



**Date: 12/16/22**

**Building Services – Chief Building Official code interpretation:**

The following is a building code interpretation by the Chief Building Official. This interpretation is to clarify what is considered *not intended for storage* in crawl spaces which do not contain heating equipment as stated in IRC section R302.13.

IRC section R302.13 exception #2 exempts fire protection of floor joists over crawl spaces “not intended for storage” or the installation of fuel fired or electric powered heating appliances.

A crawlspace *intended for storage* and therefore subject to fire protection of floor requirements per R302.13, shall mean either of the following:

1. Concrete floor/improved floor surface installed.
2. Hatch larger than the code minimum is installed or larger than the biggest non-heating appliance located in the crawl space.

A crawlspace *not intended for storage*, and therefore exempt from the fire protection of floor requirements under R302.13 shall mean all the following

1. Hatch is the min code size of wall 16x24 or floor 18x24.
  - a. *exception:* Hatch is larger than minimum but only large enough to replace the largest non-heating appliance in the crawl (only if present).

A permanent yellow placard is posted on the hatch to read “This crawlspace is not fire protected and has not been designed for storage per the International Residential Code.

*Marcus Coldiron*

Marcus Coldiron  
Chief Building Official