



**Town of Clover**  
Development Services  
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## CODE INTERPRETATION

### QUESTION

The IECC requires residential attic hatches and doors to be weatherstripped and insulated to a level equivalent to the insulation required elsewhere in the attic. Can I use an “attic tent” for attic stairs?

### CODE REFERENCE:

2009 IECC 402.2.3

### ANSWER

The code is clear in its requirement. The attic tent pictured at right is effective in preventing drafts. It has an R value of only 3.2, however, and would therefore not meet the code requirement and could not be used for an attic opening when the work is regulated by the IECC. There is nothing that would prevent its use in an existing home, however, when the work being performed is not regulated by the IECC. For example, if a new HVAC system is being installed and the customer desires such a tent, its installation would be considered ancillary to the permitted activity (HVAC) and would not be prohibited.



For new construction and additions or other work regulated by the code, any attic hatch or stair cover would have to be insulated to a level of R30 at a minimum. Photos below are examples of covers that would comply with the code.



R-50 Attic Stair Cover



*Joe Hunderbuck Sr.*

Building Official / Town of Clover

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