

September 22, 2006

Dear Contractor:

The Owatonna Building Inspection Division has been asked to review the installation criteria for Icynene spray applied insulation. The basic installation requirements are to be installed per the tested and approved **ICC legacy report NER-420 revised in May 2003**. This report limits the installation of Un-protected Icynene insulation to a maximum thickness of nominal 6-inches in the horizontal application, provided the attic or crawl space is not interconnected with the dwelling. (see report). Furthermore, vertical applications such as short walls shall be required to be protected by an ignition barrier, example: "FireFree 88".

The above application will not provide the required R-value needed to meet the MN State Energy Code. Therefore, after doing additional research, the horizontal sprayed application of Icynene will be allowed to be increased to a **maximum of nominal 11-inches** under the following criteria:

- 1) The attic or crawlspace shall have no communication to the dwelling unit. If an attic access is required it shall be located in the garage ceiling and a draft-stop wall shall be installed in line with the dwelling firewall effectively cutting the attic space in sections.
- 2) A 22" X 30" access hole shall be installed through the draft-stop wall. A ½-inch gypsum board with plywood backing door, including sprung / hinged and latch, shall be provided over the access hole.

Should you have any questions or need additional information related to the approved methods for installation of Icynene spray applied insulation, please contact the Owatonna Building Inspection Department at 507 444-4370 for assistance.

Please refer to the following definitions as they relate to insulation cover required in the report:

SUBJECT: Insulation Definitions:

Following are the ICC definitions that apply to fiber glass and rock wool insulation. The definitions are contained in section 702.1 of the 2006 International Building Code. These definitions are consistent with; the ASTM definitions and common industry terminology:

Mineral Fiber. Insulation composed principally of fibers manufactured from rock, slag or glass with or without binders.

Mineral Wool. Synthetic vitreous fiber insulation made by melting predominately igneous rod or furnace slag and other inorganic materials, and then physically forming the melt into fibers.

These two definitions are often confused and/or used interchangeably. It is important to understand that both "fiber glass" and "rock wool" insulation are "mineral fiber" insulation. Therefore, any reference in the code to "mineral fiber" insulation would include fiber glass, but if it states "mineral wool," that is the only material type permitted.