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Chief Building Official

ROOFS SLOPE AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD FRAMED CONSTRUCTION

Reference: California Building Code Sections 1503.4, 1507 and 1611

Minimum Roof Slope:

California Building Code (CBC) Section 1507 requires various minimum slopes for roofs depending on the roofing material. Built-up roofs and thermoplastic roofs may be as little as ¼ inch per foot. This is the minimum allowed for wood framed construction within the City of Irvine unless otherwise approved by the Chief Building Official.

Drainage:

Roof drainage shall conform to CBC Section 1503.4 and the California Plumbing Code using a rainfall rate of 4 inches per hour per City of Irvine Information Bulletin 299-Roof Drainage System Sizing.

Accumulated Rainwater Design Load:

CBC Section 1611.1 requires that the roof structure design load include the weight from rainwater accumulation that would occur due to blockage of the primary drainage system including that volume above the inlet of the secondary drainage system at its design flow.

Structural Check for Ponding:

Where the design slope is allowed to be less than ¼ inch per foot, CBC Section 1611.2 requires the design calculations to include verification of adequate stiffness to preclude progressive deflection in accordance with Section 8.4 of ASCE 7.

Certification of Roof Slope:

New roof systems of wood framed construction having a design slope of ¼ inch per foot (2%) or flatter shall be certified upon completion and before building occupancy by a California Registered Engineer or Land Surveyor. Certification shall include a statement that the completed roof system has been verified to be in conformance with the approved plans. Said certification shall be stamped and signed by the registered professional and be retained at the jobsite for collection by the City building inspector.