



# FCCIP NEWS

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Volume No. 1 Issue No 15 January, 2010  
A program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments



## 2009 IECC now in effect

The BBRS has adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as of January 1, 2010. There will be a 6 month concurrency period where designers may choose between this code and the 2006 IECC. As of July 1, 2010, all residential and commercial projects will be required to comply with the 2009 IECC.

Like the 2006 IECC, the 2009 version allows the builder/designer to comply prescriptively or by performance (testing). Additionally, the new code requires various mandatory inspections and tests. **The changes in this code are substantial.** An analysis prepared for the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition by ICF International estimates that new homes built to this code will see an average of 12-15% savings on energy costs compared to homes built to the 2006 IECC. Below is a summary of the code requirements for residential projects in the State of Massachusetts, with an \* indicating 2009 changes.

- **Attic insulation markers:** The thickness of blown-in or sprayed roof/ceiling insulation (fiberglass or cellulose) shall be written in inches on markers that are installed at least one for every 300 sq. ft. throughout the attic space. The markers shall be affixed to the trusses or joists and marked with the minimum initial installed thickness with numbers a minimum of 1" in height. Spray polyurethane foam thickness and installed R-value shall be listed on certification provided by the insulation installer.
- **Insulation/appliance Certificate:** A permanent certificate shall be posted on or in the electrical distribution panel. The certificate shall be completed by the builder or registered design professional. The certificate shall list the predominant R-values of insulation installed in or on ceiling/roof, walls, foundation (slab, basement wall, crawlspace wall and/or floor) and ducts outside conditioned spaces. U factors for fenestration, types and efficiencies of heating, cooling and service water heating equipment shall also be posted.

- **Prescriptive values R(min) and U(max):**
  - Fenestration-U.35
  - Skylight- U.60
  - Ceiling- R-38
  - Wood framed walls- R-20\*
  - Floors-R-30 or fill joist cavity-R-19 min
  - Basement/crawlspace walls R-10 continuous or R-13 cavity
  - Slab( non-heated )R-10 for a depth of 2ft
  - Slab (heated )R-15 for a depth of 2ft
- **Res-check** or similar software can be used as an alternative to show U-value equivalence to prescriptive requirements. Be sure to select the appropriate code. Software may be downloaded at: **energycodes.gov**
- **Ceilings with attic spaces**-R-30 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-38 wherever the full height of **uncompressed R-30 insulation extends over the wall top plate of the eaves.\***
- **Ceilings without attic spaces**-Where the design of the roof/ceiling assembly does not allow sufficient space for the required insulation, R-30 may be used for a maximum of 500 sq.ft or 20 percent of the total insulated ceiling area—whichever is less.\*
- **Access hatches and doors** must be weather-stripped and insulated to a level **equivalent to the insulation on the surrounding surfaces.** A retainer, around the opening, must be provided when loose insulation used.\*

### **FCCIP STAFF**

Phone: 772-2026 Fax: 773-0896  
James Hawkins, Building Commissioner, Ext. 123  
James Cerone, Local Building Inspector, Ext. 124  
James Slowinski, Electrical Inspector, Ext. 126  
Andy French, Plumbing Inspector, Ext. 125  
Judy Bresciano, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 121  
Chris Brothers, Clerk, Ext. 122

Web Site: [www.fccip.org](http://www.fccip.org)

## 2009 IECC(continued)

- **Floor insulation** shall be installed to maintain permanent contact with the underside of the subfloor decking—no air space.
- **Unvented crawlspaces:** 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. Insulation must be permanently fastened to the wall and extend at least 2ft below finish grade. If finish grade is at crawl space floor level, insulation must extend a minimum of 2ft horizontally from the wall. Exposed earth in unvented crawl space foundations shall be covered with a continuous Class 1 vapor retarder, with 6” minimum overlaps and extend at least 6 inches up the stem wall and attached to the wall.\*
- **Thermally isolated sunroom** R-24(min) ceilings, R-13(min) walls, Windows: U-50 max
- **Replacement windows:** U-35 max
- **New wood-burning fireplaces** shall have gasketed doors and outdoor combustion air.
- **All recessed lighting** must be IC (insulation contact) rated and **sealed** with a gasket or caulk between the housing and the interior wall or ceiling covering.\*
- **A programmable thermostat** is required for forced-air heating systems in at least one location\*
- **Supply ducts in attics** must be insulated to a minimum of **R-8**. All other ducts R-6 with the exception of ducts or portions of ducts located completely inside the building thermal envelope.
- **All ducts**, air handlers, filter boxes and building cavities used as ducts shall be **sealed and tightness verified with testing**.
- **All heating/cooling piping** must be insulated to a minimum of R-3.
- **50% of the lamps** in permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficacy lamps.
- **Air sealing and insulation inspection**-Unless a blower door test is done, the contractor/designer will have to submit a completed/signed checklist of inspections he has performed. See “2009 IECC Contractor Checklist” at [www.fccip.org](http://www.fccip.org).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Coming

Final hearings are underway for the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Massachusetts Building Code for all buildings other than 1-2 family. The proposed code will have front end amendments to the 2009 International Building Code. There are no plans to change the 1-2 family code at this time.

## New Sprinkler Law

Revisions to M.G.L 148, section 26G came into effect as of January 1, 2010, requiring sprinkler systems in all new buildings having an aggregate area of 7,500 or more, irrespective of use group. The law also requires a sprinkler system for certain existing buildings undergoing major renovations and/or addition. Previously a local option, the law is now effective throughout the State. The enforcement of this law will be under the jurisdiction of the Local Fire Chief.

FCCIP  
425 Main St., Ste 25  
Greenfield, MA 01301-3393