



## CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

### OFFICE OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

September 18, 2014

**RE: Code Requirements for Roofs in the City of Kingsport**

To whom it may concern:

Since the hail storm in July, I have received several requests from contractors and insurance agencies regarding what the code requirements are for roof replacements. It is impossible to condense the entire chapter on Roof Assemblies, so please allow this letter to address any questions you may have.

First, I will review the code requirements the day of the storm and the code change. The storm occurred on July 27, 2014, while the City of Kingsport enforced the 2006 International Building Codes. The Building Division was in the process of reviewing and adopting the 2012 suite of building codes. The new codes became effective August 19. At the discretion of the Building Official, construction projects requiring detailed plans review were given a grace period until September 1, 2014 to submit plans meeting the new code changes. Roofs do not meet this standard and were required to meet the new code requirements beginning August 20.

This has led to some confusion regarding what is required regarding matters such as drip edge. The 2012 International Residential Code specifically requires drip edge, section R905.2.8.5. However, just because the 2006 IRC did not explicitly state drip ridge does not mean it was not required and enforced before August 19. All aspects of the code refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions. Nothing in the code may exempt or void any part of these instructions. Almost all brands of shingles require drip edge to be installed. That means roofs installed before the current code adoption were also required to have drip edge. Roofs that did not have the proper installation were not code compliant. Any roof installed in the city of Kingsport, whether new construction or replacement/repair, must meet all requirements of the code.

I've attached a second page listing specific code sections pertaining to roof assemblies. Please refer to the 2012 International Residential Code, Chapter 9 for clarification. Code books can be purchased at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

Sincerely,

Kristen Hodgson  
City of Kingsport  
Building Division



## 2012 International Residential Code

### Asphalt Roof Specifications

- R905.2.2 Slope
- R905.2.3 Underlayment
- R905.2.6 Attachment
- R905.2.7 Underlayment Application
- R905.2.8 Flashing
- R905.2.8.2 Valleys
- R905.2.8.5 Drip Edge