
SUBJECT: VENTING OF PREMIER SIPS USED IN ROOFS

Even though Premier SIPS have been used in unvented roof applications since the 1960's, confusion still exists about the need to vent SIPs used as an insulated roof structure.

The building codes require ventilation of “enclosed attics and enclosed rafter spaces which are formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters.” The building code defines an attic as the unfinished space between the ceiling joists of the top story and the roof rafters. When SIPs are used on a project where the SIPs are the exterior insulated roof envelop of the structure, a non-conditioned attic space does not exist. Like the rest of the structure, this is now considered a conditioned space. Therefore, roof ventilation is not required in a SIP roof structure.

IRC Section R806.4 furthers the discussion by addressing “unvented conditioned attic assemblies (spaces between the ceiling joists of the top story and the roof rafters ...). But, again, when SIPs are used on, or as the insulated roof structure, a non-conditioned attic space is not present.

Based on the information presented above, roof venting of Premier SIPS roof structures is not required. Please refer to Premier SIPS Technical Bulletin D-2 for HVAC Design and Energy Calculation.

Current Premier SIPS Technical Bulletins can be found in the Premier SIPS Resource Manual or at www.premiersips.com.