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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

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

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Firm/Association affiliation, if any:

Proposed Code Change - Language

R402.4.1.2 Testing.
The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and 3 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8. Testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Where required by the *code official*, testing shall be conducted by an *approved* third party. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the *code official.* Testing shall be performed ~~at any time~~ after creation of all penetrations of the *building thermal envelope* and before the interior wall finishes have been installed.

During testing:
1. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weatherstripping or other infiltration control measures;
2. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures;
3. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open;
4. Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed;
5. Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off; and
6. Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

The need and reasonableness for this change is to benefit the builders when they are completing the air leakage test. It gives a defined parameter of when the test should be completed in order to allow access for fixing any potential air leakage problems.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

There would not be any cost increases for completing the required air leakage testing after the insulation is installed and before the interior wall finishes are installed. The benefit would be that if a fix is required it would cost the builder less to make the necessary repairs because the wall finishes would not have to be disturbed while making repairs.

The only downside of performing the test at this point in building a dwelling would be minor repairs to the air barrier (resealing the air barrier). This can be completed immediately after the test and it can pinpoint areas of leakage so they can be readily addressed.

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).

   ☐ 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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