

## Proposal for alternative material, design or method of construction

### Requirement:

Minnesota Rule part 1300.0110, Subpart 13 states,

“The code is not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by the code, provided that any alternative has been approved. An alternative material, design, or method of construction shall be approved where the building official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the code, and that the material, method, or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety. The details of any action granting approval of an alternate shall be recorded and entered in the files of the code enforcement agency.”

### Checklist for appropriately prepared “Alternative”:

In accordance with the above, a completed alternate must document how the design *...complies with the intent of the code, and [how] the material, method, or work offered is...at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety.*

This must be contained in the form of a written request that includes the following information:

- A. An overview statement that summarizes the request.
- B. Name of project and site location.
- C. Specifics about the building or structure. Include type of construction, occupancy classification, number of stories, floor area and other features relevant to the issue.
- D. Citation and description of the specific code requirement and how it applies in this building.
- E. The negative result(s) by complying with the specific code requirement. Elaborate on each and include details regarding costs, hardships, technical difficulty and/or impracticality of literal code compliance.
- F. Specifics of the alternate being proposed. Include technical details and plans if necessary.
- G. How this alternate complies with the intent of the code.
- H. How this alternate material, method or work is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire-resistance, durability, and safety.
- I. Applicable test results, product listing or alternate compliance standards
- J. Signature and date of the applicant. The applicant must be the architect or engineer of record if the alternate is a modification of an original licensed design. However, alternates may reference work prepared by consultants.