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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Building Officials, Homebuilders, Designers and Other Interested Parties  
*ERR (jt)*

**FROM:** Emory R. Rodgers, Deputy Director, Division of Building and Fire Regulation

**DATE:** July 30, 2014

**SUBJ:** Section R501.3 of the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)

The 2012 Virginia Construction Code (Part I of the Uniform Statewide Building Code) became effective on July 14, 2014. During the comment period following the publishing of the final regulations in the Virginia Register, the Board of Housing and Community Development reviewed a new provision in the 2012 IRC (Section R501.3) which had not been identified through the code change process as a significant change in the code. Section R501.3 requires crawlspaces and basements in new houses to be protected on the underside with gypsum board or equivalent when engineered floor trusses or 2" x 8" or less floor joists are used.

On June 16, 2014, the Board published an action in the Virginia Register to suspend and readopt that portion of the IRC and to delete Section R501.3 in its entirety. A fifteen day comment period followed the publishing of the notice.

At the July 28, 2014 meeting, as no public comment was received during the fifteen day comment period, the Board was informed that the deletion of Section R501.3 became effective on July 14, 2014, along with the rest of the 2012 codes.

This memorandum is to inform our client groups of that action and to advise the local building departments that Section R501.3 is not part of the 2012 VCC. Since the state publications of the VCC and the publishing of the Virginia-version of the IRC (the Virginia Residential Code) by ICC was completed prior to July 14th, an errata showing the deletion of Section R501.3 will be posted on the DHCD and ICC websites to correct the published codes. Should you have any questions or concerns, or need a copy of the official action published in the Virginia Register, please do not hesitate to contact the State Building Codes Office staff at (804) 371-7150 or by email at [SBCO@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:SBCO@dhcd.virginia.gov).

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