# WESTFALL-STEUART MODIFIED PROPOSAL LOCAL ADOPTION OF APPENDIX L

IFC Appendix (L)

RESIDENTIAL FIRE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.

### L101.1 Scope.

Where firefighting operations require roof access for the purpose of vertical ventilation during one- and two-dwelling structure fires.

These requirements should be employed where area, department, or district firefighters train for and employ rooftop ventilation during fires.

#### L102.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of this appendix, certain terms are defined as follows:

VERTICAL VENTILATION Forcible means to open rooftops to relieve the threat of back draft in a (dwelling) structure fire.

L103.1 <u>-605.11.3.2</u> Residential systems for one- and two-family dwellings. Approved access to non-paneled roof areas residential systems for one- and two-family dwellings shall be provided for the purpose of ventilation in a fire condition provided in accordance with Sections L103.1.1 <u>605.11.3.2.1</u> through L103.1.4 <u>605.11.3.2.4</u>.

#### **Exceptions:**

- 1) Residential dwellings with approved automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with IFC 903.3.1.3.
- 2) Residential dwellings with approved mechanical or passive ventilation systems.
- 3) Where the fire code official determines that the slope of the roof is too steep for emergency access.
- 4) Where the fire code official determines that vertical ventilation tactics will not be utilized on the structure or in the area, department, or district.

## L103.1.1 605.11.3.2.1 Residential buildings with hip roof layouts.

Panels/modules installed on residential buildings with hip roof layouts shall be located in a manner that provides a 3-foot-wide (914 mm) clear access pathway from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels/modules are located. The access pathway shall be located at a structurally strong location on the building capable of supporting the live load of fire fighters accessing the roof.

**Exception:** These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (2:12) or less.

### L103.2 605.11.3.2.2 Residential buildings with a single ridge.

Panels/modules installed on residential buildings with a single ridge shall be located in a manner that provides two, 3-foot-wide (914 mm) access pathways from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels/modules are located.

**Exception:** This requirement shall not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (2:12) or less.

## L103.3 605.11.3.2.3 Residential buildings with roof hips and valleys.

Panels/modules installed on residential buildings with roof hips and valleys shall be located no closer than 18 inches (457 mm) to a hip or a valley where panels/modules are to be placed on both sides of a hip or

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valley. Where panels are to be located on only one side of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the panels shall be permitted to be placed directly adjacent to the hip or valley.

**Exception:** These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (2:12) or less.

# L103.4 605.11.3.2.4 Residential building smoke ventilation.

Panels/modules installed on residential buildings shall be located no higher than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge in order to allow for fire department smoke ventilation operations.

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