

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Insulation Requirements for Attic Knee Walls

Code: 2002 Energy Code
Section: 202

Date: February 16, 2005

Question:

Are knee walls that are exposed to the attic space and comprise a part of the building thermal envelope required to be insulated according to the prescriptive wall R-value requirements or the ceiling R-value requirements in order to satisfy the prescriptive requirements of the 2002 NC Energy Code?

Answer:

Attic knee walls are considered a wall element and must be insulated at least to the minimum R-value requirement of exterior walls. Temperatures in the attic space can approach 120-140 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer time. A designer may wish to consider installing insulation beyond the minimum requirements as an additional energy conserving measure.