



FCCIP NEWS

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New Energy Code

Effective immediately, Massachusetts has adopted the 2006 International Energy Code. This code replaces energy requirements in Chapter 61 and Section 9307 for existing buildings. Copies may be obtained at www.iccsafe.org New prescriptive requirements:

TABLE 402..1.1
INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT

CLIMATE ZONE	5 (Massachusetts)
FENESTRATION U-FACTOR	0.35
SKYLIGHT U-FACTOR	0.60
GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC	NR
CEILING R-VALUE	38
WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	19
MASS WALL R-VALUE	13/17
FLOOR R-VALUE	30*
BASEMENT WALL R-VALUE	10/13 (continuous/ or cavity)
SLAB R-VALUE & DEPTH	10, 2ft
CRAWL SPACE WALL R-VALUE	10/13 continuous/ or cavity)

* Or fill cavity if less than 2x10

Some of the key provisions of this code:

402.2.8 Crawl space walls. As an alternative to insulating floors over crawl spaces, crawl space walls shall be permitted to be insulated when the crawl space is not vented to the outside. Crawl space wall insulation shall be permanently fastened to the wall and extend downward from the floor to the finished grade level and then vertically and/or horizontally for at least an additional 24 inches.

402.3.6 Replacement fenestration. Where some or all of an existing fenestration unit is replaced with a new fenestration product, including sash and glazing, the replacement fenestration unit shall meet the applicable requirements for U-factor in Table 402.1.1.(U=0.35)

402.2.10 Thermally isolated sunroom insulation. The minimum ceiling insulation R-values shall be R-24. The minimum wall R-value shall be R-13 in all zones. New walls separating a sunroom from conditioned space shall meet the building thermal envelope requirements.

402.2.3 Access hatches and doors. Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces) shall be weatherstripped and insulated to a level equivalent to the insulation on the surrounding surfaces. Access shall be provided to all equipment which prevents damaging or compressing the insulation.

402.4.1 Building thermal envelope. The building thermal envelope shall be durably sealed to limit infiltration. The sealing methods between dissimilar materials shall allow for differential expansion and contraction. The following shall be caulked, gasketed, weatherstripped or otherwise sealed with an air barrier material, suitable film or solid material:

All joints, seams and penetrations, Site-built windows, doors and skylights, Openings between window and door assemblies and their respective jambs and framing, utility penetrations, dropped ceilings or chases adjacent to the thermal envelope, knee walls, walls and ceilings separating a garage from conditioned spaces, behind tubs and showers on exterior walls, common walls between dwelling units, attic access openings, and other sources of infiltration.

402.4.3 Recessed lighting. Recessed luminaries installed in the building thermal envelope shall be sealed to limit air leakage between conditioned and unconditioned spaces. All recessed luminaries shall be **IC-rated** and labeled as meeting ASTM E 283 when tested at 1.57 psi pressure differential with no more than 2.0 cfm of air movement from the conditioned space to the ceiling cavity. All recessed luminaries shall be sealed with a gasket or calk between the housing and the interior wall or ceiling.

403.2.1 Duct Insulation. Supply ducts in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-8. All other supply and return ducts located in an unconditioned space (basements) shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6.

404.6 Calculation software tools. The current compliance software is ResCheck 4.2.0, using the 2006 IECC Code evaluation standards. The software is available for download at energycodes.gov. After the program is loaded you will need to click on the Code tab, at the top of the page, and select 2006 IECC to set the analysis parameters.

7th Edition Commercial Code In Effect

The 7th Edition Commercial or Base Building Code is in effect as of September 1, 2008. There will be a 6 month overlap of the 6th and 7th Edition. Designers must use either edition in its entirety. Any application received after February 28, 2009, must comply with the 7th edition. New code books are available at the State Book Store (617-727-2834). They can be ordered on line at: www.sec.state.ma.us/.

The 7th edition is based on the 2003 International Building Code, with amendments (in bold, italicized). There are many important changes, much more than can be addressed in this newsletter. Here are a few:

- ❖ The A-2 use classification reserved for night clubs in the 6th edition extends to restaurants, taverns, bars, and banquet halls. The classification for these uses is A-2r. Nightclubs are A-2nc.
- ❖ Townhouses are now an R-2, with its own appendix (120z). For the most part, construction is governed by 1-2family requirements if building is no more than 3 stories.
- ❖ Assembly areas less than 750 sq.ft. are considered accessory to main use group
- ❖ Stricter requirements for sprinkler and smoke control for atriums.
- ❖ New construction type nomenclature (roman numerals).
- ❖ In general, the tabular allowable height and area has increased.

- ❖ There is more allowable area increase for sprinkled buildings.
- ❖ Exterior wall ratings can no longer be reduced for sprinklered buildings.
- ❖ Fire rating for Fire Walls has increased for most use groups.
- ❖ The term “fire barrier” has replaced fire separation assembly, but with the same continuity requirements.
- ❖ UL listing not required for all fire rated assemblies. Table assigns fire rating to certain assemblies
- ❖ Rated corridors require fire and smoke dampers
- ❖ All A-1 use groups(Theatres, concert halls, etc.) must be sprinklered no matter what the size.
- ❖ A-2nc(night clubs) with occupancy>50 must be sprinklered.
- ❖ A-2r(restaurants, halls) must be sprinklered if over 5,000 sft, occupant load >300, or area is located on a floor other than the level of exit discharge. Other A use groups also have lower thresholds for requiring sprinklers
- ❖ All R use groups, including townhouse buildings with more than 2 units must be sprinklered.
- ❖ Snow load for FCCIP towns is 65, with a wind load of 100. (Note difference from 1-2 family)

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