

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Insulation Requirements for Attic Knee Walls**

**Code:** 2012 Energy Conservation Code  
**Section:** 402.1.1, 402.2.12

**Date:** July 3, 2012

**Question:**

Are knee walls that are exposed to the attic space and comprise a part of the building thermal envelope required to be insulated according to the prescriptive wall R-value requirements or the ceiling R-value requirements in order to satisfy the prescriptive requirements of the 2012 NC Energy Conservation Code?

**Answer:**

Attic knee walls are considered a wall element and must be insulated at least to the minimum R-value requirement of exterior walls. Temperatures in the attic space can approach 120-140 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer time. A designer may wish to consider installing insulation beyond the minimum requirements as an additional energy conserving measure. The cavity insulation shall be enclosed on all sides with rigid material.