



South Carolina Building Codes Council

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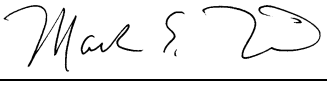
Request for Statewide Code Modification

Jurisdiction or Organization: Home Builders Association of South Carolina

Representative: Mark Nix **Title:** Executive Director

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Signature:  **Date:** May 21, 2018

Code: International Residential Code **Edition:** 2018 **Section:** R318.4 – Foam Plastic Protection

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.

R318.4 Foam plastic protection. In areas where the probability of termite infestation is “very heavy” as indicated in Figure R301.2(6), extruded and expanded polystyrene, polyisocyanurate and other foam plastics shall not be installed on the exterior face or under interior or exterior foundation walls or slab foundations located below grade. The clearance between foam plastics installed above grade and exposed earth shall be not less than 6 inches (152 mm). For crawlspace applications, foam plastics shall be installed so as to provide a termite inspection gap of no less than 6 inches along the top of the foundation wall and foundation sill/plate.

Exceptions: 1. Buildings where the structural members of walls, floors, ceilings and roofs are entirely of noncombustible materials or pressure preservative-treated wood. ~~2. Where in addition to the requirements of Section R318.1, an approved method of protecting the foam plastic and structure from subterranean termite damage is used.~~ 3. On the interior side of basement walls.

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.

1. Adding the provided language establishes a best management practice in order inspect for termites and other wood destroying organisms.

2. The present language should be deleted due to the lack of rigorous experimental investigation and robust data to indicate a foam insulation product can be treated or produced in a way to make the product 100% effective against subterranean termite damage or an effective barrier to prevent termites a route into a structure.