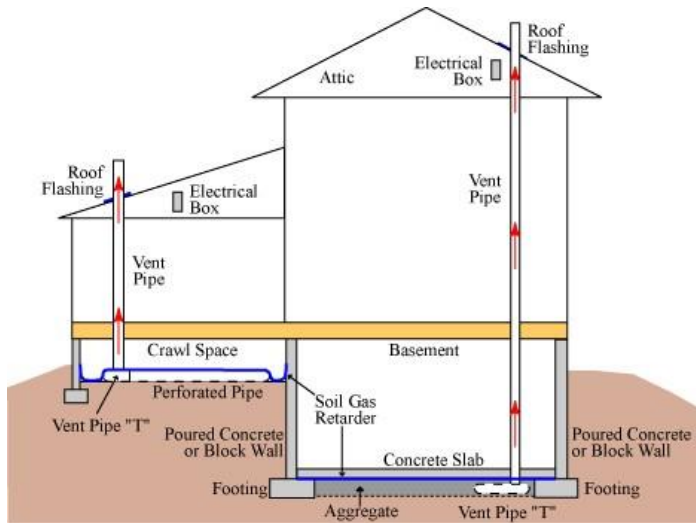


Nebraska Radon Resistant New Construction (RRNC)

Summary of the Law Effective September 1, 2019



The purpose of the Radon Resistant New Construction Act is to protect public health and welfare from exposure to radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer next to smoking. RRNC utilizes design elements and construction techniques that passively resist radon entry and prepare a building for an active post construction mitigation system.

LB130 amends the state building code to adopt sections of the International Building Code (IBC), the

International Residential Code (IRC), and the International Existing Building Code. It requires those standards and the minimum standards for RRNC adopted under section 76-3504 to be enforced by a county, city, or village as part of its local building code if they adopt or generally conform to the state building code.

The building code requires that a passive radon mitigation system be installed in all new construction residential dwellings and original construction commercial structures. New construction does not include additions or remodeling of existing structures.

These passive systems could be activated by the building contractor or a subcontractor of the building contractor.

While passive radon systems contain only 2 elements, a radon vent pipe and a physical barrier between the soil and house foundation, RRNC utilizes 4 approaches to reduce radon levels in buildings:

- Prevent radon entry by using barrier methods.
- Reduce the radon entry driving forces.
- Use passive radon reduction techniques to cause an upward movement of air inside a radon pipe and allow that air to escape through a supplied opening, thus reducing radon levels in the home.
- Prepare the building for possible radon system activation by installing electrical components, sump pit lid requirements and pipe run selection.

New construction after the effective date shall not be required to use RRNC if:

- the building uses the design of an architect or licensed engineer
- the building is located in a Zone 3 county with an average radon level of 2.7 pCi/l
- for other than a residential building, it is determined by a local building official that RRNC is not necessary