



B U I L D I N G   C O N S U L T A N T S

# Hygrothermal Behavior of Exterior Walls and Roofs & Energy



# WHAT WILL I LEARN TODAY?

1. Basic Hygrothermal conditions at play inside a building.
2. How the amount of insulation and its placement can make a big difference on a roof or wall.
3. Major considerations to consider when replacing a roof or wall cladding.
4. How recent changes in the building code affects the roof or wall assemblies.

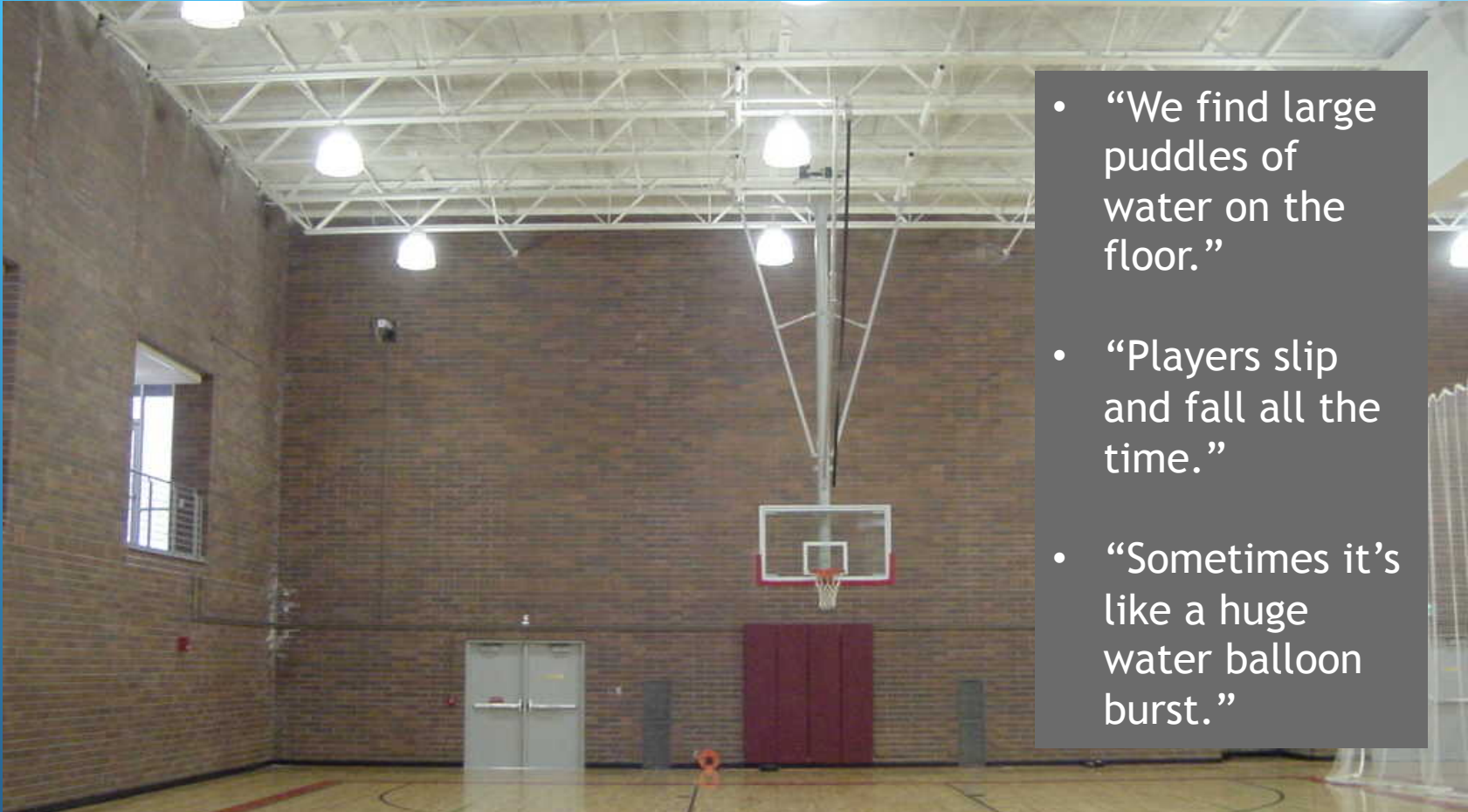


# OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY





# THE PROBLEM



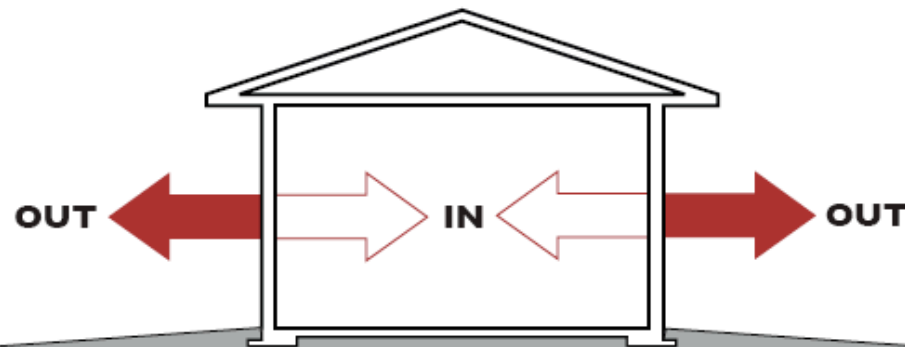
- “We find large puddles of water on the floor.”
- “Players slip and fall all the time.”
- “Sometimes it’s like a huge water balloon burst.”



# HEAT, WATER (GASEOUS FORM), TIME

## **Buildings Are Subject to Differences in Temperature**

Temperature of air and water vapor inside the building envelope wants to equalize with temperature of air and water outside the building envelope. In winter, warm air and vapor inside the building are pushed toward cool temperatures outside.





# CONDENSATION? WHAT'S THAT?



- Condensation frequently occurs when moist air comes in contact with a cool surface.



# WHEN WILL IT OCCUR?

1. The warmer the air is, the more water vapor it can hold
2. Definition: Relative Humidity (RH)
  - The amount of water vapor in the air expressed as a maximum that the air can hold at the given temperature.
3. Definition: Dew Point
  - The temperature at which the air is completely saturated with water vapor. i.e. the RH reaches 100%.

## 4.2 Determining the Design Dew-point Temperature

### 4.2.1 Fundamental Concepts

Dew-point temperature is determined by knowing dry bulb (interior) temperature and relative humidity using the following simplified table from the psychrometric chart.

Relative Humidity	Dew-Point Temperature (°F)															
	Design Dry Bulb (Interior) Temperature (°F)															
	32°F	35°F	40°F	45°F	50°F	55°F	60°F	65°F	70°F	75°F	80°F	85°F	90°F	95°F	100°F	
100%	32	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	
90%	30	33	37	42	47	52	57	62	67	72	77	82	87	92	97	
80%	27	30	34	39	44	49	54	59	64	69	74	79	84	89	94	
70%	24	27	31	36	40	45	50	55	60	64	69	74	79	84	89	
60%	20	24	28	32	36	41	46	51	56	60	65	69	74	79	84	
50%	16	20	24	28	32	36	41	46	50	55	60	64	69	73	78	
40%	12	15	19	23	27	31	35	40	45	49	53	58	62	67	71	
30%	8	10	14	18	21	25	29	33	37	42	46	50	54	59	63	
20%	6	7	9	11	13	16	19	23	26	31	35	40	43	48	52	
10%	4	4	5	6	7	9	10	12	14	17	20	24	27	30	34	

Adapted from ASHRAE Psychrometric Chart, 1983 ASHRAE Fundamentals Handbook

Table version of Psychrometric Chart

The following procedure is used to obtain the dew-point temperature from the table:

1. Along the top horizontal row of the table, locate the dry bulb temperature.
2. Along the vertical row at the left side of the table, locate the relative humidity.
3. The dew-point temperature is determined at the intersection of the appropriate dry bulb temperature column and relative humidity row. The unit value for dew point temperature determined from this table is expressed in degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

### 4.2.2 Example Calculation

**Situation:** Determine the dew-point temperature if the anticipated dry bulb temperature is 75° F and the relative humidity is 50%.

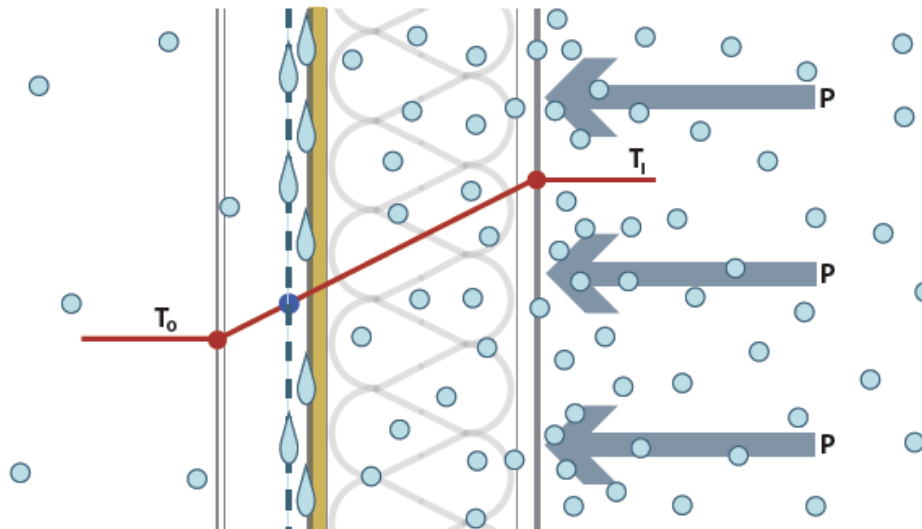
**Solution:** Using the psychrometric table, the dew point temperature is determined as 55° F.



# HOW DOES CONDENSATION OCCUR?

## Exterior Insulation and Moving the Dew Point

- Installing insulation outside sheathing can move the point at which moisture condenses further toward the exterior. If the dew point moves outside the WRB, it removes the risk of moisture condensing in the sheathing or framing.



1. Uncontrolled air leakage transports water vapor through deficiencies in the wall assembly.
2. Water condenses on surfaces that are equal or less than the Dew Point.



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# THE PROBLEM





# BOTTOM OF THE ACOUSTICAL PANELS





# METAL ROOF WELL CONSTRUCTED





# NO OBVIOUS LIQUID WATER SOURCE





# THERMAL BARRIER INCOMPLETE





# THERMAL BARRIER INCOMPLETE





# UNCONTROLLED AIR LEAKAGE



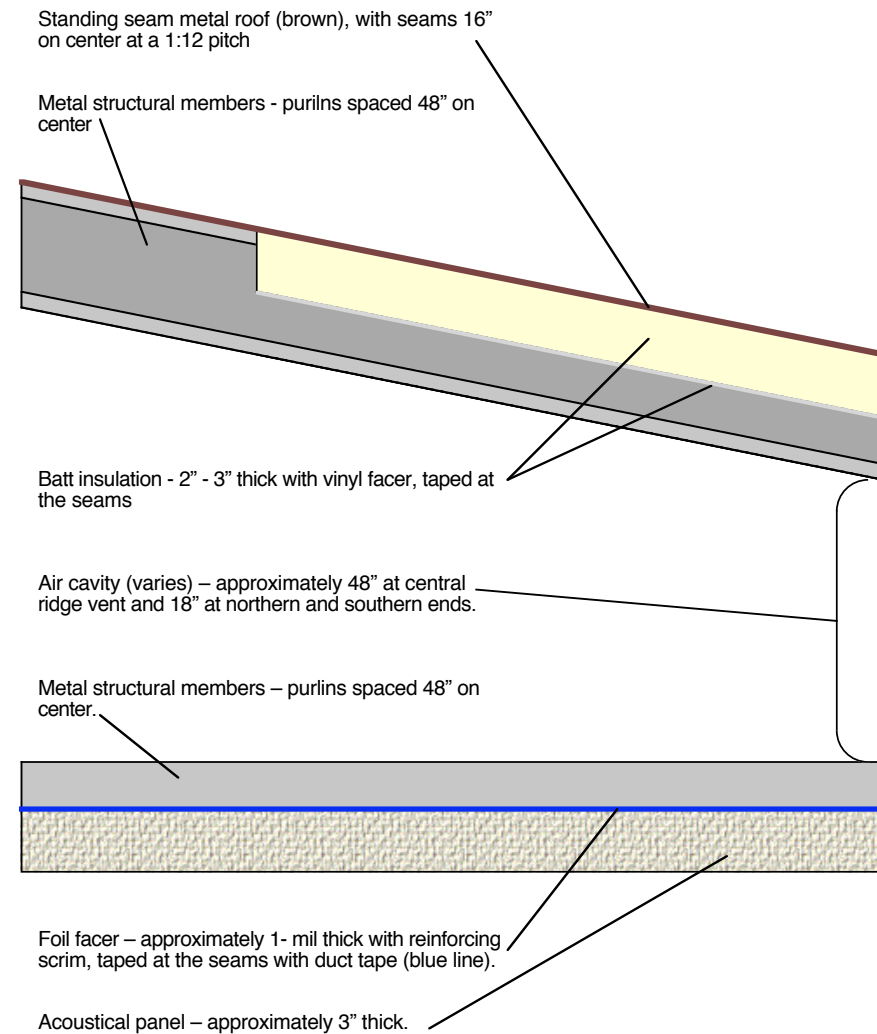


# ACOUSTICAL PANEL





- ① Standing seam metal roof
- ② Fiberglass batt insulation
- ③ Vinyl facer on the insulation equal to 1-perm
- ④ Air cavity
- ⑤ Foil facer approximately 1-mil thick equal to 1-perm
- ⑥ Acoustical panel
- ⑦ Sweaty athletes





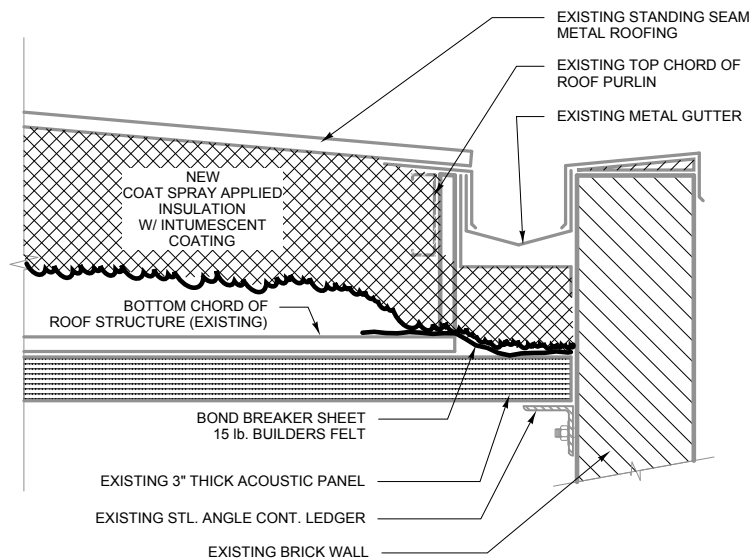
# RECORD THE DATA





# COMPUTER MODELLING





3  
WP1

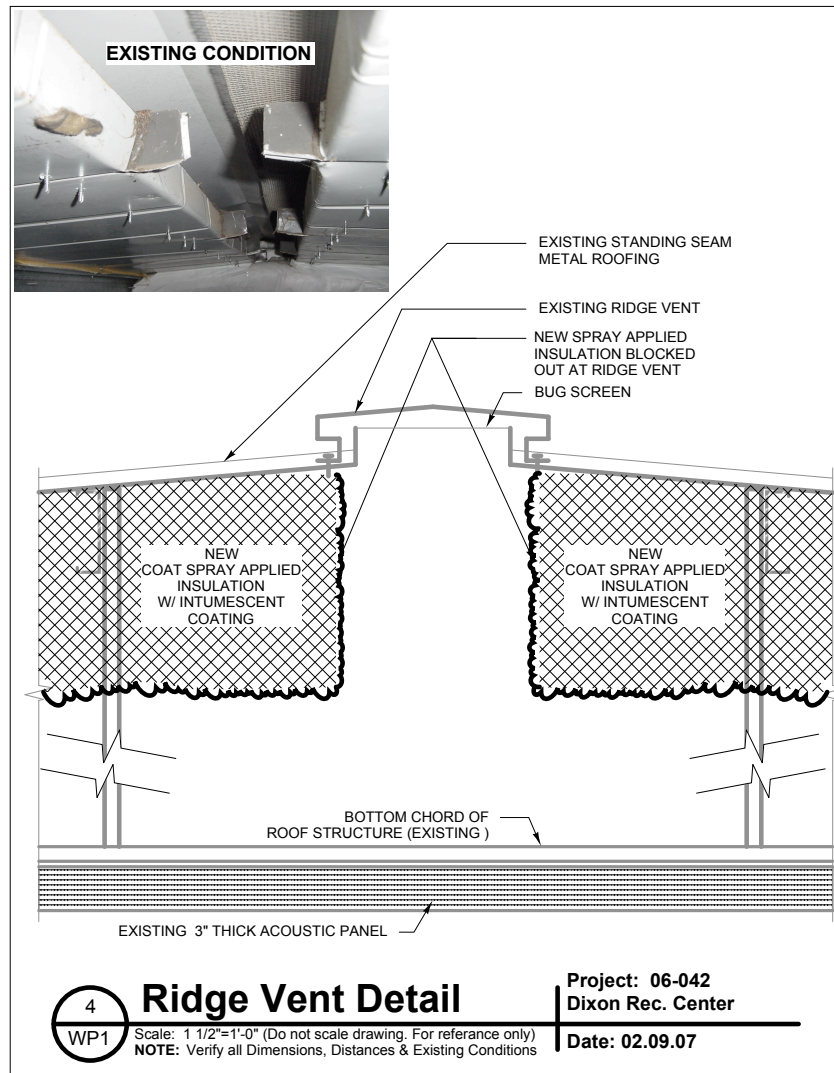
### Gutter Detail

Scale: 1 1/2"=1'-0" (Do not scale drawing. For reference only)  
NOTE: Verify all Dimensions, Distances & Existing Conditions

Project: 06-042  
Dixon Rec. Center

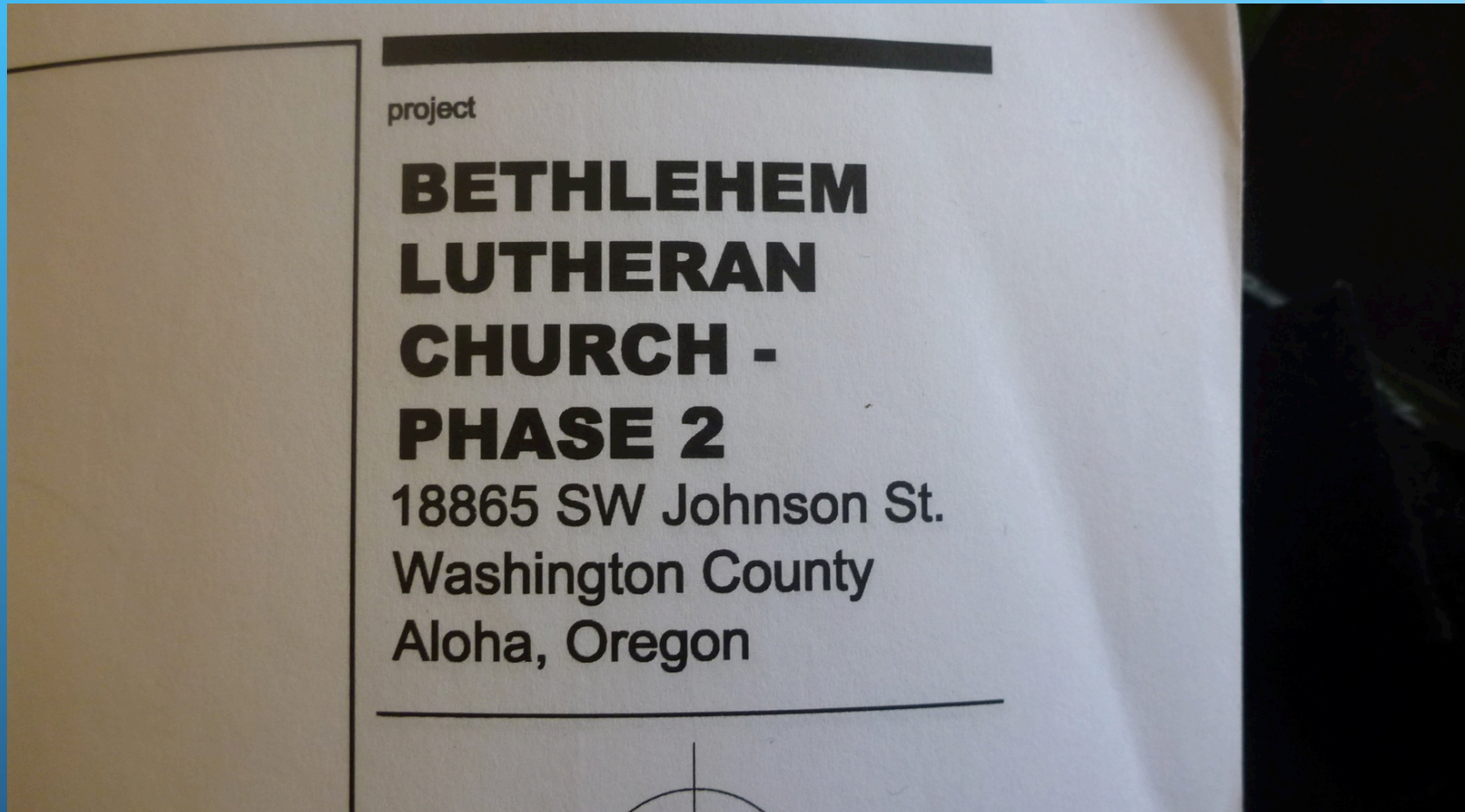
Date: 02.09.07







# WATER LEAKS ON A BRAND NEW ROOF?





“...but, the roof is only two years old...”





# INSIDE THE BUILDING



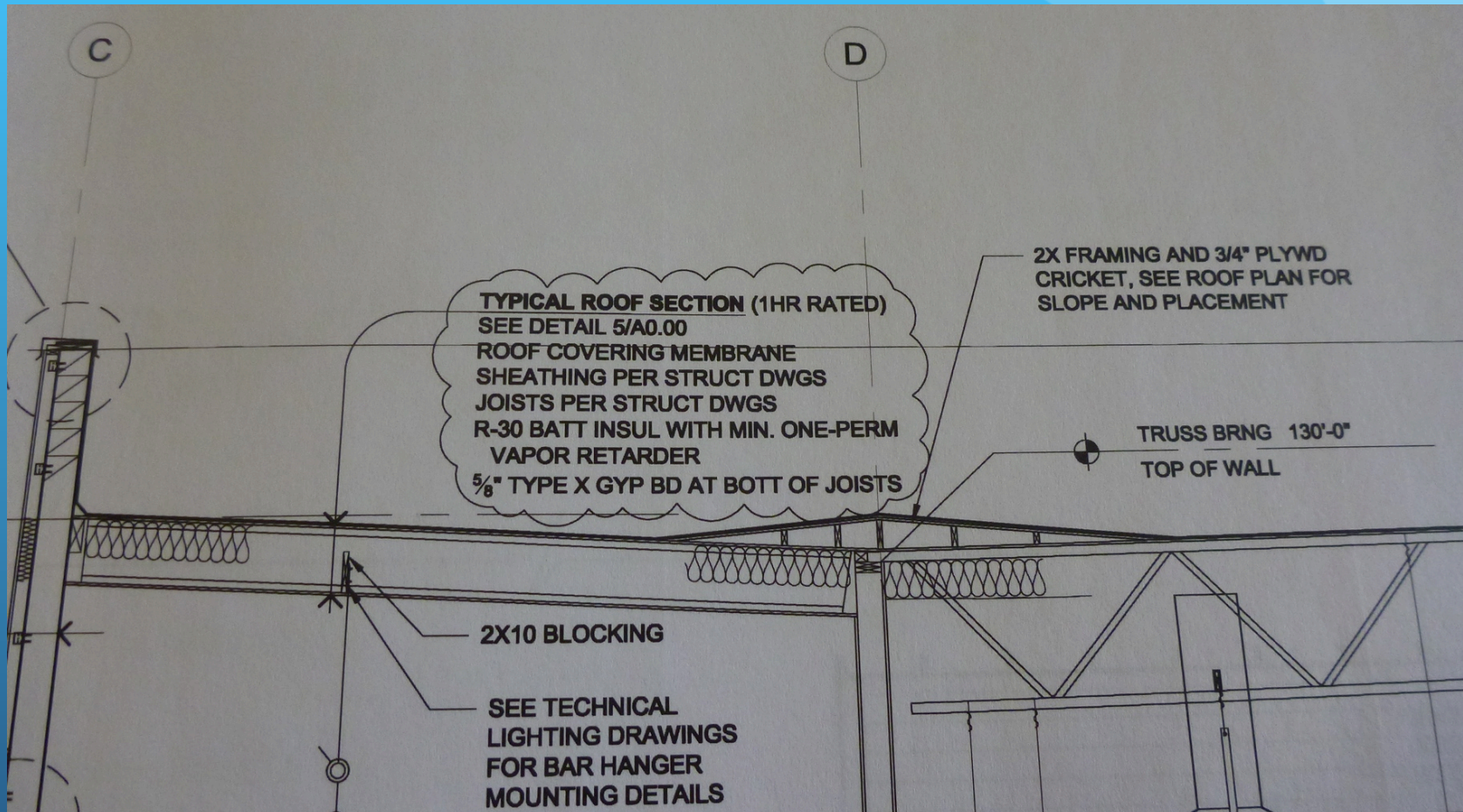


# THE PROBLEM





# DESIGN DEFECTS





# DESIGN WEAKNESSES

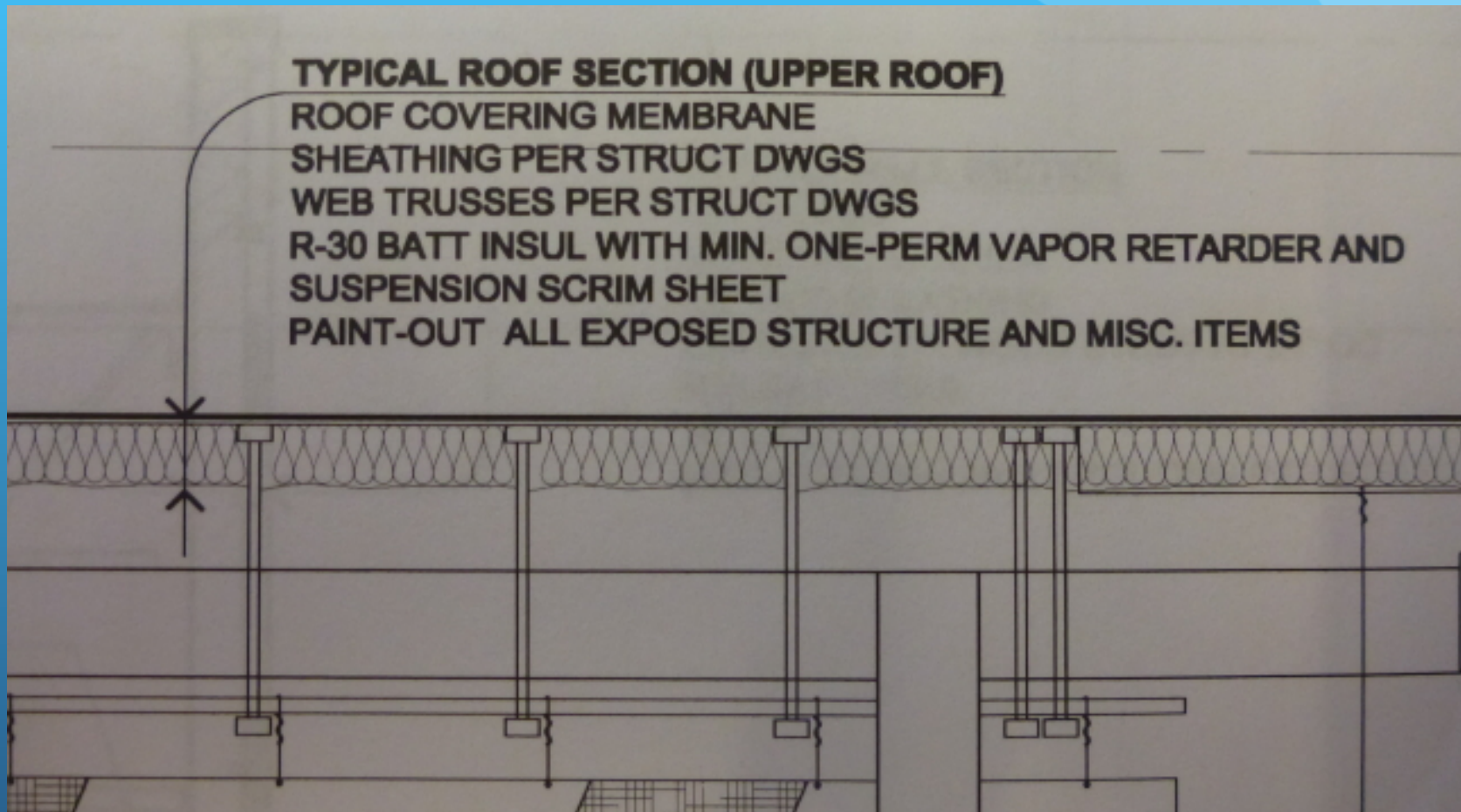






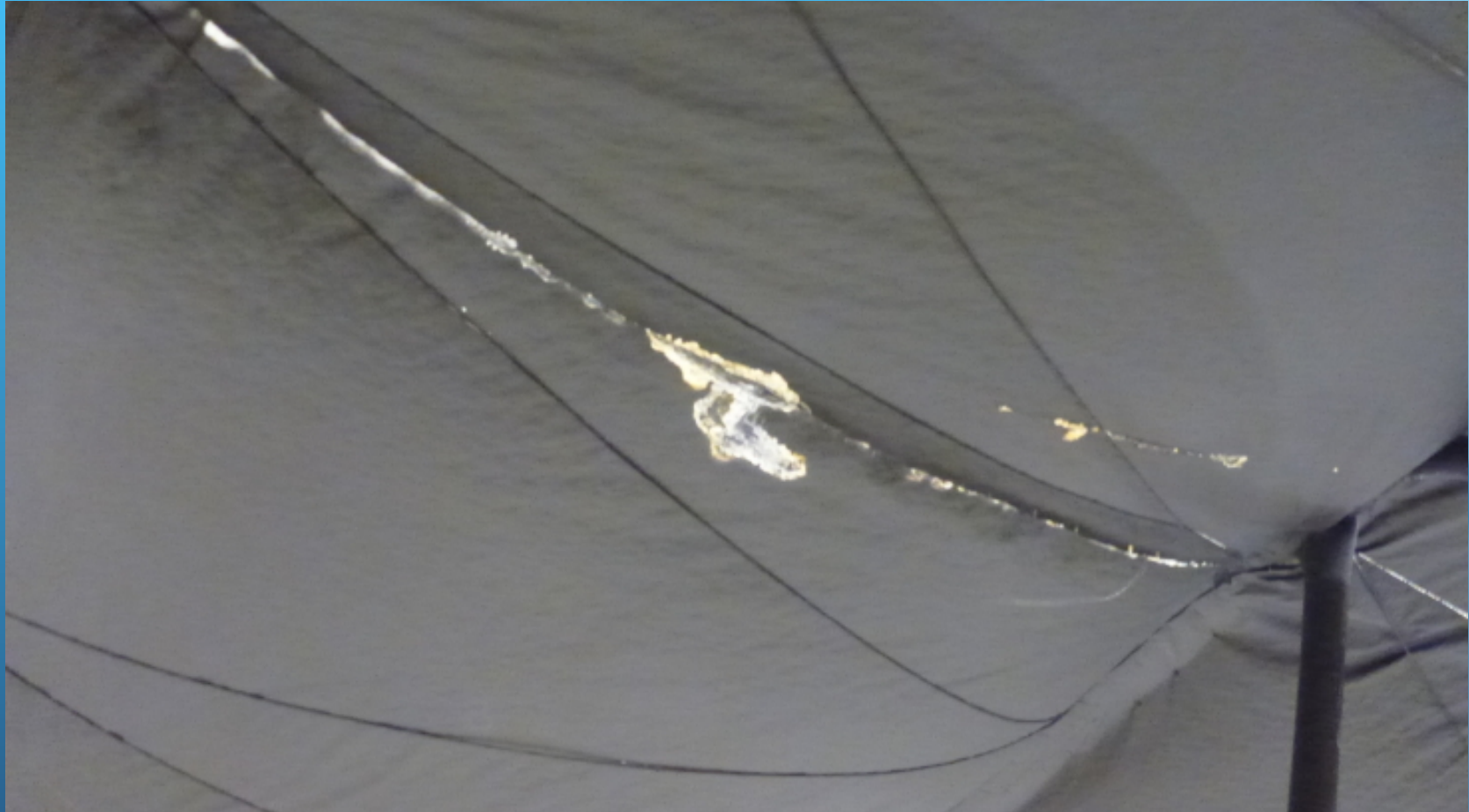


# NOT CONSTRUCTED PER PLANS





# UNCONTROLLED AIR LEAKAGE



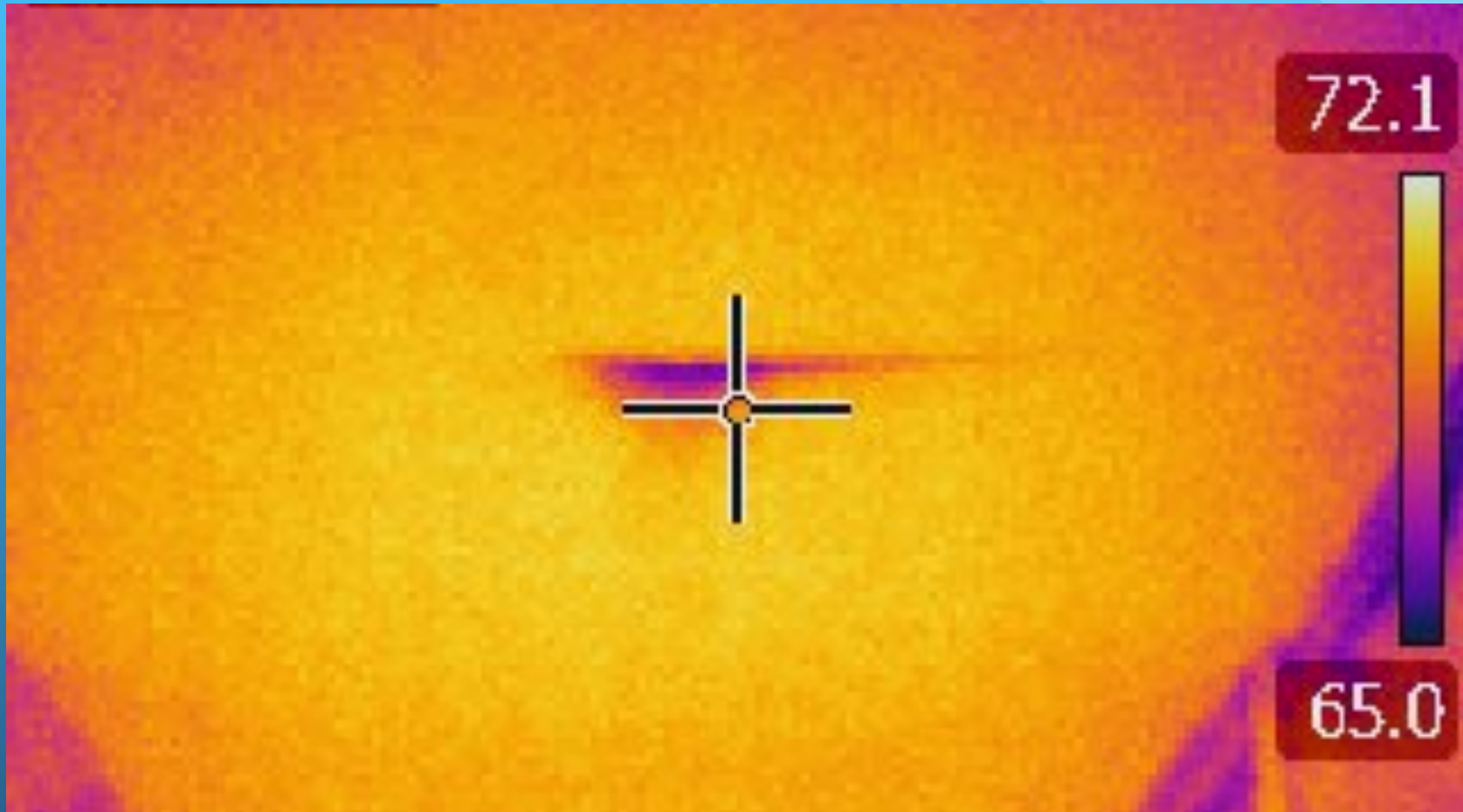


# UNCONTROLLED AIR LEAKAGE



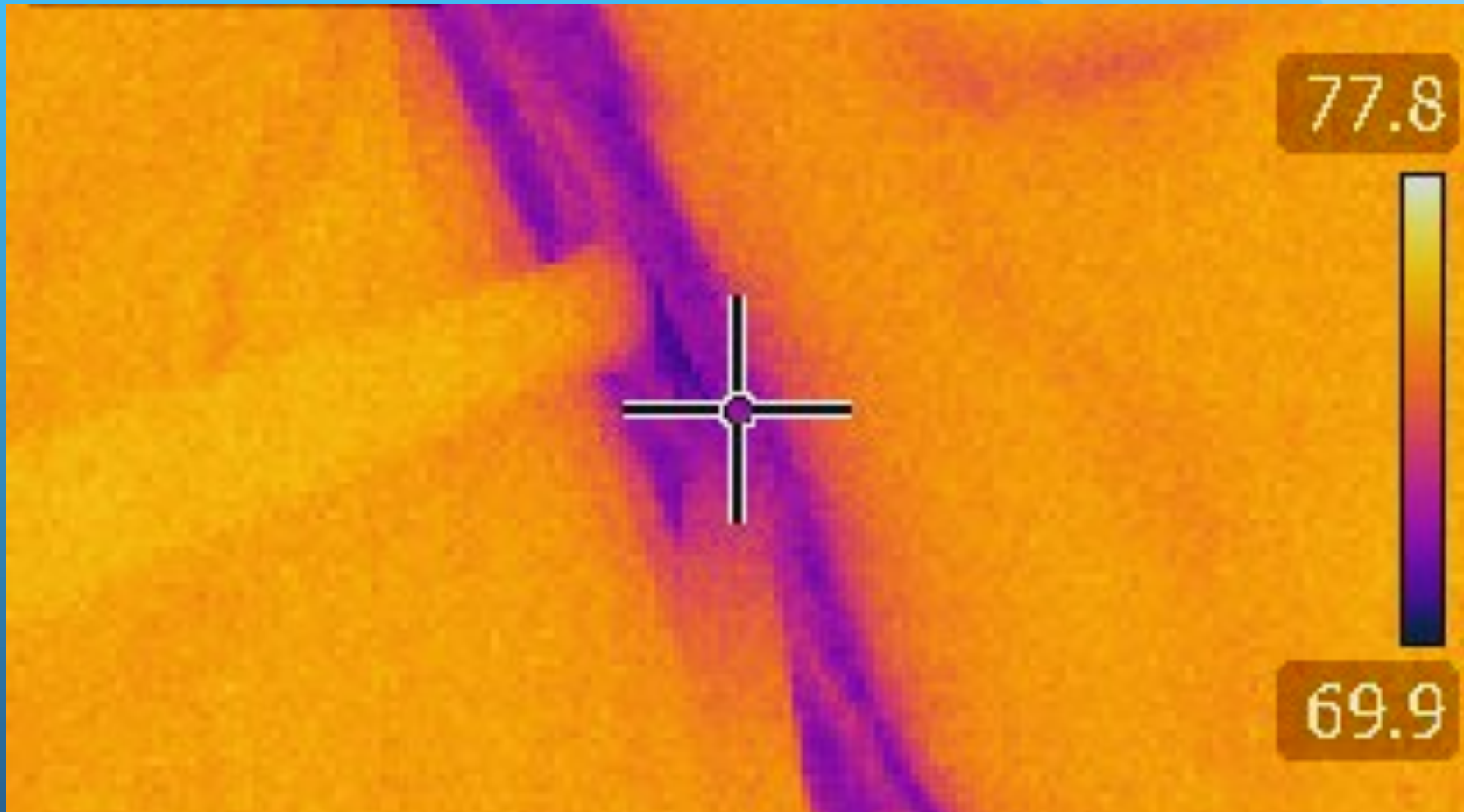


# UNCONTROLLED AIR LEAKAGE





# VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT



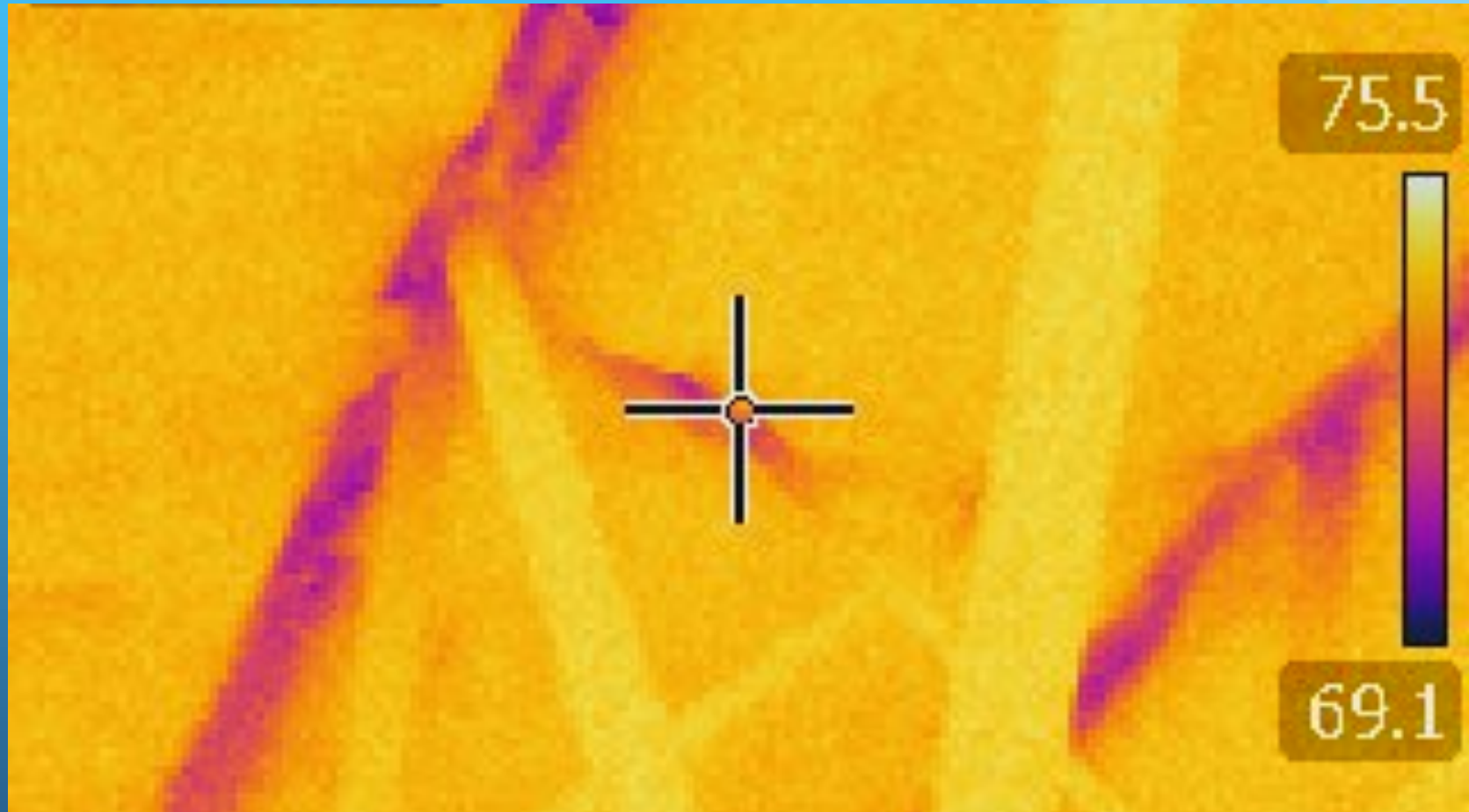


# INSULATION INSTALLED IMPROPERLY



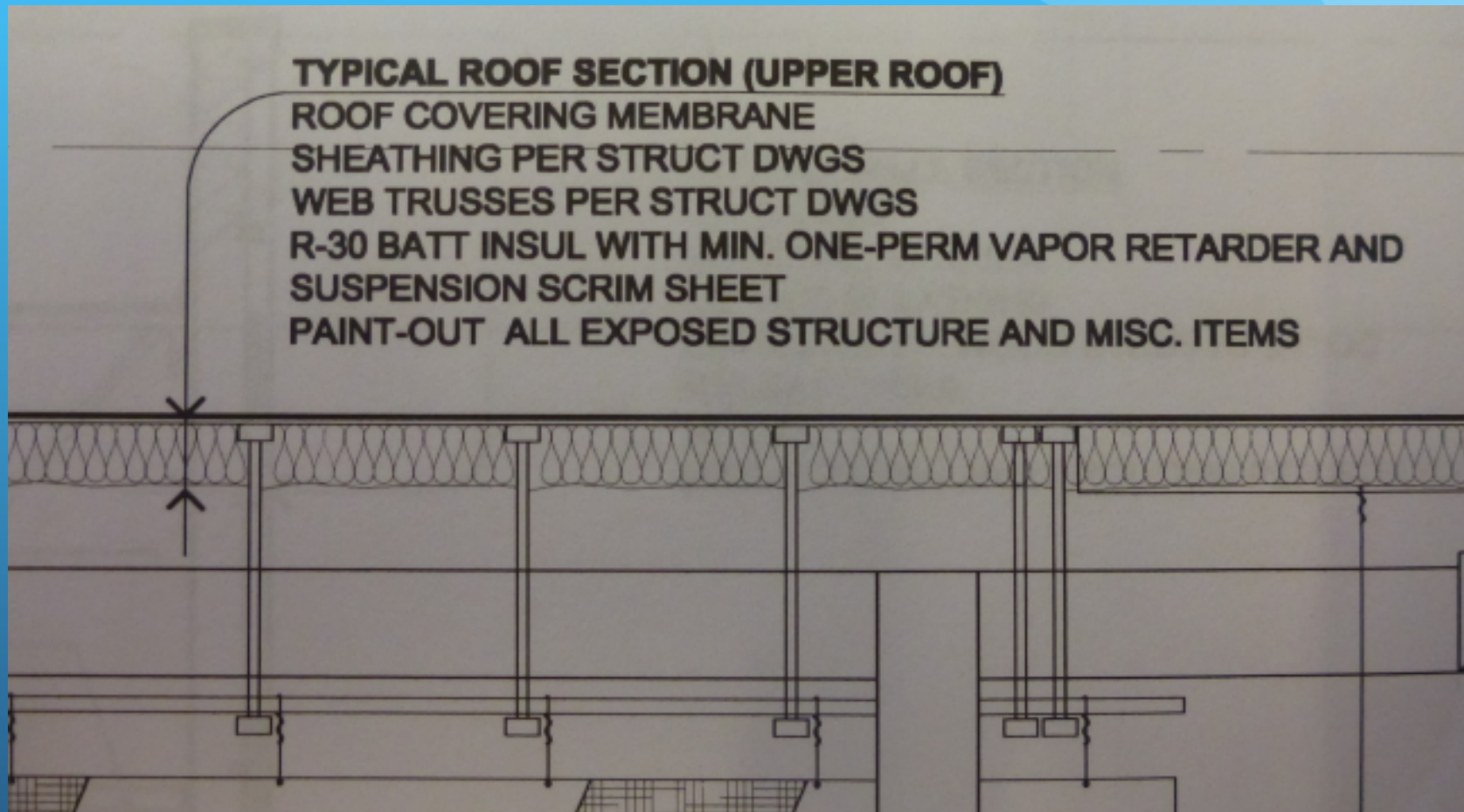


# THERMAL BARRIER INCOMPLETE





# R-30 REQUIRED, +/- R-2 ACHIEVED

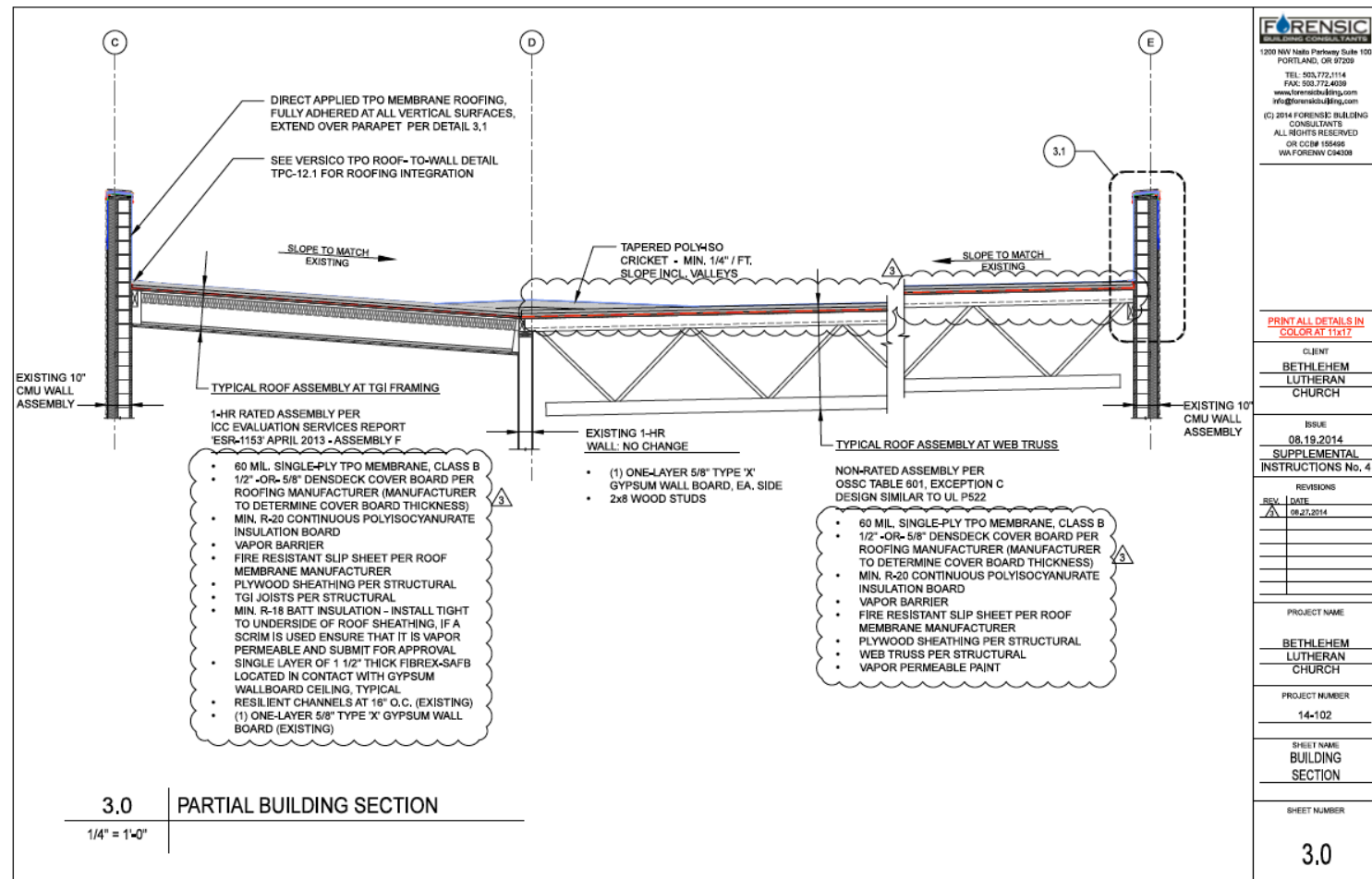




# COMPUTER MODELLING

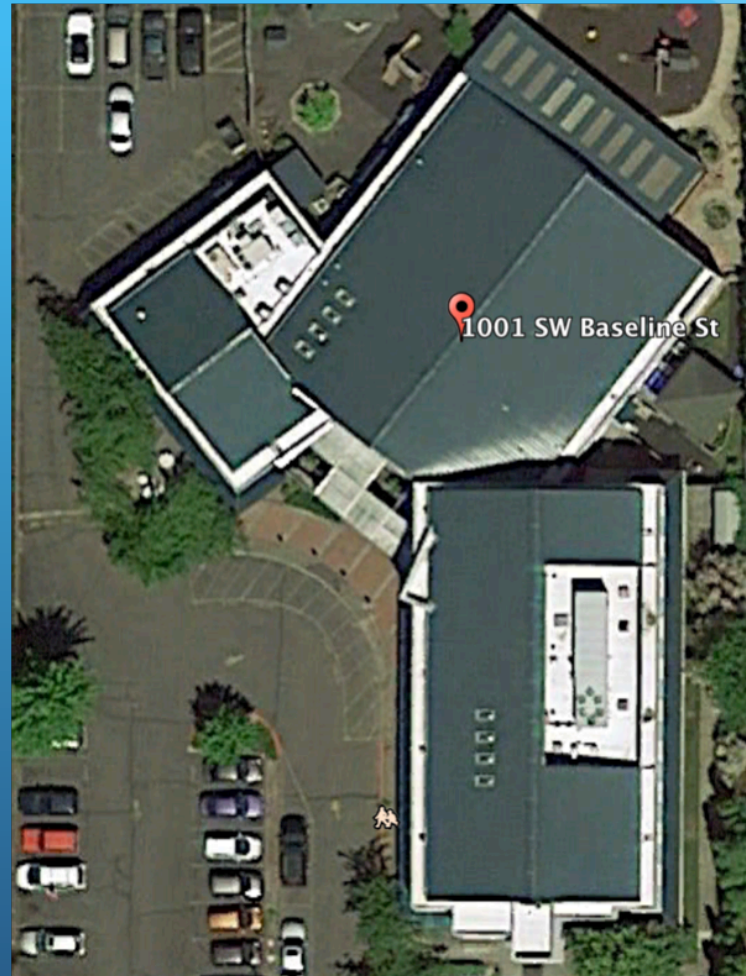


# THE FIX





# COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION BUILDING





# 2014 IEEC: COMMERCIAL ROOFS

**TABLE 502.1.1  
BUILDING ENVELOPE REQUIREMENTS - OPAQUE ASSEMBLIES**

CLIMATE ZONE	5 AND MARINE 4	
	All other	Group R
<b>Roofs</b>		
Insulation entirely above deck	R-20ci	R-20ci
Metal buildings (with R-3.5 thermal blocks <sup>a, b)</sup> )	R-13 + R-13	R-19
Attic and other	R-38	R-38



# THE DISCREPANCY IN THE CODES

## SECTION R806 ROOF VENTILATION **ES**

### **R806.1 Ventilation required.**

Enclosed attics and enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters shall have cross ventilation for each separate space by ventilating openings protected against the entrance of rain or snow. Ventilation openings shall have a least dimension of  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.6 mm) minimum and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Ventilation openings having a least dimension larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) shall be provided with corrosion-resistant wire cloth screening, hardware cloth or similar material with openings having a least dimension of  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.6 mm) minimum and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) maximum. Openings in roof framing members shall conform to the requirements of Section R802.7. Required ventilation openings shall open directly to the outside air.

### **R806.2 Minimum vent area.**

The minimum net free ventilating area shall be  $\frac{1}{150}$  of the area of the vented space.

**Exception:** The minimum net free ventilation area shall be  $\frac{1}{300}$  of the vented space provided one or more of the following conditions are met:

1. In Climate Zones 6, 7 and 8, a Class I or II vapor retarder is installed on the warm-in-winter side of the ceiling.
2. Not less than 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required ventilating area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the attic or rafter space. Upper ventilators shall be located not more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space, measured vertically, with the balance of the required ventilation provided by eave or cornice vents. Where the location of wall or roof framing members conflicts with the installation of upper ventilators, installation more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.

### **R806.3 Vent and insulation clearance.**

Where eave or cornice vents are installed, insulation shall not block the free flow of air. Not less than a 1-inch (25 mm) space shall be provided between the insulation and the roof sheathing and at the location of the vent.

### **R806.4 Installation and weather protection.**

Ventilators shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Installation of ventilators in roof systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section R903. Installation of ventilators in wall systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section R703.1.



# SOLVING THE CODE ISSUE

## R806.5 Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies.

Unvented attics and unvented enclosed roof framing assemblies created by ceilings that are applied directly to the underside of the roof framing members and structural roof sheathing applied directly to the top of the roof framing members/rafters, shall be permitted where all the following conditions are met:

1. The unvented attic space is completely within the building thermal envelope.
2. No interior Class I vapor retarders are installed on the ceiling side (attic floor) of the unvented attic assembly or on the ceiling side of the unvented enclosed roof framing assembly.
3. Where wood shingles or shakes are used, a minimum  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.4 mm) vented airspace separates the shingles or shakes and the roofing underlayment above the structural sheathing.
4. In Climate Zones 5, 6, 7 and 8, any air-impermeable insulation shall be a Class II vapor retarder, or shall have a Class II vapor retarder coating or covering in direct contact with the underside of the insulation.

5. Insulation shall be located in accordance with the following:

5.1. Item 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3 or 5.1.4 shall be met, depending on the air permeability of the insulation directly under the structural roof sheathing.

5.1.1. Where only air-impermeable insulation is provided, it shall be applied in direct contact with the underside of the structural roof sheathing.

5.1.2. Where air-permeable insulation is provided inside the building thermal envelope, it shall be installed in accordance with Section 5.1. In addition to the air-permeable insulation installed directly below the structural sheathing, rigid board or sheet insulation shall be installed directly above the structural roof sheathing in accordance with the R-values in Table R806.5 for condensation control.

5.1.3. Where both air-impermeable and air-permeable insulation are provided, the air-impermeable insulation shall be applied in direct contact with the underside of the structural roof sheathing in accordance with Item 5.1.1 and shall be in accordance with the R-values in Table R806.5 for condensation control. The air-permeable insulation shall be installed directly under the air-impermeable insulation.

5.1.4. Alternatively, sufficient rigid board or sheet insulation shall be installed directly above the structural roof sheathing to maintain the monthly average temperature of the underside of the structural roof sheathing above 45°F (7°C). For calculation purposes, an interior air temperature of 68°F (20°C) is assumed and the exterior air temperature is assumed to be the monthly average outside air temperature of the three coldest months.

5.2. Where preformed insulation board is used as the air-impermeable insulation layer, it shall be sealed at the perimeter of each individual sheet interior surface to form a continuous layer.

TABLE R806.5  
INSULATION FOR CONDENSATION CONTROL

CLIMATE ZONE	MINIMUM RIGID BOARD ON AIR-IMPERMEABLE INSULATION R-VALUE <sup>a, b</sup>
2B and 3B tile roof only	0 (none required)
1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C	R-5
4C	R-10
4A, 4B	R-15
5	R-20
6	R-25
7	R-30
8	R-35

a. Contributes to but does not supersede the requirements in Section N1102.

b. Alternatively, sufficient continuous insulation shall be installed directly above the structural roof sheathing to maintain the monthly average temperature of the underside of the structural roof sheathing above 45°F (7°C). For calculation purposes, an interior air temperature of 68°F (20°C) is assumed and the exterior air temperature is assumed to be the monthly average outside air temperature of the three coldest months.

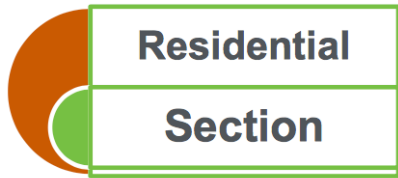


# 2015 IECC UPDATES



## Commercial Section

- Ch. 1 Scope and Application /  
Administrative and  
Enforcement
- Ch. 2 Definitions
- Ch. 3 General Requirements
- Ch. 4 Commercial Energy Efficiency
- Ch. 5 Existing Buildings - **NEW**
- Ch. 6 Referenced Standards



## Residential Section

- Ch. 1 Scope and Application /  
Administrative and  
Enforcement
- Ch. 2 Definitions
- Ch. 3 General Requirements
- Ch. 4 Residential Energy Efficiency
- Ch. 5 Existing Buildings - **NEW**
- Ch. 6 Referenced Standards



# AIR LEAKAGE ADDRESSED

**502.4 Air leakage.** The thermal envelope of buildings shall comply with Sections 502.4.1 through 502.4.7.

**502.4.1 Air barriers.** A continuous air barrier shall be provided throughout the building thermal envelope. The air barriers shall be permitted to be located on the inside or outside of the building envelope, located within the assemblies composing the envelope, or any combination thereof. The air barrier shall comply with Sections 502.4.1.1 and 502.4.1.2.

**502.4.1.1 Air barrier construction.** The continuous air barrier shall be constructed to comply with the following:

1. The air barrier shall be continuous for all assemblies that are the thermal envelope of the building and across the joints and assemblies.
2. Air barrier joints and seams shall be sealed, including sealing transitions in places and changes in materials. Air barrier penetrations shall be sealed in accordance with Section C502.4.2. The joints and seals shall be securely installed in or on the joint for its entire length so as not to dislodge, loosen or otherwise impair its ability to resist positive and negative pressure from wind, stack effect and mechanical ventilation.
3. Recessed lighting fixtures shall comply with Section 504.2.8. Where similar objects are installed which penetrate the air barrier, provisions shall be made to maintain the integrity of the air barrier.



## ON THE HORIZON

**502.4.1.2.3 Building test.** The completed building shall be tested and the air leakage rate of the building envelope shall not exceed 0.40 cfm per square foot at a pressure differential of 0.3 inches water gauge (2.0 L/s · m<sup>2</sup> at 75 Pa) in accordance with ASTM E 779 or an equivalent method approved by the code official.



# IMPERFECTIONS IN THE WALL = FAILURE

