

Attic Ventilation September 3, 2009

Background:

On May 3, 2009 when the HIRF requirements came into effect, the question was raised regarding if attics would be adequately ventilated when requiring non-vented soffits that project in the 1.2m limiting distance.

Additionally, an interpretation for the term “bottom” was requested as used in section 9.19.1.2.(3).(c). Bottom as defined in the Oxford Dictionary is “the lowest point or part of something, the furthest part or point of something”.

9.19.1.2. Vent Code Requirements:

- 1) Except as provided in Sentence [\(2\)](#), the unobstructed vent area shall be not less than 1/300 of the insulated ceiling area.
- 2) Where the roof slope is less than 1 in 6 or in roofs that are constructed with roof joists, the unobstructed vent area shall be not less than 1/150 of the insulated ceiling area.
- 3) Required vents may be roof type, eave type, gable-end type or any combination thereof, and shall be distributed
 - a) uniformly on opposite sides of the *building*,
 - b) with not less than 25% of the required openings located at the top of the space, and
 - c) with not less than 25% of the required openings located at the bottom of the space.
- 4) Except where each joist space is separately vented, roof joist spaces shall be interconnected by installing purlins not less than 38 mm by 38 mm on the top of the roof joists.
- 5) Vents shall comply with CAN3-A93-M, “Natural Airflow Ventilators for Buildings.”

Interpretation:

The City of Lethbridge Building Safety and Inspection Services Department requires that an attic space be ventilated in compliance with Section 9.19. ABC 2006. This means that attic ventilation from the lowest part or point (truss tails) is required and details of how that will be achieved will be required with all Building Permit applications starting September 15, 2009.



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