

# DWELLING CODE COUNCIL REPORT DRAFT RULES DISPOSITION

Red numbers following each recommendation indicate the Treatment Sections in the Draft Rules dated 1/26/15 which address those recommendations

## SPS 320: ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand section SPS 320.02 (1) to clarify that chapters SPS 320 to 325 apply to one- and two-family dwellings which accommodate small day-care, foster-home, and home-occupation operations – and which are excluded from the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code.  
2
2. Define “guardrail” to mean a barrier erected to prevent a person from falling to a lower level. Define “handrail” to mean a horizontal or sloping rail intended for grasping by a hand, for guidance or support.  
7-9, 39, 41, 44
3. Revise the definition of “stairway” in SPS 320.07 (66) to refer to one or more risers rather than one or more steps.  
7-9, 35, 39, 41, 42, 44
4. Expand the definition of “stairway” in SPS 320.07 (66) to apply the same meaning to “stair” and “stairs,” which are used in place of “stairway” in several places in chapters SPS 320 to 325.  
7-9, 35, 39, 42, 44
5. Replace the requirement in section SPS 320.09 (5) (b) 2. d. for showing braced wall lines on construction plans with instead requiring a Legend that details the wall-bracing method and the lengths or number of braced wall panels – and where more than one circumscribed rectangle is used, requiring definition of them (CS, TS, EU, and provides clarification).  
11
6. Update each of the standards that are adopted in SPS 320.24 (2), to their current editions; and adopt any new standards that would be helpful (CS, TS, EU, and reflects current engineering practices).  
15-22, 26-30, 71, 75, 81, 85-86, 124

## SPS 321: CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Update the fasteners which are required by SPS 321.02 (1) (d) and which are listed in the SPS 320 to 325 Appendix, to match the fasteners which are required by Tables R602.3(1) and R802.5.1(9) in the 2012 edition of the IRC (provides consistency with current technology and products).  
23-25
2. Expand 321.02 to clarify that materials or standards which are equivalent to those listed in subsection (3) can be used to carry the design loads in subsection (1), and merge the text from SPS 320.02 (5) relating to innovative dwellings with this expanded text.  
3, 4, 31
3. Revise SPS 321.03 to clarify that exits may not discharge to enclosed courtyards.  
38

4. Revise SPS 321.03 (1) (a) and (h) to allow using an egress window as a second exit from the first floor of any dwelling unit, provided each bedroom on the floor has one.  
34
5. Revise SPS 321.03 (2) (a) to clarify that both exits from the second floor may discharge to the first floor, and that the second exit may discharge to a balcony or a deck.  
35
6. Revise SPS 321.03 (2) (b) to clarify that egress windows may be used as second exits from the second floor regardless of whether the floor has any bedrooms.  
35
7. Revise SPS 321.03 (2) (c) to clarify that where the second floor is the lowest floor in a dwelling unit, windows may be used as second exits, and that exits cannot go through other commercial or residential units on the first floor.  
35
8. Revise SPS 321.03 (5) (b) to clarify that egress windows under decks or porches must discharge through a clear path of at least 36 inches in height and 36 inches in width, to a yard or open space.  
36
9. Revise SPS 321.03 (7) (a) 4. to decrease the 30-inch-wide clear opening for a sliding exit door to 29 inches (CS, TS, EU).  
37
10. Revise SPS 321.04 (2) (a) 1. to make it consistent with the last sentence of IRC section R311.7.1, which lists a minimum clear width of 31½ inches for a handrail on one side and 27 inches for a handrail on both sides (EU and provides clarification).  
39
11. Revise SPS 321.04 (2) (c) 4. a. to no longer require a tread depth at any place on a winder step to match the tread depth of the rectangular steps in the stairway – and to instead require a minimum depth of 9 inches at a distance of 12 inches from the narrow end of the tread or from the inside face of the wall, baluster or spindle at that end. Also consider whether the terminology for winder steps should more closely match the terminology in the IRC, such as the references there to the walk line on winder steps.  
39
12. Clarify SPS 321.04 (3) (a) by separating the handrail requirements from the guardrail requirements (EU).  
39
13. Update SPS 321.04 (3) (a) 3. by increasing the allowed opening between balusters on a stairway, from 4 inches to 4 3/8 inches, as allowed by exception 2 in IRC section R312.1.3 (CS and increases uniformity).  
39, 44
14. Expand SPS 321.04 (3) (a) 3. to require applying up to 4 pounds of force in determining whether a 4-inch-diameter sphere (4 3/8-inch, if recommendation 13 is adopted) will pass through an opening in any non-rigid material in a guardrail (provides clarification).  
39, 44
15. Revise SPS 321.04 (3) (b) 1. to include the handrail-height protrusions that are allowed by the two exceptions in IRC section R311.7.8.1 (CS, TS, EU, and provides clarification).  
41

16. Revise SPS 321.04 (3) (c) to exempt window wells, egress wells, and retaining walls from the guardrail requirements.  
43
17. Revise SPS 321.04 (4) (b) and (c) to differentiate exterior landings from interior landings, and to then require sloping an exterior landing to drain away from the stairs or a door, with a pitch of up to ¼ inch per foot (improves structural integrity and safety).  
44, 47
18. Revise SPS 321.045 (4) (c) to not require guardrails for ramps having a walking surface that is less than 24 inches above adjacent grade – if a toe-kick or side rail is provided to 4 inches above the walking surface, and a mid-rail is provided between there and the handrail (CS, TS, EU).  
48, 49
19. Revise SPS 321.05 (3) to recognize use of ANSI Z97.1 as a test standard for safety glazing that is required in locations which are not regulated by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, review whether this glazing can be safely omitted in any of these locations, and consolidate the safety-glazing requirements from SPS 321.04 (3) (a) 4. c. into this section (CS, EU, and updates the rules to current national standards).  
54-55
20. Revise SPS 321.06 to not count any area with a height of less than 5 feet when calculating whether at least 50% of a habitable room or corridor has a height of at least 7 feet. Also revise SPS 321.05 (1) and (2) to likewise not count this area when calculating the needed amount of natural light and ventilation for the room (CS, EU, provides clarification, and expands options).  
51-53
21. Revise SPS 321.06 to allow any room to have a ceiling height of less than 7 feet if at least 50% of the room's floor area has a ceiling height of at least 7 feet; and allow reducing the ceiling height above a bathtub, shower stall, lavatory, or toilet – independent of the 50 percent limit – wherever the usual headroom is not needed, provided the fixtures are still useable for their intended purpose.  
56-57
22. Revise Table 321.08 to require at least a 10-foot separation between any unprotected opening in the wall and the other structure (EU and provides clarification).  
58
23. Update SPS 321.09 (2) (a) to allow the interconnection between smoke alarms to be wireless (CS, TS, EU, recognizes current technology, and expands options).  
60
24. Revise SPS 321.10 (2) (f) to no longer require preservative treatment or natural decay resistance for wood siding or wood sheathing which is in contact with concrete or masonry and which is from 2 to 6 inches above final exterior grade (provides clarification, improves structural integrity, and expands longevity of buildings).  
61-62
25. Expand SPS 321.12 to address (1) drainage of impervious surfaces, by applying equivalent-performance-type criteria; and (2) alternate drainage methods for both pervious and impervious surfaces, where a distance of 10 feet away from the dwelling is not available (provides clarification, expands options, and improves structural integrity).  
63-64

26. Exempt exterior ramps from the requirement for differential-frost-movement isolation in SPS 321.15 (1) (e), apply the frost-protection requirements in SPS 321.16 (1) (a) to landings instead of to ramps, and exempt ramp posts from those frost-protection requirements. However, where a ramp abuts a frost-protected stoop or landing, that end of the ramp needs similar frost-protected support, such as bearing onto the stoop or landing, so that a tripping hazard is not created. (CS, TS, EU)  
**69-72**
27. Expand SPS 321.18 (1) (c) 3. a. to convey the strength that is provided by the specified anchor bolts, in order to aid use of alternates which provide equivalent strength (CS, EU, provides clarification, and expands options).  
**74**
28. Add a Note to SPS 321.22 (9) (a) explaining that the required bridging for a wood-framed floor applies to 2X10 or deeper joists (EU, provides clarification, and makes the requirement understandable).  
**76**
29. Expand SPS 321.22 and 321.25 to allow sill and bottom plates to partially extend beyond the load-bearing surface of a foundation wall in order to put the exterior surface of an upper-lying wall flush with or beyond the exterior surface of insulation that is placed on the outside of the foundation wall.  
**76, 78**
30. Comprehensively update and clarify the requirements for decks, in SPS 321.225, preferably through an emergency rule that precedes a permanent rule (TS, EU, and improves structural integrity).  
**See Prescriptive Deck Standards**
31. For a roof that intersects with an upper-lying head wall and rake wall, such as where a dormer is provided, expand SPS 321.24 (3) to require the metal flashing along the rake wall to extend down the roof at least one-half inch past the vertical flashing on the head wall.  
**77**
32. For a roof that intersects with upper-lying masonry, consider whether further flashing requirements are needed in SPS 321.24 (3) or 321.26 (8) to prevent accumulation of moisture behind the masonry.  
**Considered but not included due to incomplete information and time constraints**
33. For a roof eave that intersects with a sidewall, consider expanding SPS 321.24 (3) to require either [1] installing the end of the roof flashing so that it diverts water away from the sidewall and onto the roof or into the gutter, or [2] extending the sidewall finish material to at least 12 inches inside the intersection of the eave and the sidewall.  
**77**
34. Revise the footnotes under Table SPS 321.25–A to more clearly show that wood-stud heights of more than 10 feet must be designed by structural analysis.  
**81**
35. Comprehensively update, streamline, and clarify the wall-bracing requirements in SPS 321.25 (8) and (9), first through an emergency rule and then through a corresponding permanent rule (TS, EU).  
**Clearinghouse Rule 14-015 became effective on 8/31/14**

36. For a walk-out basement having a sidewall partially constructed with full-height studs and partially with full-height concrete, develop prescriptive parameters under SPS 321.25 (8) for including the concrete-wall portion as part of the required wall bracing (CS, TS, EU).

Clearinghouse Rule 14-015 became effective on 8/31/14

37. Add a footnote to SPS 321.25 Table–J to exempt a floor (habitable or otherwise) that is contained wholly within the roof rafters or roof trusses, from being considered a floor for purposes of determining wall bracing, provided the top-of-wall-to-ridge height does not exceed 20 feet and the openings in the roof do not exceed 48 inches in height.

82

## SPS 322: ENERGY CONSERVATION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Revise SPS 322.01 (3) to no longer require a vapor retarder for an unheated space, such as an attached, unheated garage (CS, TS).

91-92

2. Delete the Note under SPS 322.01, that refers to the Public Service Commission's regulation of nonessential uses of natural gas, which was discontinued by 2011 Wisconsin Act 154 (reflects statutory changes).

93

3. Repeal the requirements in SPS 322.20 (6) relating to posting a certificate by the electrical distribution panel, for showing the predominant R-values of the home's insulation such as in the ceilings, roofs, and walls; and the U-factors for all windows, skylights, and doors (CS, TS, EU).

94

4. Revise SPS 322.21 (2) to clarify that wind-wash protection is required for the vertical ends of batt insulation at eaves if the insulation is air-permeable and more than 30 degrees from horizontal.

95

5. Revise section SPS 322.21 (3) (b) to require extending the protective coating to at least 2 inches below finished grade, rather than 6 inches – with an exception of not requiring the protection below a brick ledge.

96

6. Revise SPS 322.31 to require an R-value of at least R-20 for an attic-access cover having foam insulation, and at least R-38 for a cover having fiberglass insulation (CS, TS, EU).

99-100

7. Revise SPS 322.32 (9) to clarify that the vertical surface in a skylight shaft is considered a wall for insulating purposes.

101-102

8. Revise SPS 322.33 to clarify that the foundation insulation for unheated attached garages may stop even with the inside basement wall, perpendicular to the edge of the garage.

105

9. Revise SPS 322.33 to require heated-garage exterior thermal breaks to be rated at least R-5, to address details at garage doors, and to remove the requirement for R-15 insulation for heated concrete slabs.

103-104

10. Revise SPS 322.38 (1) (b) to clarify that sealing a vapor retarder is not required around doors and windows, behind bathtub enclosures, and at top and bottom wall plates, except seams which are not over a framing member must be sealed or taped.  
107-108
11. Revise SPS 322.38 (2) to clarify that a vapor retarder for a floor over an open area can consist of 5/8-inch tongue-and-groove oriented-strand board (OSB) or 3/4-inch tongue-and-groove CDX plywood.  
111
12. Expand SPS 322.38 (2) (c) 4. to not require a vapor retarder over cavities that have at least 50% of the required R-value provided by spray-applied foam having a perm rating of 1.0 or less, unless required by the foam manufacturer.  
110

## SPS 323: HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Under SPS 323.04 (4) and 341.49 (3), pursue allowing indoor installation of non-pressurized solid-fuel-fired water-heating appliances for space heating.  
115, 135
2. Expand SPS 320.09 (5) to require showing the location of venting for clothes dryers.  
12
3. Revise Table 323.04–A to allow a vertical clearance of less than 30 inches above a cooktop or range if specified by the manufacturer of the cooktop or range hood.  
114
4. Replace the floor- and ground-support requirements in SPS 323.04 and 323.045, such as for clearances, with a need to comply with the manufacturer's instructions, as is required by the IRC.  
118
5. Consider expanding SPS 323.04 (6) (b) to set a minimum distance below a ceiling for a burner or ignition device in garages storing compressed-natural-gas (CNG) vehicles.  
Considered but not included due to incomplete information and time constraints
6. Clarify SPS 323.06 to show that methods of providing combustion air are not required for fireplaces and fireplace stoves.  
123
7. Expand SPS 323.10 to require plastic pipes and fittings used in venting flue gas to bear the manufacturer's identification data.  
126
8. Revise SPS 323.14 (2) to require all clothes-dryer venting, including for electric dryers, to be rigid and smooth-walled.  
128
9. Expand SPS 323 and 322 to address insulation and a vapor-retarder covering for it on cooling ducts in attics.  
112-113

## SPS 325: PLUMBING

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand chapter SPS 325 to include the water-heater sizing criteria contained in the Department's Alternate Approval #20090426, until chapters SPS 381 to 387 are revised to include the criteria (CS, TS, EU).  
130-131
2. Expand chapter SPS 325 to include a modification of SPS 382.33 (5) (b) that would allow omitting traps in local waste piping in lengths up to 20 feet, rather than up to 30 inches.  
131
3. Expand chapter SPS 325 to include a modification of SPS 382.34 (4) (b) that would [1] allow omitting traps for garage drains that discharge to the ground surface, [2] require the drain's sediment basket to be removable, and [3] allow the drain's cover to be nonmetallic material that can be driven over.  
131