



Proposed Code Change
State Form 41186R

RETURN TO:
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CODE SERVICES SECTION
302 W. Washington Street Room W246
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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|----------------------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY |
| Received 5/15/09 |
| Code 50-09 |

INSTRUCTIONS:

Only TYPED copy accepted.
(KEY – Dashed line through material to be deleted, underline material to be added)
Use second sheet for any material requiring more space.

| | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|
| Code Title International Residential Code | | Edition 2009 |
| Section number and title Table R302.1 | | Page |
| Proponent Matt Sigler (CodeSmart, LLC) | Title Owner | |
| Address 1411 Cottonwood Circle / Noblesville, IN 46062 | | Phone 317-710-3540 |

PROPOSED CODE CHANGE (Check One)

Change to read as follows Add to read as follows Delete and substitute as follows Delete without substitution

Revise table as follows:

| EXTERIOR WALL ELEMENT | | MINIMUM FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING | MINIMUM FIRE SEPARATION DISTANCE |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Walls | (Fire-resistance rated) | 1 hour-tested in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263 with exposure to both sides | ≤ 3 5 Feet |
| | (Not fire-resistance rated) | 0-Hours | ≥ 3 5 Feet |
| Projections | (Fire-resistance rated) | 1-Hour on the underside | ≤ 2 4 Feet |
| | (Not fire-resistance rated) | 0-Hours | ≥ 3 5 Feet |
| Openings | Not Allowed | N/A | < 3 Feet |
| | 25% Maximum of Wall Area | 0-Hours | 3 Feet |
| | Unlimited | 0-Hours | 5 Feet |
| Penetrations | All | Comply with Section R302.4 | < 5 Feet |
| | | None Required | 5 Feet |

N/A = Not Applicable

Reason(s):

- The purpose of this proposed change is to retain the original fire separation distances to the dimensions used in *2003 International Residential Code*. During the 2004/2005 ICC Code Development Cycle, the Code Committee disapproved this change given that the proponent failed to provide supporting evidence or data to sustain the increase in the fire separation distance. The committee's decision was overturned at the final action hearings without any additional substantiation being brought forth by the proponent. To this day, there are no known reports or studies that demonstrate the previously allowed 3 foot separation distance from the property line and 6 foot separation between structures failed to provide the minimum required safe distance for fire separation.
- In 2007, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported that fewer than three percent of all fires go beyond the structure of origin, and fewer than two percent of all home fires' source of origin is related to the exterior wall surface.
- Several production builders in Indiana have many years worth of land that has been zoned based on 3 feet side yard separation. To implement a 5 feet fire separation distance in the IRC that would most certainly go into effect in 2010 would be quite costly for production builders without any other substantiation beyond bringing the IRC in line with the IBC. Fire separation distance greater than 3 feet should be determined by zoning authorities.

Fiscal Impact:

There would be no fiscal impact if this proposal is approved because the current Indiana Residential Code includes the values in this proposal.

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| Approve |
| Disapprove |
| Approve as amended |
| Further Study |