



## ICC ORANGE EMPIRE CHAPTER CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

### QUESTION AND CODE SECTION:

2007 California Building Code – Section 2304.11 contains provisions for protection of wood framing against decay and termites. Section 2304.11.2.4 contains provisions that apply to wood sleepers and sill plates.

Please provide interpretation and clarification of the application of the code requirements related to sleepers and sill plates Section 2304.11.2.4 – Sleepers and sills, specifically how to apply this code section to interior wall sill plates.

### DISCUSSION:

The 2007 California Building Code – Section 2304.11.2.4 indicates that sleepers and sills resting on a concrete or masonry slab that is in direct contact with earth shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.

Previous editions of the code 2001 CBC – Section 2306.8 provided that where not subject to exterior moisture and located on concrete having a minimum thickness of 3-inches with an impervious membrane installed between concrete and earth, the wood may be untreated of any species.

The International Code Council (ICC) publication – *2006 International Building Code Commentary* – indicates that this interpretation continues to be appropriate. The commentary indicates when an impervious moisture barrier is used, the slab should not be considered in direct contact with the earth for purposes of this requirement.

### INTERPRETATION:

Therefore interior wall sill plates will typically maintain acceptable moisture content and preservative-treated sill plates are not required at interior slabs when an impervious moisture barrier is installed.

**DATE OF CHAPTER MEMBERS' APPROVAL: June 19, 2008**