

## INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance  
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### Heating Requirements for Sunrooms

**Code:** 2012 NC Residential Code

**Date:** July 24, 2012

**Section:** R303.8

**Question:**

Are sunrooms exempt from the requirements of the NC Residential Code (NCRC), Section R303.8 which requires that all habitable rooms meet certain design temperatures?

**Answer:**

Yes, rooms meeting the definition of “sunroom” are exempt from the requirements of R303.8. Sunroom is defined by both the NCRC and the NC Energy Conservation Code (NCECC) generally as “a one story structure attached to a dwelling with a glazing area in excess of 40% of the gross area of the structure’s exterior walls and roof”.

The North Carolina Mechanical Code, Section 309.1, requires that “interior spaces intended for human occupancy shall be provided with active or passive space-heating systems”. However, there is an exception that excludes spaces where the primary purpose is not associated with human comfort. This is how the DOI addresses sunrooms. They are considered “outdoor” rooms that are used seasonally and are not intended to be for human comfort throughout the year.

If the structure attached to the dwelling and opening into the dwelling has glazing less than 40% of the gross area of the structure’s exterior walls and roof, then it is not a sunroom and is required to conform to the insulation and heating requirements of the dwelling.

**Keywords:**

Florida room, Four seasons room