the vent pipe system shall be installed to provide positive drainage to the ground beneath the soil-gas membrane.

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

The proposed draft language is unnecessarily technical. Persons applying the code to vent pipe drainage understand what positive drainage is. The proposed revision is taken from the model code. And all drainage is subject to the laws of gravity. There are no other forces, mechanical or natural, in play. By definition, positive drainage does not permit the use of a trap.

And providing a minimum slope unnecessarily adds technical direction that requires more attention by the installer and the inspector. An inspector can tell by looking at a horizontal run of pipe if it is properly pitched. If it is necessary to determine if the piping meets a specified slope that requires much more time to measure piping that winds through an attic. Longer inspection times ultimately will translate into more costly permit fees.

Also, vent pipes may have long horizontal runs that wind between truss components. This will make determining the slope more difficult and, in some cases, may make an 1/8" slope impractical for short sections of vent. This will most likely occur if the builder, designer, or homeowner prefers to place the vent pipe fan in the attic and the vent pipe originates in a sump, which is an occasional practice.

Last, we aren't talking large amounts of water but only condensation and precipitation. It would take a significant amount of water to prevent air movement through a 3-inch pipe.

It is necessary that the language be understood and not overly technical. The proposed revision comes from the model code language referenced by the governing statute.

The proposal is reasonable because it does not unnecessarily burden the builder or homeowner and achieves necessary goals based on model code language.

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