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Showing Compliance for Additions and Alterations using *REScheck* and *COMcheck*

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U.S. Department of Energy Building Energy Codes Program

Energy Codes Commentator Webinar Series

AIA Provider #: I014 AIA Course #: BECPWS0217

ICC Provider Course # 10790

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PNNL-SA-123839



Course Description



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This webinar will provide an understanding of how to show compliance using *REScheck* and *COMcheck* for additions and alterations to existing conditioned buildings. Addition projects involve adding new conditioned floor area to an existing conditioned building and are treated as new construction. Alteration projects involve changes to or replacement of existing building components that are part of the building thermal envelope, interior and exterior lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, service water heating and other equipment.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, participants should be able to understand:

- ▶ What constitutes an addition versus alteration.
- ▶ Residential and commercial alteration exceptions that do not need to meet energy code compliance.
- ▶ How to show compliance for residential additions and alterations using *REScheck*.
- ▶ How to show compliance for commercial additions and alterations using *COMcheck*.



Session Agenda

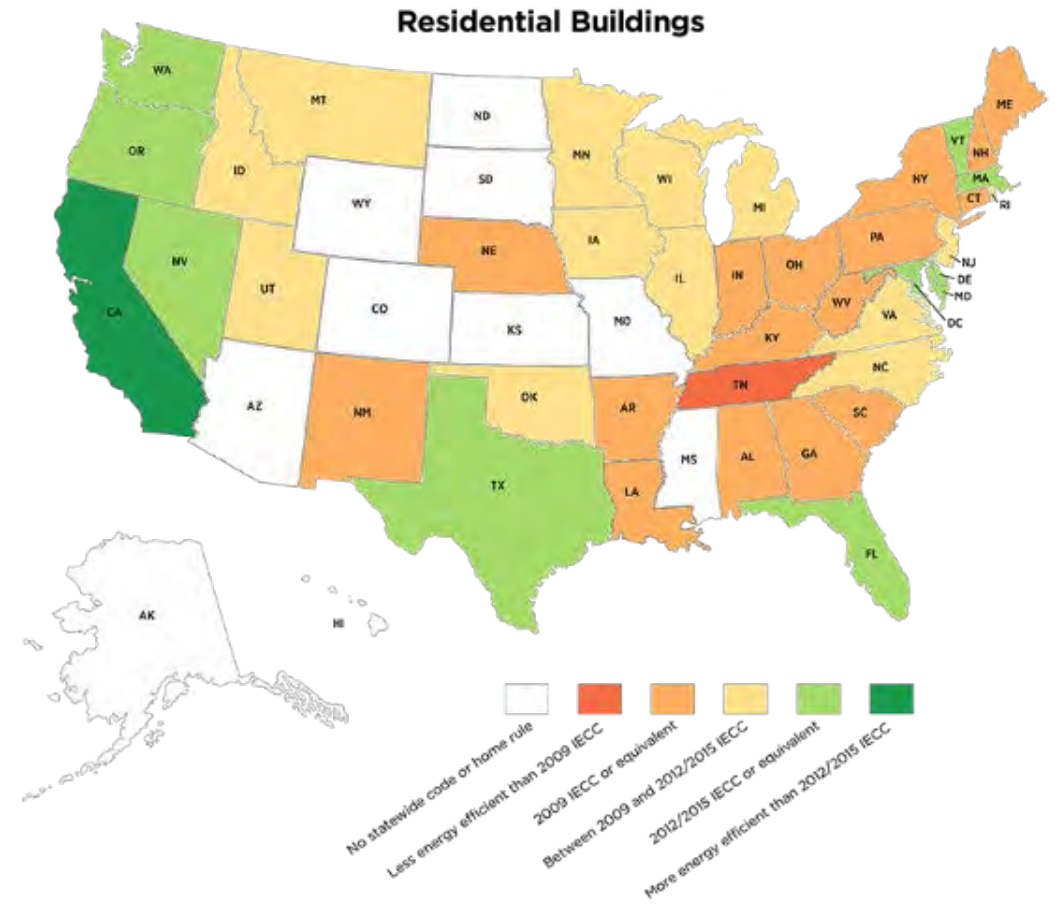
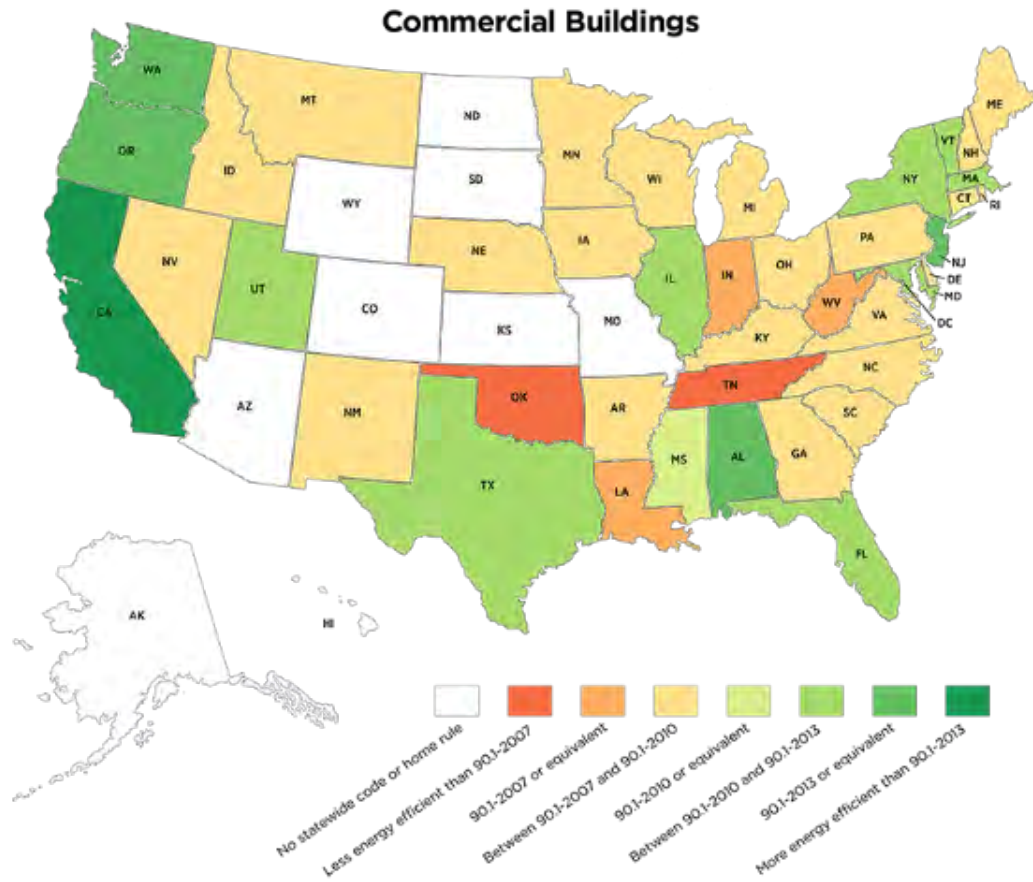
- ▶ Overview of Residential code requirements – additions, alterations, repairs, change in space conditioning
- ▶ Overview of Commercial code requirements – additions, alterations, repairs, change in space conditioning
- ▶ Demonstration of code compliance using *REScheck*
- ▶ Demonstration of code compliance using *COMcheck*
- ▶ Additional resources

Why Care About Energy Codes & Standards?



- Energy codes and standards set minimum efficiency requirements for new and renovated buildings, assuring reductions in energy use and emissions over the life of the building. Energy codes are a subset of building codes, which establish baseline requirements and govern building construction.
- Code buildings are more comfortable and cost-effective to operate, assuring energy, economic and environmental benefits.

Status of State Energy Codes



The Family of I-Codes

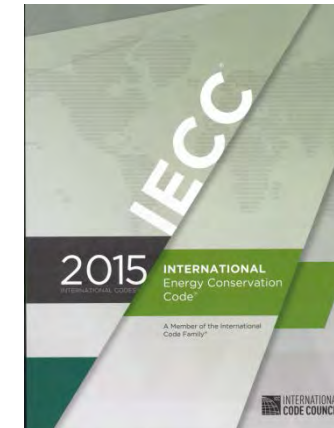


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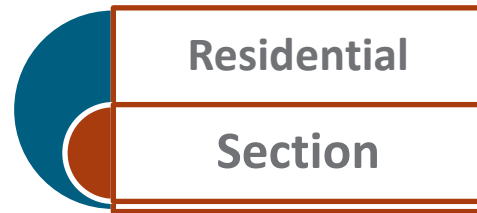
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- ✓ International Building Code
- ✓ International Mechanical Code
- ✓ International Fuel Gas Code
- ✓ International Property Maintenance Code
- ✓ International Fire Code
- ✓ International Zoning Code
- ✓ International Plumbing Code
- ✓ International Existing Building Code
- ✓ International Private Sewage Disposal Code
- ✓ International Performance Code
- ✓ International Residential Code
- ✓ **International Energy Conservation Code**
- ✓ International Wildlife-Urban Interface Code



Structure of the 2015 IECC



- Ch. 1 Scope and Application /
Administrative and
Enforcement
- Ch. 2 Definitions
- Ch. 3 General Requirements
- Ch. 4 Commercial Energy Efficiency
- Ch. 5 Existing Buildings - NEW**
- Ch. 6 Referenced Standards Index



- Ch. 1 Scope and Application /
Administrative and
Enforcement
- Ch. 2 Definitions
- Ch. 3 General Requirements
- Ch. 4 Residential Energy Efficiency
- Ch. 5 Existing Buildings - NEW**
- Ch. 6 Referenced Standards Index

Chapter 1 - Scope

Section R101/C101



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Residential Buildings:

- ✓ Detached one- and two-family dwellings, multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses), and Group R-2, R-3, R-4 ≤ 3 stories in height above grade plane

Commercial Buildings:

- ✓ All buildings other than residential
- ✓ Includes high-rise multi-family > 3 stories in height above grade plane

All buildings that are not “residential” by definition are “commercial”



Chapter 1 - Scope

Section R101.4.1/C101.4.1 - Mixed Occupancy

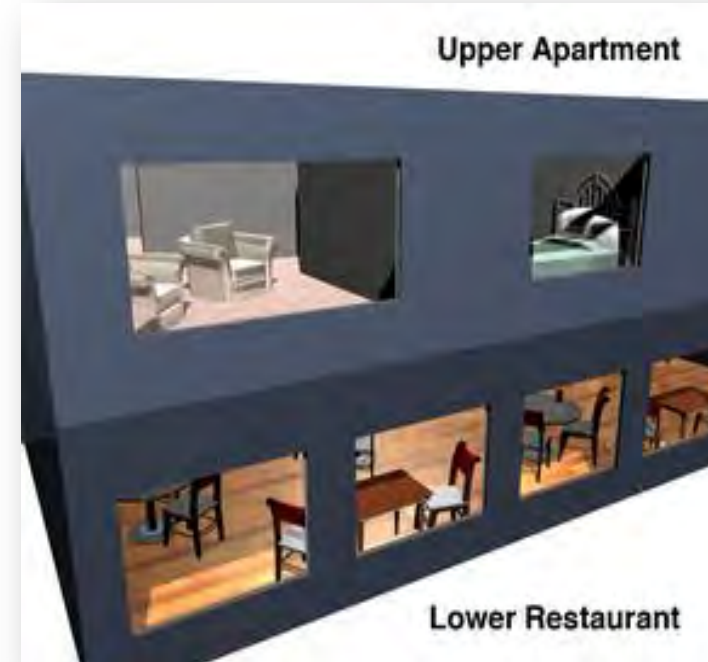
Section R101.5/C101.5 - Compliance



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- ✓ Treat the residential occupancy under the applicable residential code
- ✓ Treat the commercial occupancy under the commercial code
- ✓ Code Official has final authority
 - Compliance materials, software, worksheets



Chapter 1 - Scope

Section R103/C103 – Construction Documents



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RESIDENTIAL:

- ✓ Insulation materials and R-values
- ✓ Fenestration U-factors, SHGC
- ✓ Area-weighted U-factor and SHGC calculations
- ✓ Mechanical, SWH, equipment types, sizes, and efficiencies
- ✓ Equipment and system controls
- ✓ Duct sealing, duct and pipe insulation and location
- ✓ Air sealing details

- ✓ Documentation shall be prepared by a registered design professional (where required)
- ✓ Electronic media can be used

COMMERCIAL:

- ✓ Insulation materials and R-values
- ✓ Fenestration U-factors, SHGC
- ✓ Area-weighted U-factor and SHGC calculations
- ✓ Mechanical system design criteria
- ✓ Mechanical, SWH, equipment types, sizes, and efficiencies
- ✓ Economizer description
- ✓ Equipment and system controls
- ✓ Duct sealing, duct and pipe insulation and location
- ✓ Lighting fixture schedule with wattage and control narrative
- ✓ Location of daylight zones
- ✓ Air sealing details

Chapter 1 – Scope

Section R104/C104 - Inspections

- ✓ Construction work for which a permit is required is subject to inspection by code official or designated agent
- ✓ Required inspections include:

RESIDENTIAL:

- Footing and foundation
- Framing and rough-in
- Plumbing rough-in
- Mechanical rough-in
- Final

COMMERCIAL:

- Footing and foundation
- Framing and rough-in
- Plumbing rough-in
- Mechanical rough-in
- Electrical rough-in
- Final



Chapter 5 - Existing Buildings -- NEW



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Residential:

R501 General

R502 Additions

R503 Alterations

R504 Repairs

R505 Change of
Occupancy or Use

Commercial:

C501 General

C502 Additions

C503 Alterations

C504 Repairs

C505 Change of
Occupancy or Use



Chapter 5 – Existing Buildings

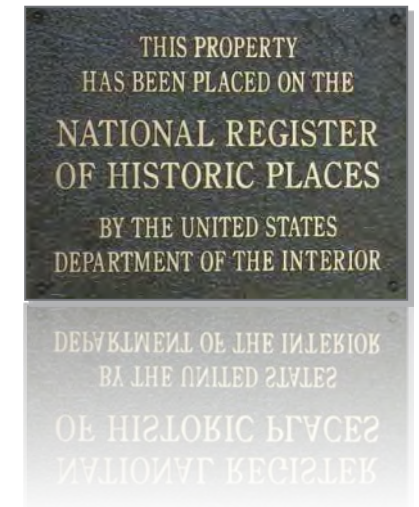
Section R501/C501 - General

- ▶ R501.4/C501.4 Compliance – Alterations, repairs, additions, and change of occupancy to, or relocation of, existing buildings and structures comply with the provisions respectively in the IRC (residential only), IBC, IFC, IFGC, IMC, IPB, IPMC, IPSDC, and NFPA 70.

Additions, alterations, or repairs to an existing building, building system or portions of must comply

Unaltered portions of the existing building or building supply system shall not be required to comply with this code

Historic buildings – no provision of the code related to the construction, repair, alteration, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall be mandatory for historic buildings provided a report has been submitted to the code official and signed by the owner, a registered design professional or representative of the State Historic Preservation Office or the historic preservation authority having jurisdiction demonstrating that compliance with that provision would threaten, degrade or destroy the historic form, fabric or function of the building.



Residential Existing Buildings

Section R502 - Additions



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- ✓ Additions comply if any of the following is demonstrated
 - ✓ The addition alone complies with the provisions of this code
 - ✓ The existing building and addition together comply as a single building
 - ✓ The existing building and addition together use no more energy than the existing building

Residential Existing Buildings

Section R502 - Additions



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- ✓ Additions to comply in accordance with
 - ✓ Section R502.1.1 Prescriptive Compliance
OR
 - ✓ Section R502.1.2 Existing plus addition
(Simulated Performance Alternative)
- ✓ Prescriptive requirements in Table R402.1.2
or R402.1.4 (*R-value computation or U-factor
or total UA alternatives*)



Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Climate Zone

Table R402.1.2
Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component

CLIMATE ZONE	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR ^b	SKYLIGHT ^b U-FACTOR	GLAZED FENESTRATION ^{b,e} SHGC	CEILING R-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	MASS WALL R-VALUE ⁱ	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT ^c WALL R-VALUE	SLAB ^d R-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE ^c WALL R-VALUE
1	NR	0.75	0.25	30	13	3 / 4	13	0	0	0
2	0.40	0.65	0.25	38	13	4 / 6	13	0	0	0
3	0.55	0.55	0.25	38	20 or 13+5 ^h	8 / 13	19	5 / 13 ^f	0	5 / 13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.55	0.40	49	20 or 13+5 ^h	8 / 13	19	10 / 13	10, 2ft	10 / 13
5 and Marine 4	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 or 13+5 ^h	13 / 17	30 ^g	10 / 13	10, 2 ft	15 / 19
6	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 +5 or 13+10 ^h	15 / 20	30 ^g	15 / 19	10, 4 ft	15 / 19
7 and 8	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 +5 or 13+10 ^h	19 / 21	38 ^g	15 / 19	10, 4 ft	15 / 19

Residential Existing Buildings

Section R502 - Additions



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- ▶ Heating and cooling system – new heating, cooling and duct system that are part of the addition comply with Sections R403.1, R403.2, R403.3, R403.5 and R403.6
 - Exception: where ducts from an existing heating and cooling system are extended to an addition, duct systems with less than 40 linear feet in unconditioned spaces not required to be tested in accordance with Section R403.3.3
- ▶ Service hot water (SHW) systems – new SHW systems that are part of the addition to comply with Section R403.4
- ▶ Lighting – new lighting systems that are part of the addition comply with Section R404.1
 - Not less than 75% of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficacy lamps or not less than 75% of the permanently installed lighting fixtures shall contain only high-efficacy lamps
 - Exception: low-voltage lighting

Residential Existing Buildings

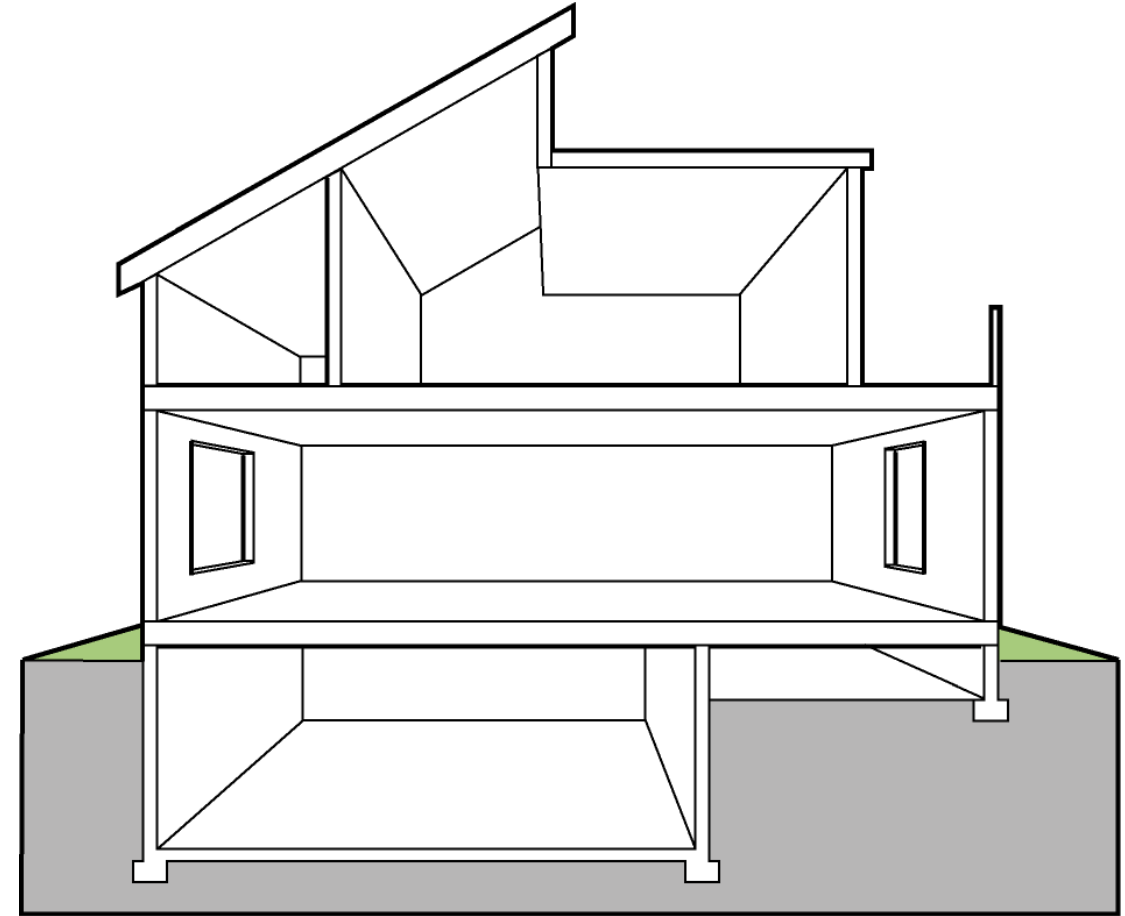
Section R503 - Alterations

Code applies to any new construction

Unaltered portion(s) do not need to comply

(R503.1.1.1) Replacement fenestration that includes both glazing and sash must meet

- ✓ 0.25 SHGC in **Climate Zones 1-3**
- ✓ 0.40 SHGC in **Climate Zone 4 except Marine**
- ✓ U-factors in all **Climate Zones 1-8**



Residential Existing Buildings

Section R503 - Alterations

Building Envelope

Exceptions:

- ✓ Storm windows over existing fenestration
- ✓ Surface-applied window film installed on existing single pane
- ✓ Exposed, existing ceiling, wall or floor cavities if already filled with insulation
- ✓ Where existing roof, wall or floor cavity isn't exposed
- ✓ Roof recover
- ✓ Roofs without cavity insulation and where the sheathing or insulation is exposed during reroofing
 - ◆ Insulate either above or below the sheathing

Lighting

Exceptions:

- ✓ <50% of luminaires in a space are replaced
- ✓ Only bulbs and ballasts within existing luminaires are replaced (provided installed interior lighting power isn't increased)

Residential Existing Buildings

Section R503 - Alterations



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- ▶ Heating and Cooling
 - New HVAC systems and duct systems that are part of the alteration to comply with Sections 403.1, R403.2, R403.3 and R403.6
 - Exception: Where ducts from an existing HVAC system are extended, duct systems with < 40 linear feet in unconditioned spaces are not required to be tested in accordance with Section R403.3.3
- ▶ SHW systems
 - New SHW systems that are part of the alteration to comply with R403.4
- ▶ Change in space conditioning
 - Any nonconditioned or low-energy space that is altered to become conditioned space shall be required to be brought into full compliance
 - Exception: where the simulated performance option in Section R405 is used to comply, the annual energy cost of the proposed design is permitted to be 110% of the annual energy cost otherwise allowed by Section R405.3

Residential Existing Buildings

Section R504 - Repairs



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- ▶ Work on nondamaged components necessary for the required repair or damaged components shall be considered part of the repair and are not subject to the alterations requirements
- ▶ Repairs considered part of the code
 - Glass-only replacements in an existing sash and frame
 - Roof repairs
 - Repairs where only the bulb and/or ballast within the existing luminaires in a space are replaced provided the replacement does not increase the installed interior lighting power

Residential Existing Buildings

Section R505- Change of Occupancy or Use

- ▶ Spaces undergoing a change in occupancy that would result in an increase in demand for either fossil fuel or electrical energy
- ▶ Any space converted to a dwelling unit or portion thereof from another use of occupancy
- ▶ Exception: where the simulated performance option in Section R405 is used to comply with this section, the annual energy cost of the proposed design is permitted to be 110% of the annual energy cost otherwise allowed by Section R405.3



Residential:

R501 General

R502 Additions

R503 Alterations

R504 Repairs

R505 Change of
Occupancy or Use

Commercial:

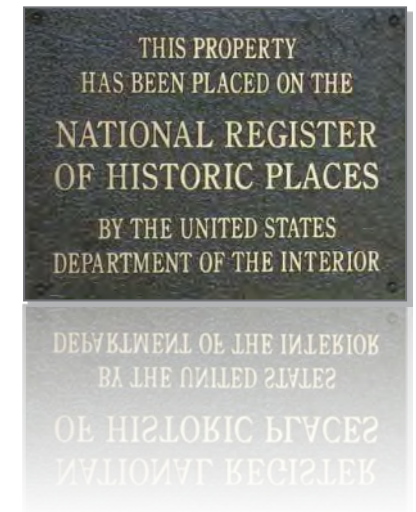
C501 General

C502 Additions

C503 Alterations

C504 Repairs

C505 Change of
Occupancy or Use



Additions, alterations, or repairs to an existing building, building system or portions of must comply

Unaltered portions of the existing building or building supply system shall not be required to comply with this code.

Historic buildings – no provision of the code related to the construction, repair, alteration, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall be mandatory for historic buildings provided a report has been submitted to the code official and signed by the owner, a registered design professional or representative of the State Historic Preservation Office or the historic preservation authority having jurisdiction demonstrating that compliance with that provision would threaten, degrade or destroy the historic form, fabric or function of the building.

Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C502 - Additions

Any nonconditioned space that is altered to become conditioned space shall be required to be brought into full compliance with this code.

Additions that comply with ASHRAE 90.1-2013 do not need to comply with C402-C405.

Examples:

- ✓ Converting part of an unconditioned warehouse to office space
- ✓ Converting an old factory building to condominiums or apartments
- ✓ Shell building tenant build-out



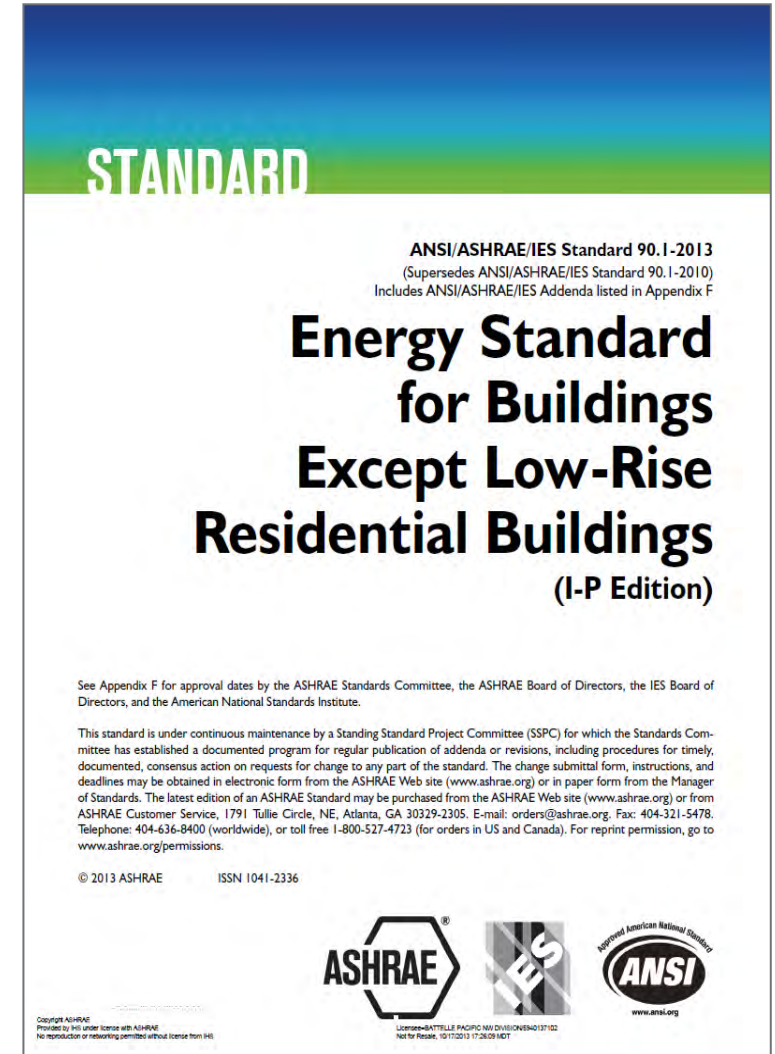
Structure of Standard 90.1-2013



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- ▶ 1 Purpose
- ▶ 2 Scope
- ▶ 3 Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms
- ▶ 4 Administration and Enforcement
- ▶ 5 Building Envelope
- ▶ 6 Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning
- ▶ 7 Service Water Heating
- ▶ 8 Power
- ▶ 9 Lighting
- ▶ 10 Other Equipment
- ▶ 11 Energy Cost Budget Method
- ▶ 12 Normative References
- ▶ Normative Appendices A-G



Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C502 - Additions

Vertical fenestration: new fenestration that results in a total building fenestration area $\leq 30\%$ must comply with C402.4

- ▶ If $> 30\%$ for total building or addition alone, must comply with C402.4.1.1 Increased Vertical Fenestration Area with Daylight Responsive Control for the addition only
- ▶ Additions that result in total building vertical glass $>40\%$ must comply with C407 Total Building Performance

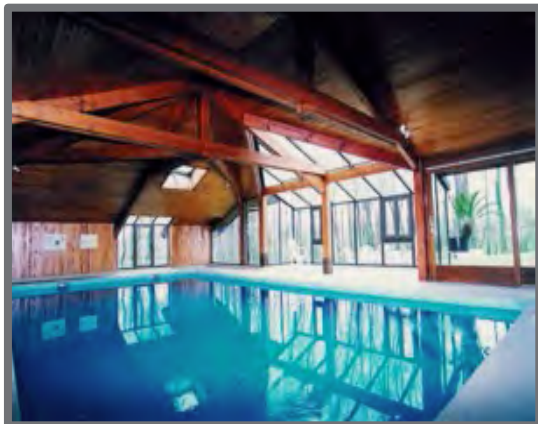
Skylight Area: new skylight area that is $\leq 3\%$ complies with C402.4

- ▶ If $> 3\%$ for total building or addition alone, must comply with C402.4.1.2 Increased Skylight Area with Daylight Responsive Control for addition only
- ▶ Additions that result in total building skylight area $>5\%$ must comply with C407 Total Building Performance

Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C502 - Additions

- ▶ Mechanical Systems comply with C403
- ▶ SWH – C404
- ▶ Pools and inground permanently installed spas – C404.9
- ▶ Lighting power and systems – C405
 - Interior complies with addition alone or addition plus existing building
 - Exterior complies with addition alone or addition plus existing



Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C503 - Alterations

Code applies to any new construction

Unaltered portion(s) do not need to comply

Alterations comply with ASHRAE 90.1-2013 do not need to comply with C402-C405

Vertical Fenestration and Skylight Area similar to requirements for additions



Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C503 - Alterations

Exceptions:

- ✓ Storm windows over existing fenestration
- ✓ Surface-applied window film installed on existing single pane
- ✓ Exposed, existing ceiling, wall or floor cavities if already filled with insulation
- ✓ Where existing roof, wall or floor cavity isn't exposed
- ✓ Roof recover
- ✓ Air barriers for roof recover and roof replacement as long as there are no other alterations or repairs to the remainder of the building envelope
- ✓ Lighting alterations if:
 - <10% of luminaires in a space are replaced (See Section C503.6 Lighting Systems)
 - Only bulbs and ballasts within existing luminaires are replaced (provided installed interior lighting power isn't increased)

Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C503 - Alterations

Change in space conditioning - Any non-conditioned or low energy space that is altered to become conditioned space shall be required to be brought into full compliance with this code



Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C503 - Alterations

- ▶ Heating and Cooling
 - New HVAC systems and duct systems that are part of the alteration to comply with Section C403
 - Economizers – new cooling systems that are part of the alteration to comply with Section C403.3
- ▶ Service hot water systems
 - New SHW systems that are part of the alteration to comply with C404
- ▶ Lighting Systems (C503.6)
 - New Lighting systems that are part of the alteration to comply with C404
 - **Exception** – alteration that replaces <math><10\%</math> of the luminaires in a space provided such alteration does not increase the installed interior lighting power

Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C504 - Repairs



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- ▶ Work on nondamaged components necessary for the required repair or damaged components shall be considered part of the report and subject to the alterations requirements
- ▶ Repairs considered part of the code
 - Glass-only replacements in an existing sash and frame
 - Roof repairs
 - Replacement of existing doors that separate conditioned space from the exterior do not require the installation of a vestibule or revolving door, provided that an existing vestibule that separates a conditioned space from the exterior shall not be removed
 - Repairs where only the bulb and/or ballast within the existing luminaires in a space are replaced provided the replacement does not increase the installed interior lighting power

Commercial Existing Buildings

Section C505 – Change in Occupancy

- ✓ Spaces undergoing a change in occupancy that would result in an increase in demand for either fossil fuel or electrical energy shall comply with this code
- ✓ Where the use in a space changes from one to another in Tables C405.4.2(1) or C405.4.2(2), the installed lighting wattage shall comply with Section C405.4

Building Area Type	LPD (w/ft ²)
Automotive facility	0.8
Convention center	1.01
Courthouse	1.01
Dining: bar lounge/leisure	1.01
Dining: cafeteria/fast food	0.9
Dining: family	0.95
Dormitory	0.57
Exercise center	0.84
Fire station	0.67
Gymnasium	0.94

Table C405.4.2(1)
(partial table)

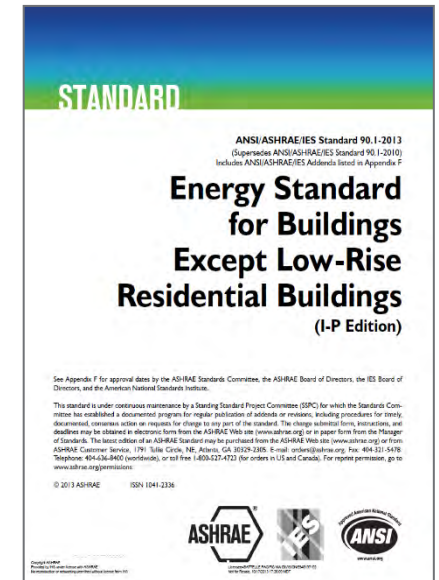
Table C405.4.2(2)
(partial table)

Common Space-by-Space Types	LPD (w/ft ²)
Atrium – First 40 feet in height	0.03 per foot in total height
Atrium – Above 40 feet in height	0.40+0.02 per foot in total height
Audience/seating area – permanent	
In an auditorium	0.63
In a convention center	0.82
In a gymnasium	0.65
In a motion picture theater	1.14
In a penitentiary	0.28
In a performing arts theater	2.43
Classroom/lecture hall/training room	
In a penitentiary	1.34
Otherwise	1.24

90.1-2013 – Section 5 Envelope Alteration Exceptions

- ✓ Installation of storm windows or glazing panels
- ✓ Replacement of glazing in existing sash and frame
- ✓ Alterations to envelope cavities provided they are insulated to full depth with a nominal R-3.0 per in.
- ✓ Wall and floor alterations where no new cavities are created
- ✓ Roof recovering
- ✓ Removal and replacement of roof membranes
- ✓ Replacement of existing doors
- ✓ Replacement of existing fenestration, provided area of replacement is no more than 25% of total fenestration area

Allowed if they don't increase energy usage of building



90.1-2013 - Section 9 Lighting General – Alterations

- Applies to these retrofits:
 - where luminaires are added, replaced, or removed
 - Replacement of lamp plus ballast in luminaires
- Requires BOTH interior and exterior alterations to comply with Lighting Power Density (LPD) limits and basic after hours automatic shutoff requirements

Exception

Spaces where alterations involve < 10% of connected lighting load and the LPD for the space is not increased



90.1-2013 - Section 6 – 6.1.1.3 HVAC Alterations Scope



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- Equipment
 - New equipment shall meet the minimum efficiency requirements
- Cooling systems
 - New cooling systems installed to serve previously uncooled spaces shall comply with this section
 - Alterations to existing cooling systems shall not decrease economizer capacity (unless economizer tradeoff is used)
- Ductwork
 - New and replacement ductwork shall comply with applicable requirements
- Piping
 - New and replacement piping shall comply with applicable requirements

90.1-2013 - Section 6 – 6.1.1.3 HVAC Alterations



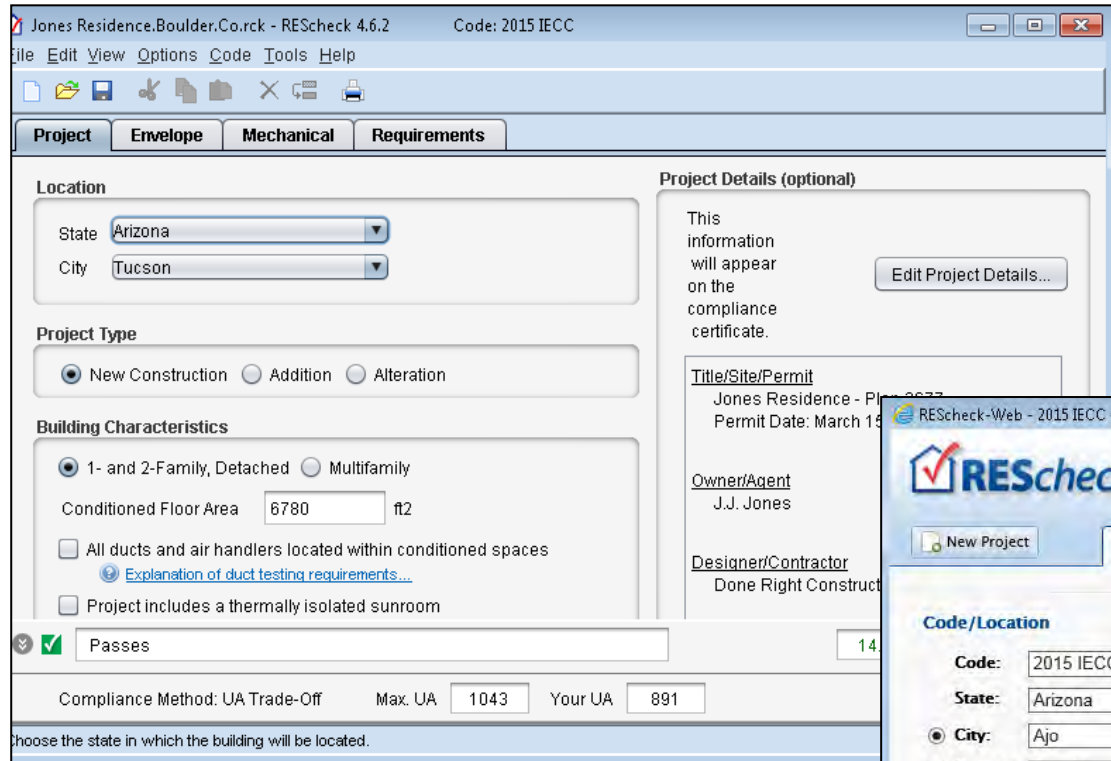
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Alterations to the building HVACR system shall comply with the requirements of Section 6

- **Exceptions** that are allowed:
 - Equipment being modified or repaired (not replaced)
 - provided such modifications will not result in an increase in the annual energy consumption
 - Equipment being replaced or altered which requires extensive revisions to other systems and such replaced or altered equipment is a like-for-like replacement
 - Refrigerant change of existing equipment
 - Relocation of existing equipment
 - Ducts and pipes where there is insufficient space or access to meet these requirements

https://www.energycodes.gov/rescheck



Index Residence.Boulder.Co.rck - REScheck 4.6.2 Code: 2015 IECC

File Edit View Options Code Tools Help

Project Envelope Mechanical Requirements

Location
State: Arizona
City: Tucson

Project Type
 New Construction Addition Alteration

Building Characteristics
 1- and 2-Family, Detached Multifamily
Conditioned Floor Area: 6780 ft²
 All ducts and air handlers located within conditioned spaces
 Explanation of duct testing requirements...
 Project includes a thermally isolated sunroom

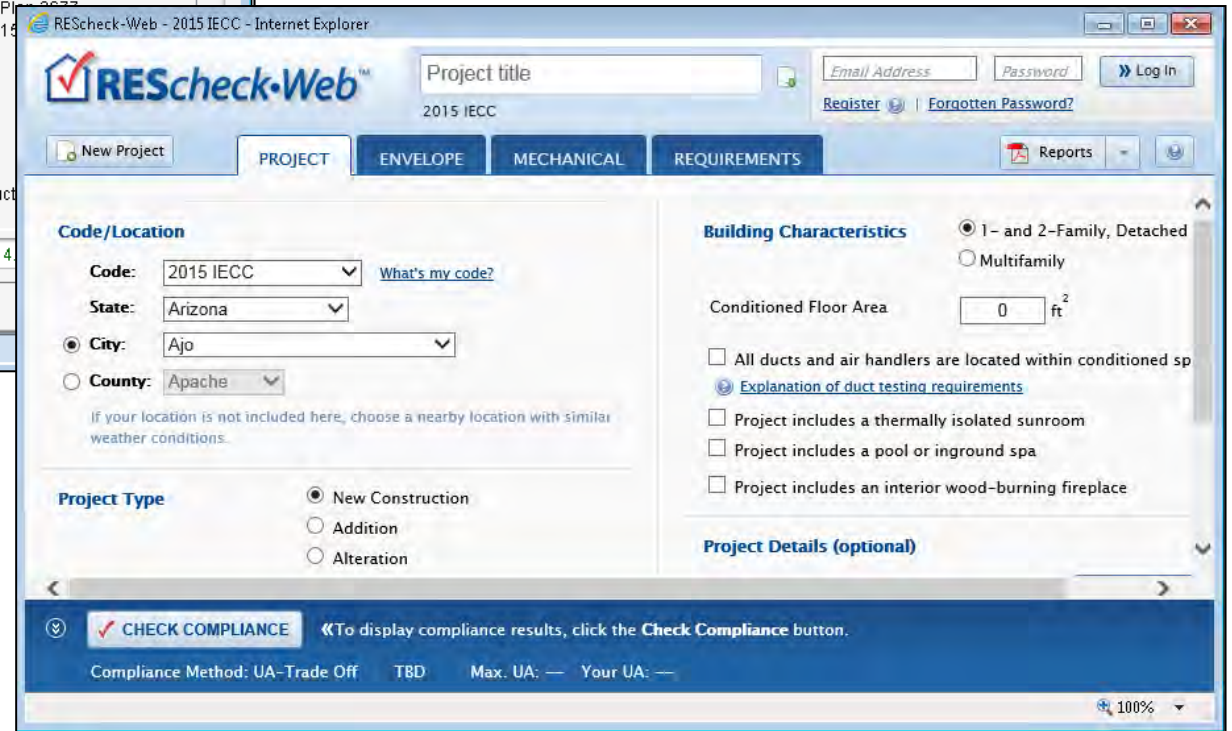
Project Details (optional)
This information will appear on the compliance certificate.
Edit Project Details...
Title/Site/Permit: Jones Residence - Pl...
Permit Date: March 15...
Owner/Agent: J.J. Jones
Designer/Contractor: Done Right Construct...

Compliance Method: UA Trade-Off Max. UA: 1043 Your UA: 891

Choose the state in which the building will be located.

“DESKTOP”

WEB



REScheck-Web - 2015 IECC - Internet Explorer

REScheck-Web™

Project title: [input]
2015 IECC

Email Address: [input] Password: [input] Log In
Register | Forgotten Password?

New Project PROJECT ENVELOPE MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS Reports

Code/Location
Code: 2015 IECC What's my code?
State: Arizona
City: Ajo
County: Apache

Project Type
 New Construction
 Addition
 Alteration

Building Characteristics
 1- and 2-Family, Detached
 Multifamily
Conditioned Floor Area: 0 ft²
 All ducts and air handlers are located within conditioned sp...
 Explanation of duct testing requirements
 Project includes a thermally isolated sunroom
 Project includes a pool or inground spa
 Project includes an interior wood-burning fireplace

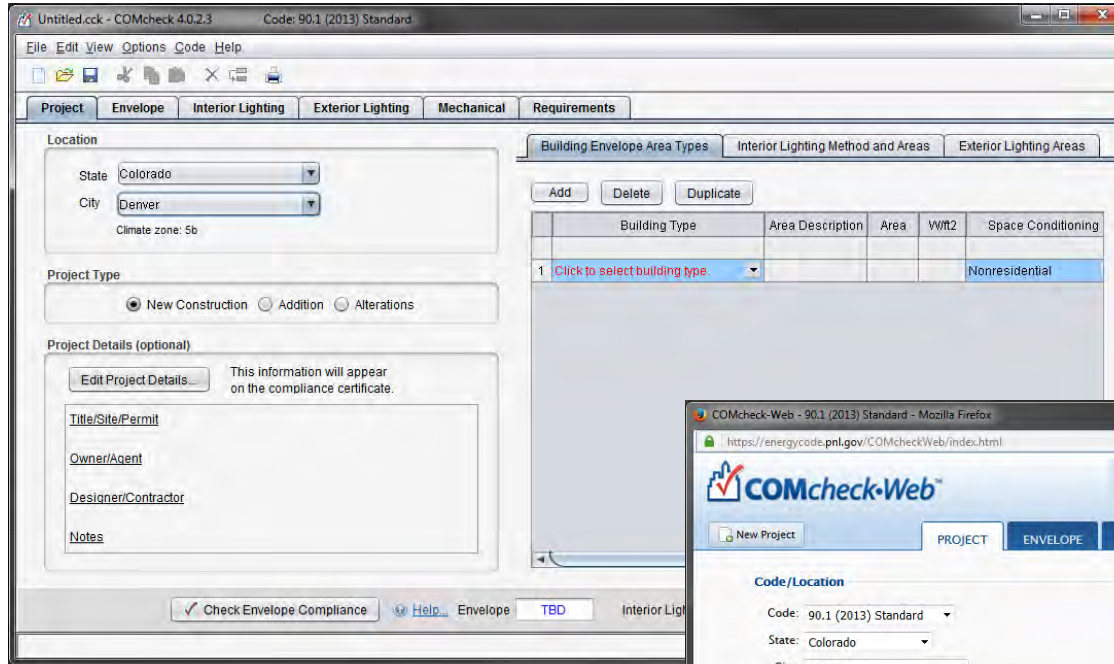
Project Details (optional)

CHECK COMPLIANCE «To display compliance results, click the Check Compliance button.

Compliance Method: UA-Trade Off TBD Max. UA: — Your UA: —

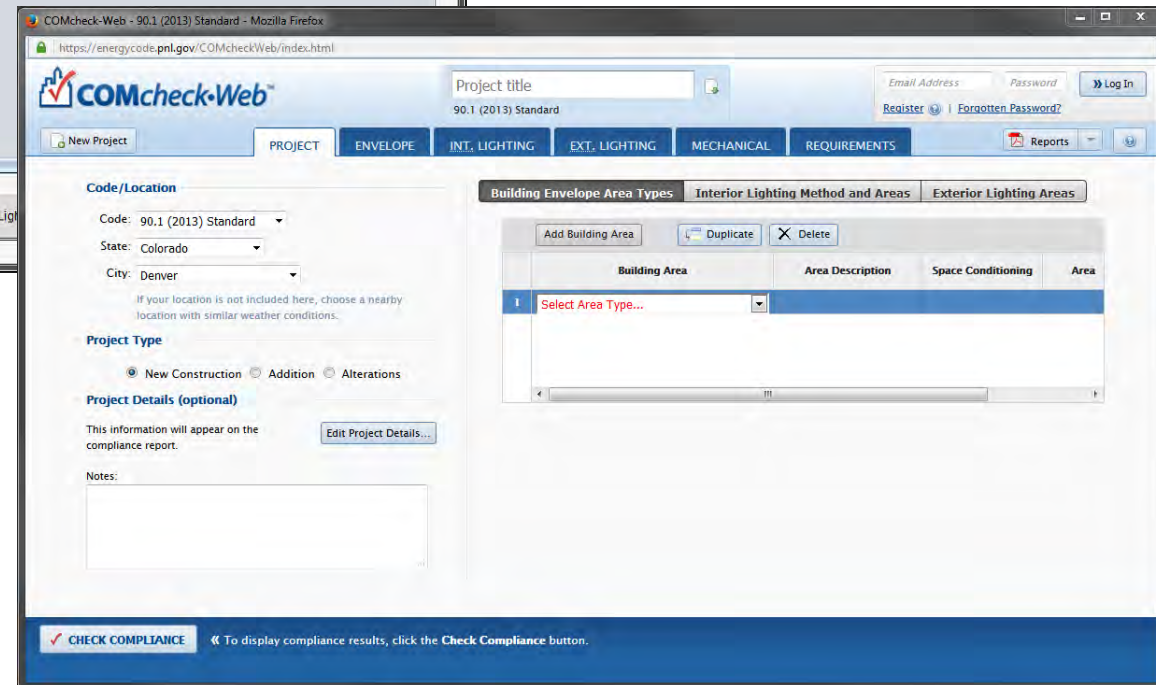
100%

<https://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck>



“DESKTOP”

WEB



U.S. DOE: Building Energy Codes Program Resources

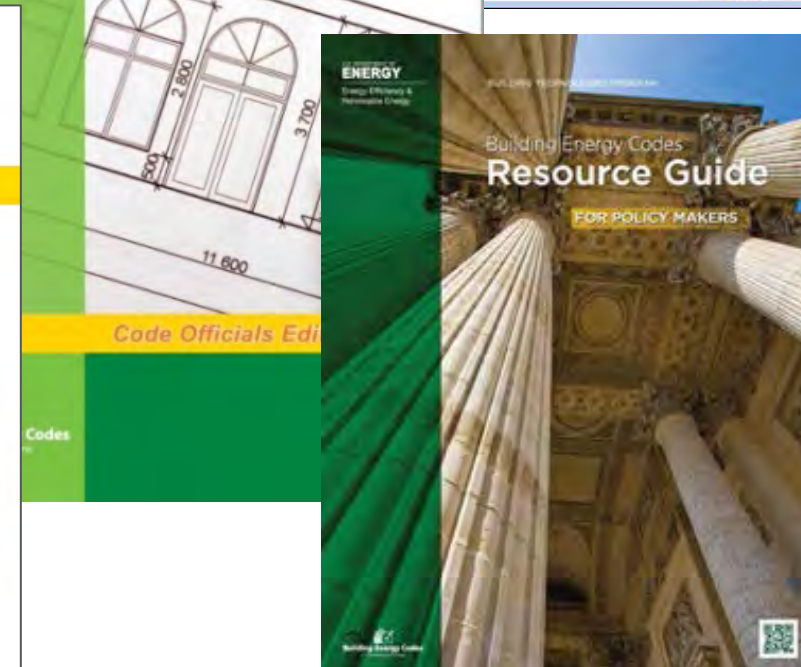
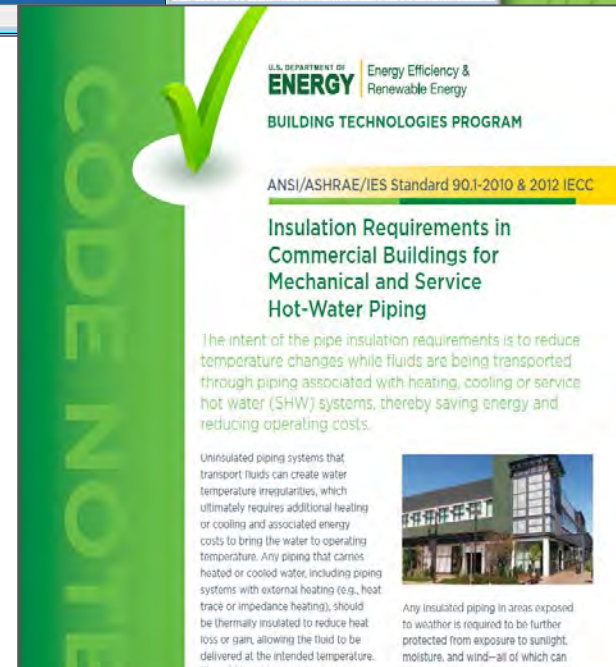
- ▶ Compliance software
- ▶ Technical support
- ▶ Code notes
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Resource guides
- ▶ Training materials

www.energycodes.gov



The image shows two screenshots of web-based software. The left screenshot is for REScheck-Web, showing a 'Code/Location' section with dropdowns for Code (2015 IECC), State (Arizona), and City (Ajo). The right screenshot is for COMcheck-Web, showing a table of building components and assemblies. The table includes columns for Component, Assembly, Gross Area, Cavity Insulation R-Value, Continuous Insulation R-Value, and U-Factor.

Component	Assembly	Gross Area	Cavity Insulation R-Value	Continuous Insulation R-Value	U-Factor
1 Roof	Insulation Entirely Above Deck	10000 ft ²		38	0.026
2 Ext. Wall	Wood-Framed, 24in. o.c.	2600 ft ²	20	10	0.037
3 Window	Vinyl Frame: Fixed	220 ft ²			0.31
4 Door	Insulated Metal	21 ft ²			0.027



U.S DOE Building America Program Building America Solution Center - Resource Tool

- ▶ Guides/Best Practices
- ▶ Existing Buildings
- ▶ Code Briefs
- ▶ Mobile App
- ▶ Create Own Field Kits
- ▶ Home Improvement Guide Tool *coming soon*

<https://basc.pnnl.gov>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Building America Solution Center. At the top, it features the U.S. Department of Energy logo and the text "Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy". The main heading is "Building America Solution Center". On the right, there are links for "Log In" and "Register", and a search bar with the text "Enter your keyword" and a "SEARCH" button.

The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: "Solution Center Home", "Help", "FIND YOUR TOPIC BY:", "Building Components", "Guides A-Z", "ENERGY STAR Certified Homes", "Zero Energy Ready Home", "EPA Indoor airPLUS", "FIND RESOURCES:", "Sales Tool", "CAD Files", "Image Gallery", "Case Studies", "Videos", "Optimized Climate Solutions", "Code Briefs", "FIND PUBLICATIONS:", and "Library".

The main content area is divided into four sections:

- Program Checklists:** Access guides directly from checklists for Zero Energy Ready Home, ENERGY STAR Certified Home, and Indoor airPLUS. It includes logos for ZERO, ENERGY STAR, and EPA Indoor airPLUS.
- Building Components:** Access guides for new and existing homes based on building components of interest. It features a circular diagram with icons representing various building components.
- Sales Tool:** Translate building science technical terms into a new language of value. It includes a circular diagram with icons representing various building science terms.
- Climate Packages:** Review new home energy efficiency specifications and case studies that exceed 2009 IECC by 30%. It features a map of the United States with color-coded regions.

On the right side, there are two sections:

- RECENTLY ADDED/UPDATED GUIDES:** Lists recent updates, including "Interior Paints and Finishes Certified Low-Emission" (last updated August 19, 2016) and "Certified Low-Emission Carpet Adhesives and Carpet" (last updated July 27, 2016).
- RECENTLY ADDED CONTENT:** Lists recent content, including "Deep Energy Retrofits - Over-Time, Phased Guidance" (reference posted November, 2016) and "Deep Energy Retrofits - Occupant Behavior" (reference posted November, 2016).

At the bottom right, there is a "BASC WIDGET" section with the text "BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER BASC.ENERGY.GOV" and "Building best practices at your fingertips." It includes a circular diagram with icons representing various building science concepts and logos for the U.S. Department of Energy and Battelle.

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Air Sealing Multifamily Party Walls

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Scope | Description | Success | Climate | Training | CAD | Compliance | More | Sales

Scope

Air seal the common wall between units in a multi-family structure to minimize air leakage and provide a control layer for sound, smoke, fire, and air quality.

- In multifamily buildings, air seal the gap between the drywall shaft wall (i.e., common wall) and the structural framing between units at all exterior boundaries.
- Confirm with local code officials which air sealing materials are preferred for fire safety reasons.
- Possible air sealing materials include fireproof spray foam for sealing the bottom plate to subfloor and bottom and top plates to sheathing in wood-framed walls, fire-rated caulk around plumbing and wiring, and two-part urethane foam for masonry block walls.



Air seal the common wall between units in a multi-family structure to minimize air leakage.

See the [Compliance Tab](#) for related codes and standards requirements, and criteria to meet national programs such as DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home program, ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, and Indoor airPLUS.

<https://basc.pnnl.gov/>

Last Updated: 03/14/2016



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Air Sealing Multifamily Party Walls

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Compliance

The Compliance tab contains both program and code information. Exact code language is copyrighted and may require purchase from the publisher. While we continually update our database, links may have changed since posting. Please contact our webmaster if you find broken links.

[Code Compliance Brief](#)

[ENERGY STAR Certified Homes](#)

ENERGY STAR Certified Homes (Version 3/3.1, Revision 08), Rater Field Checklist

Thermal Enclosure System:

4. Air Sealing (Unless otherwise noted below, "sealed" indicates the use of caulk, foam, or equivalent material.)

4.8 In multifamily buildings, the gap between the common wall (e.g. the drywall shaft wall) and the structural framing between units sealed at all exterior boundaries.

ENERGY STAR Revision 08 requirements are required for homes permitted starting 07/01/2016.

[DOE Zero Energy Ready Home](#)

Exhibit 1: Mandatory Requirements. Certified under ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes Version 3

[2009 IECC](#)

Table 402.4.2 Air Barrier and Insulation Inspection Component Criteria, Common wall: Air barrier and sealing exists on common walls between dwelling units.*

[2009 IRC](#)

Table N1102.4.2 Air Barrier and Insulation Inspection - Common wall: Air barrier and sealing



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[Code Briefs](#)

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Code Briefs

The intent of Building America's Code Compliance Briefs are to provide code-related information about Building America's research, best practices, and new innovations to help ensure that the measures will be accepted as being in compliance with the code. Providing notes for code officials on how to plan review and conduct field inspections can help builders or remodelers with proposed designs and provide jurisdictional officials with information for acceptance. Providing the same information to all interested parties (e.g., code officials, builders, designers, etc.) is expected to result in increased compliance and fewer innovations being questioned at the time of plan review and/or field inspection.

[Air Sealing and Insulating Attic Knee Walls - Code Compliance Brief](#)

Air sealing and insulating attic knee walls to code.

[Air Sealing and Insulating Common Walls \(Party Walls\) in Multi-Family Buildings - Code Compliance Brief](#)

Publication Date: May, 2016

The intent of this brief is to provide code-specific information about air sealing and insulating common walls in multi-family buildings to help ensure that the measures will be accepted as being in compliance with the code. Providing the same information to all interested parties (e.g., code officials, builders, designers, etc.) is expected to result in increased compliance and fewer innovations being questioned at the time of plan review and/or field inspection.

[Air Sealing and Insulating Garage Walls - Code Compliance Brief](#)

This brief provides an overview of the 2009 through 2015 IRC/IECC code requirements related to air sealing and insulating attached garage walls.

[Bathroom Fan Ratings - Code Compliance Brief](#)

If the bathroom fan is part of the whole-house mechanical ventilation system (WHMV), there are code provisions that should be verified during plan review and field inspection depending upon codes enforced in your jurisdiction.

[Buried Ducts in Vented Attics in Hot-humid and Mixed-humid Climate Zones - Code Compliance Brief](#)

Publication Date: May, 2016

The intent of this brief is to provide code-related information about buried ducts in vented attics to help ensure that the measure will be accepted as being in compliance with the code. Providing

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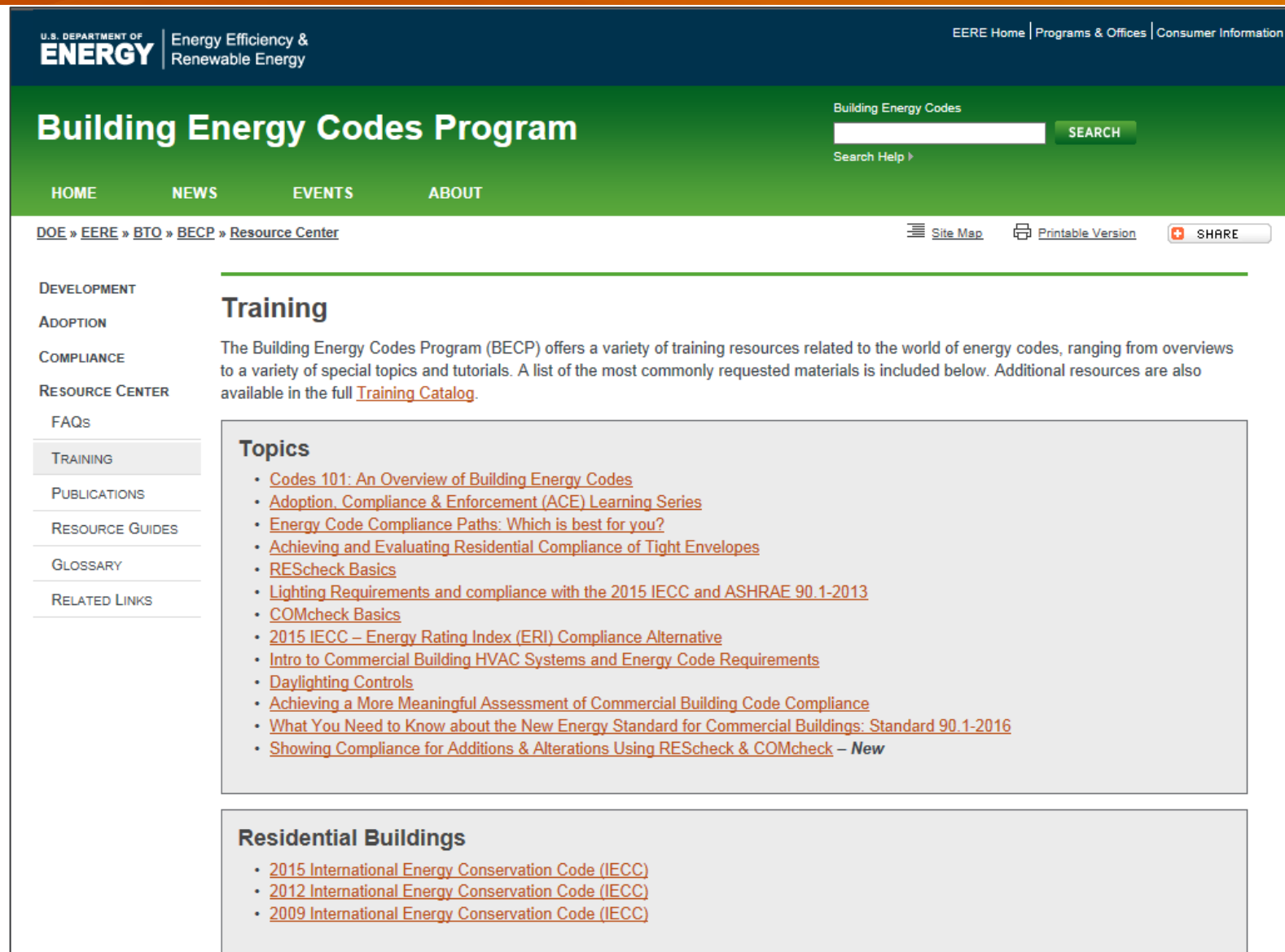
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Building Energy Codes Commentator Series Training Topic Ideas?

► Give us your topic ideas

<https://www.energycodes.gov/training>



The screenshot shows the website for the Building Energy Codes Program. The header includes the U.S. Department of Energy logo and the text "Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy". The main navigation bar has links for HOME, NEWS, EVENTS, and ABOUT. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The breadcrumb trail reads "DOE » EERE » BTO » BECP » Resource Center". The left sidebar contains a menu with categories: DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, COMPLIANCE, RESOURCE CENTER, FAQs, TRAINING (highlighted), PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCE GUIDES, GLOSSARY, and RELATED LINKS. The main content area is titled "Training" and contains a paragraph describing the program's resources. Below this is a "Topics" section with a list of 13 links, and a "Residential Buildings" section with a list of 3 links.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

EERE Home | Programs & Offices | Consumer Information

Building Energy Codes Program

Building Energy Codes

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TRAINING

Training

The Building Energy Codes Program (BECP) offers a variety of training resources related to the world of energy codes, ranging from overviews to a variety of special topics and tutorials. A list of the most commonly requested materials is included below. Additional resources are also available in the full [Training Catalog](#).

Topics

- [Codes 101: An Overview of Building Energy Codes](#)
- [Adoption, Compliance & Enforcement \(ACE\) Learning Series](#)
- [Energy Code Compliance Paths: Which is best for you?](#)
- [Achieving and Evaluating Residential Compliance of Tight Envelopes](#)
- [REScheck Basics](#)
- [Lighting Requirements and compliance with the 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013](#)
- [COMcheck Basics](#)
- [2015 IECC – Energy Rating Index \(ERI\) Compliance Alternative](#)
- [Intro to Commercial Building HVAC Systems and Energy Code Requirements](#)
- [Daylighting Controls](#)
- [Achieving a More Meaningful Assessment of Commercial Building Code Compliance](#)
- [What You Need to Know about the New Energy Standard for Commercial Buildings: Standard 90.1-2016](#)
- [Showing Compliance for Additions & Alterations Using REScheck & COMcheck – New](#)

Residential Buildings

- [2015 International Energy Conservation Code \(IECC\)](#)
- [2012 International Energy Conservation Code \(IECC\)](#)
- [2009 International Energy Conservation Code \(IECC\)](#)

THANK YOU!

Building Energy Codes Program
www.energycodes.gov/training

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