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## Policy

### Definition of deck vs landing; attachment of landing to ledger board.

Effective 3-10-2015

The City of Owatonna Building Inspection Division is creating a policy defining residential deck and residential landings of wood construction.

No definition is provided within definitions: chapter 2 of the 2020 MN State Residential Code (MN 2020 IRC) and [Section R507 Exterior Decks](#): For the purpose of this policy

A deck is defined as: any wood platform constructed of larger than 5'-0" x 5'-0" in size attached to and located anywhere on the exterior of a residential dwelling unit.

A landing is defined as: a maximum 5'-0" x 5'-0" platform, with or without stairs, located on the exterior side at exterior doors for the purpose of entering or exiting a residential dwelling unit.

The 2020 MN State Residential Code ([2020 IRC R507.9.2](#)) requires all decks be attached with lateral load connection at not less than 2-locations. The lateral load connection will be considered compliant for a maximum 5'-0" x 5'-0" landing when the joists are attached to the ledger with approved joist hangers and the ledger board is properly attached to a dwelling.

In addition, beams or girders supporting a (landing) shall be allowed to be supported on approved hangers attached to a ledger board properly attached to a dwelling with approved alternate fasteners capable of supporting the loads applied at the beam or girder attachment location. {2020 MN State Residential Code ([2020 IRC R507.5.2](#))}

Respectfully,

Ken Beck  
City of Owatonna Building Official  
Building Inspection Division  
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