



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **February 4, 2010**
Subject: **Visual inspection option**
References: **2009 International Energy Conservation Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section 402.4.2.2 and Table 402.4.2 in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code in question.

Section 402.4.2.2, Visual inspection option. Building envelope tightness and insulation installation shall be considered acceptable when the items listed in Table 402.4.2, applicable to the method of construction, are field verified. Where required by the code official, an approved party independent from the installer of the insulation shall inspect the air barrier and insulation.

Question: Table 402.4.2 of the 2009 IECC states "Air-permeable insulation is inside of an air-barrier" in the first row of the table as an item needing visual inspection. My question is, how would an air barrier be installed in a common wall between dwelling units if the insulation would have to be located on the inside of an air barrier?

Answer: I am not at all sure that the energy code even requires thermal insulation between dwelling units. The intent of the requirement is to provide the air barrier on the exterior of the building envelope with the insulation inside. That has no meaning with apartment separation walls.

NCC Stance: Separation walls between townhouses, apartments, condos and the like are not part of the thermal envelope but if insulation is installed, no additional air-barrier is required.

Code Updates: The adoption of the 2012 IECC has eliminated this section entirely. A blower door test is now required for all new construction homes to verify air leakage is within the allowable range.

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Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION