



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
**South Carolina Building Codes Council**  
 P.O. Box 11329 • Columbia, SC 29211  
 110 Centerview Dr. Columbia, SC 29210  
 Phone: 803-896-4688 Fax: 803-896-4814  
 www.llr.sc.gov/POL/BCC/



## Request for Statewide Code Modification

**Jurisdiction or Organization:** Chester Fire Department / BOASC

**Representative:** Don Wood **Title:** Fire Marshal

**Address:** 156 Columbia St., Chester SC 29706

**Phone:** 803-385-2123 **E-mail:** dwood@chesterfiredept.com

**Signature:** *Buddy Skinner* **Date:** 05/24/2018

**Code:** Modification IRC 2015 05 **Edition:** 2015 **Section:** IRC R302.5.1

**Check One:**  Delete and substitute the following  Delete without substitution  Add the following  Modify the following  
 Type or print proposed modification. Use additional pages if necessary. Underline New language. Line Through Deleted Language.

**Modification Number:** IRC 2015-05.  
**Section:** R302.5.1 Opening protection.  
**Modification:** The existing text was modified to remove the self-closing device.  
The section now states: Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted. Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with solid wood doors not less than 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) in thickness, solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) thick, or 20 minute fire-rated doors.  
**Reason:** Lack of supporting documentation proving that self-closing devices contribute to fire or carbon monoxide safety.  
**Proponent:** Home Builders Association of South Carolina.  
**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Reason:**  Unusually Restrictive  Impractical  Threat to Human Injury or Life Safety  
 Type or print the reason for the proposed modification. Use additional pages if necessary.

Deleting the modification restores the self-closing requirement for doors between a garage and the residence.

In 2014, live fire tests conducted in Spartanburg, SC, supported the importance of closed and latched door between the living space and garage. A closed door between the garage and the living space helps slow the spread of fire and maintain survivable atmosphere conditions inside the home longer, allowing added time for a family to escape. The 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) commentary for section R302.5.1 states, "A self-closing device must be installed on these doors as a safeguard to limit free flow of carbon monoxide or other products of combustion into the living area". Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can be conveyed into a residence when a car is left running in the garage through an open or cracked door into the living space. The door between the garage and the living space can only serve its purpose when closed. Some homeowners may find self-closing doors inconvenient as they may not understand the increase in life safety for their family.