



Vent Height

PURPOSE: To advise that vents must terminate above the anticipated snow level

BACKGROUND:

Town of Truckee Municipal Code Section (TTMC) 15.05.020 modifies the California Mechanical Code to require that “Sidewall venting of direct vent heaters and room heaters shall terminate above the anticipated snow depth.” The anticipated snow depth is determined by dividing the ground snow load by the density of snow, in Truckee, 25 pounds per cubic foot.

TTMC Section 15.05.010 states that exit terminals and combustion air intakes shall not be located under decks which could be sealed off around the perimeter with snow accumulation.

DISCUSSION:

The intent of the code section is to assure that appliances are vented so that they function under anticipated snow conditions. For proper operation, a vent must remain unobstructed.

PROCEDURE:

Determine the ground snow load. This can be found either on the Town website, [townoftruckee.com](http://www.townoftruckee.com), or by emailing or faxing the Building and Safety Division. On the website, <http://www.townoftruckee.gov/snowload.html>, ground snow loads are listed by subdivision. Certain subdivision snow loads vary and a specific request for an address or parcel number will need to be faxed or emailed.

The minimum sidewall vent height is equal to the ground snow load divided by 25. All portions of the vent shall be above this level. For example, on a given site the ground snow load is 325 pounds per square foot. The anticipated snow depth is 13 feet above the ground ($325 \div 25$). All portions of the vent shall be located above the minimum 13 foot vent height.

The designer/installer must also consider such things as roof shedding and decks. As stated above, vents shall not terminate under decks that may become sealed off. On the other hand, they may be installed under decks that will not become sealed off. Tall decks, those that are above the anticipated ground snow level are normally designed for a reduced ground snow load, by 0.7. Shedding roofs increase the ground snow depth. The vent must be installed above this increased snow level.

Alternates that meet the intent of the code regarding safety and equivalency will be considered by the building official on a case-by-case basis.