



October 25, 2017

Mr. Shaun Donnelly, Building Official
Town of Redding
Building Department
10 Lonetown Road – P.O. Box 1161
Redding Center, CT 06875

RE: I-14-17 [IRC 2012, R1001.10 Hearth Extension Dimensions]

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

This is in response to your letter of October 19, 2017 in which you are seeking a formal interpretation of the following:

Question #1:

From where is the hearth dimension measured? Is it:

- 1. From the rough opening of the fireplace before the surrounding veneer is installed up to the edge of the opening? Or*
- 2. From the face of the finished surrounding veneer after the veneer is installed?*

Answer:

The hearth extension is measured from the edge of the firebox, i.e. edge of the functional portion of the fireplace, and not the edge of any veneer applied to the outside of the fireplace.

The definition of fireplace is limited to the functional parts of the fireplace and does not include veneers or other coverings.

[RB] FIREPLACE. An assembly consisting of a hearth and fire chamber of noncombustible material and provided with a chimney, for use with solid fuels.

R1001.10 states the hearth extension is to extend from the "fireplace opening".

R1001.10 Hearth extension dimensions. Hearth extensions shall extend not less than 16 inches (406 mm) in front of and not less than 8 inches (203 mm) beyond each side of the fireplace opening. Where the fireplace opening is 6 square feet (0.6 m²) or larger, the hearth extension shall extend not less than 20 inches (508 mm) in front of and not less than 12 inches (305 mm) beyond each side of the fireplace opening.

The commentary for R1001.10 discusses the hearth extension as needing to extend from the "firebox opening". Also, figure 1001.1 shows the dimension line for the hearth extension starting at the end of the dimension line for the hearth depth. This is consistent with information from the Masonry Institute of America, which describes an inner and outer hearth which meet at this same location.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cassidy, P.E.

State Building Inspector
Director Division of Construction Services
Department of Administrative Services

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