



**MEMPHIS AND  
SHELBY COUNTY** **DIVISION OF PLANNING  
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Numerous questions come into this office as to whether we enforce all of chapter 9, Roof Assemblies, in the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC). The simple answer is yes.

We have adopted the 2015 version of the IRC along with local amendments. However, there are no amendments to chapter 9 of this code other than we do not require an ice barrier per section 905.1.2. Therefore we do enforce all of the requirements in this chapter along with the remainder of the code. Specifically, we are asked if we enforce the installation of a drip edge per section R905.2.8.5 and valley linings per section R905.2.8.2 and low slope per section R905.2.2. The answer is yes. All of chapter 9 of the 2015 IRC is required and enforced in this jurisdiction.

We also get numerous questions as to when the manufacturer's installation instructions take precedence over code provisions based on section R903.1. In a nutshell, all roof installations must meet the provisions of the code **and** the manufacturer's recommendations. The provisions of the code are the minimum basic requirements for a safe building for the occupants. There is nothing that says a designer can't do more than the code requires as long as they meet the intent of the code.

The manufacturer's installation instructions do not trump the provisions of the code but are required to be followed per section R905.1. They are installation requirements that the manufacturer requires for their particular product. Therefore, all roof installations must meet both sets of requirements.