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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TO: Virginia Building & Code Officials Association
Virginia Building Officials
Mike Toalson, HBAV
Sandi Morris, Director, VA Code Academy

FROM: Cindy Davis, Deputy Director
Division of Building & Fire Regulations

DATE: February 24, 2016

RE: Residential Energy Alternative Compliance Method – **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

In an effort to provide an alternative to the prescriptive requirements of the Virginia residential energy code as permitted in N1101.5, a collaborative method has been developed and vetted by members of the Virginia code and building communities. **Please note that this is a reissued memo due to a symbol typo in step 5 of the original!**

Utilizing the Department of Energy 2012 REScheck and incorporating “U” values from the Virginia amendments, the following methodology was developed:

To determine 2012 VUSBC compliance using 2012 REScheck:

1. Determine the net area of wood-framed walls for all such assemblies in the proposed design and multiply by 0.022 (the difference between .079 and .057)
2. Determine the total ceiling area for all ceiling assemblies (net area if any ceiling has skylights) and multiply by .004 (difference between .030 and .026)
3. Total the above two numbers
4. Add that total to the “Maximum UA” generated by REScheck using the 2012 IECC as the baseline code
5. Compare that new (higher) Maximum UA number to the “Your UA”. If “Maximum UA” is greater than or equal to Your UA, the design complies with the 2012 VECC.

DHCD would like to extend a sincere thank you to those involved with this collaborative effort. Please direct any questions to sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov or 804-371-7150

CLD

C: Bill Shelton

