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August 13, 2014

BUILDING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION
CODE/EDITION: 2013 RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO
INTERPRETATION #: 2014-INT-RCO-002

SECTION(S): 2013 RCO Section 903.1, 905.2.3, & 905.2.7 – “Ice Barrier”

QUESTION:

Are “ice barriers” required at the valleys for an asphalt shingled residential roof?

ANSWER:

It is the responsibility of the roof covering designer/installer to assure that the roof is weather protected per RCO 903.1. The designer chooses one of two required types of underlayments for roof eaves (RCO 905.2.7) and one of the four types of required underlayments for **other roof areas** (RCO 905.2.3). Self-adhering polymer modified bitumen sheets that comply with ASTM D 1970 is known by the public as an “ice barrier”. Since the “ice barrier” is one of the required underlayments for eaves and other roof areas, if the construction documents show or note the use of “ice barriers” at the eaves and the valleys, and the applicant receives a certificate of plan approval for its use in that manner, then “ice barriers” are required at the valleys.

Effective Date:

The new policy shall be in effect this day forward and shall remain active until there is a change in the governing codes or a new policy is put in place to supersede the current one.

Dennis Dickard, RBO #367
Residential Building Official