

Proponent: John C. Dean, National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)

THESE PROPOSALS ARE ON THE AGENDA OF THE IBC FIRE SAFETY AND IRC BUILDING/ENERGY CODE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES AS 2 SEPARATE CODE CHANGES. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDERS FOR THESE COMMITTEES.

PART I – IBC FIRE SAFETY

Revise as follows:

1505.2 (Supp) Class A roof assemblies. Class A roof assemblies are those that are effective against severe fire test exposure. Class A roof assemblies and roof coverings shall be listed and identified as Class A by any approved testing agency. Class A roof assemblies shall be permitted for use in buildings or structures of all types of construction.

Exceptions:

1. Class A roof assemblies include those with coverings of brick, masonry, ~~slate, clay or concrete roof tile~~, or an exposed concrete roof deck.
2. Class A roof assemblies also include ferrous or copper shingles or sheets, metal sheets and shingles, clay and concrete roof tile, and slate installed on non-combustible decks.

PART II – IRC BUILDING/ENERGY

R902.1 Roofing covering materials. Roofs shall be covered with materials as set forth in Sections R904 and R905. Class A, B or C roofing shall be installed in areas designated by law as requiring their use or when the edge of the roof is less than 3 feet (914 mm) from a property line. Classes A, B and C roofing required to be listed by this section shall be tested in accordance with UL 790 or ASTM E 108.

Exceptions:

1. Class A roof assemblies include those with coverings of brick, masonry, ~~slate, clay or concrete roof tile~~, and exposed concrete roof deck.
2. Class A roof assemblies also include ferrous or copper shingles or sheets, metal sheets and shingles, clay and concrete tile, installed on noncombustible decks.

Reason: (IBC/IRC) This is a follow-up proposal to code change FS199-06/07 that was submitted by the National Association of State Fire Marshals and approved as modified by their public comment at the ICC Final Action Hearings in Rochester, NY. The public comment cited some ASTM E108 (UL790) tests in UL Report file SV16680, Project 07CA03538 "Fact-Finding Investigation of Metal and Slate Prepared Roof Coverings" dated Jan 17, 2007.

It should be noted that during the prior code cycle the automatic Class A designation was removed for steel, copper, and slate. This proposal addresses the same problem and treats clay and concrete tile in the same manner.

This proposal only seeks to remove language and exceptions that automatically confer Class A status to certain materials. It does not eliminate the use of any product. The increasingly wide range of materials and configurations used as clay roofing now available in the market can no longer support a general exemption from fire testing these assemblies. All roof assemblies with clay or concrete tile roof covering should be tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. The modification recognizes that clay and concrete tile roof coverings on non-combustible decks do not constitute a hazard.

Under brush fire conditions in the field, roof coverings can be exposed to burning brands that may break slate or clay or concrete roof tile, since they are brittle materials, and expose the roof deck to the fire; or the high winds caused by the brush fire can lift the butt ends of slate or concrete or clay roof tiles, allowing the entry of embers under the roof covering and igniting the combustible deck.

At the Rochester Final Action Hearing, the membership vote made it clear that fire resistance testing is favored over the exceptions based on field experience in past editions of the IBC. This change would also provide a level playing field for all of the roofing materials that would be included in exception 2.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

PART I – IBC FIRE SAFETY

Public Hearing:	Committee:	AS	AM	D
	Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

PART II – IRC BUILDING/ENERGY

Public Hearing:	Committee:	AS	AM	D
	Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF