

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Vapor Retarder Requirements**

**Code:** 2002 Energy Code  
**Section:** 502.1.1 and 802.1.2

**Date:** January 18, 2006

**Question:**

Do the Energy Code and the Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings contain provisions that allow elimination of vapor retarders for walls, floors, and ceilings that are not ventilated to allow moisture to escape?

**Answer:**

The 2002 NC Energy Code and the 2002 NC Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings currently contain provisions for eliminating vapor retarders in Zone 6 for low-rise residential buildings and Zones 6 and 7 for commercial buildings. A new rule received final approval in May 2005 allows for the vapor retarder to be eliminated in Zones 6, 7, 8, and 9. Because this rule has received final approval and is adopted, it must be allowed to be used if requested. The new provisions will be published in the 2006 NC Energy Code and the 2006 NC Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. The new rule can be downloaded from the NC DOI web site at the following location where the 2001 through 2006 amendments are located: [http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering\\_bcc\\_changes.asp](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_changes.asp)

The rules are contained in the PDF files for the approved amendments to the 2002 NC Energy Code and the 2002 NC Residential Code at the above web address.