Advisory Bulletin

**Recommendations For Steep Slope Roof Ventilation**

2025-2 | 06.05.2025 | Page 1 of 2

# **Steep Slope Roof Ventilation:**

Roof ventilation is required on most steep slope roof systems and almost all asphalt shingle roof systems as it is referenced in the manufacturers installation instructions which is part of the building code by reference. Almost every shingle manufacturer has a clause in their warranty language that will void the roof warranty if proper roof ventilation (as required by the building codes) is not installed with any new roof, recover, or reroof. We recommend following the requirements as published in the adopted building codes under roof ventilation.

**R806.2 Minimum vent area.**

The minimum net free ventilating area shall be 1/150 of the area of the vented space. **Exception:** The minimum net free ventilation area shall be 1/300 of the vented space provided both 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. The balance of the required ventilation provided shall be located in the bottom one-third of the attic space. 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.

**IBC 1202.2.1 Ventilated attics and rafter spaces.**

Enclosed attics and enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof framing members shall have cross ventilation for each separate space by ventilation openings protected against the entrance of rain and snow. Blocking

Recommendations for Steep Slope Roof Ventilation

2025-1 | 04.01.2025 | Page 2 of 2

and bridging shall be arranged so as not to interfere with the movement of air. An airspace of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) shall be provided between the insulation and the roof sheathing. The net free ventilating area shall be not less than 1/150 of the area of the space ventilated.

Ventilators shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer’s installation instructions.

**Exception:** The net free cross-ventilation area shall be permitted to be reduced to 1/300 provided both 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. At least 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required venting 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 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.

We further recommend that steep slope roof sytems be vented with through ventilation balanced with a variance of no more than 10% of the venting in the form of intake or exhaust ventilation to allow for sufficient air flow through the roof cavities. Ventilation should be designed in accordance with manufacturers installation instructions.