City of Las Vegas Code and Interpretation

Interpretation #: 01-22 Date: 08/02/2022

Code: 2018 IBC ☐ 2017 NEC ☐ Local Amendments ☐ 2018 UMC ☐
2018 IRC ☑ Admin Code ☐ 2018 ISPSC ☐ 2018 IECC ☐ 2018 UPC ☑

Code Section: 2018 IRC §R903.4 & 2018 UPC §1101.12

Topic:

Scuppers may be used for the purpose of primary drainage in one- and two- family dwellings & townhouses, as regulated by the IRC.

Interpretation:

Scuppers may be used as a means of primary drainage for one- and two- family dwellings & townhouses and accessory structures. The definition of a roof applies to an uncovered balcony and roof drainage shall be provided. The floor surface area of a covered balcony is not considered a roof and would not require roof drains or scuppers however, the roof system of a covered balcony does require roof drainage. Sheet drainage shall be an acceptable means of roof drainage. If scuppers are used, as the primary means of roof drainage, a secondary scupper shall also be provided. The required secondary scupper shall be designed for twice (2X) the annual rainfall as determined by UPC Tables 1103.1, and 1103.2. All other occupancies shall comply with UPC §1101.12 for primary and secondary drainage.

Purpose/Reason:

§R903.4 states "Unless roofs are sloped to drain over roof edges, roof drains shall be installed at each low point of the roof". Roof drains are inherent maintenance issues because the drains are concealed and are rarely subject to use in Climate Zone 3. In contrast, scuppers are visible and maintenance is more likely to be performed by the occupant.

The use of scuppers, for primary drainage, has been implemented by the City of Phoenix, which shares the Climate Zone 3 designation with the City of Las Vegas.

Approved by Committee: _____ Date: 09/27/2022

Approved by Building Official: _____ Date: 9/27/22