

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Closed Crawl Space Moisture Control – Permitting<sup>1</sup> and H3 Licensure**

**Code:** 2018 Residential  
**Section:** R409.5

**Date:** March 20, 2019

**Code:** 2018 NC Mechanical  
**Section:** 101.2

**Code:** 2018 NC Administrative  
**Section:** 106.1

**Question:**

How does the 2018 NC Mechanical Code and 2018 NC Residential Code correlate with the licensure requirements of the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors?

**Answer:**

Section R409.5 of the 2018 NC Residential Code contains five prescribed methods of moisture control.

The licensure requirement depends on the methodology chosen to control the humidity. **Table 1: Humidity Control Method** lists the four prescriptive methods for providing humidity control in a closed crawl space. **Table 2: Licensure Requirement** identifies which method requires an H-3 license.

The licensure requirements are determined by the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors. The licensure question was posed to this Board and the response reprinted here for the convenience of the reader. If there are detailed questions concerning the licensure requirements, please contact the Board, at 919-875-3612.

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<sup>1</sup> See 2012 Administrative Code - 106.1 - Permit Required for Closed Crawl Space.pdf at [http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code\\_Interpretations&user=State\\_Building\\_Codes&field2=Interpretations4/2012\\_Administrative](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Interpretations&user=State_Building_Codes&field2=Interpretations4/2012_Administrative) for permit requirements.

<b>Table 1: Humidity Control Method</b>
R409.5.1 Dehumidifier
R409.5.2 Supply Air
R409.5.3 House Air
R409.5.4 Exhaust fan
R409.5.5 Conditioned space

<b>Table 2: Licensure Requirement</b>	<b>H-3 license required<sup>2</sup> ?</b>
R409.5.1 Dehumidifier	No
R409.5.2 Supply Air	Yes
R409.5.3 House Air <sup>3</sup>	No
R409.5.4 Exhaust fan	No
R409.5.5 Conditioned space	Yes

Please note there are other trades that are involved, such as electrical, that may require licensure. This interpretation does not address the electrical, plumbing or general contracting licensure requirements.

**Keywords:**

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<sup>2</sup> The determination of licensure requirements under GS 87-21 is made by the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors.

<sup>3</sup> As written, the code assumption is the house air source will be provided separate from the ducted hvac system. If the hvac system is used, it falls back to R409.5.2.