

November 1, 2016

Energy Efficiency Requirements for Large and Small Buildings in Effect

A reminder that the new energy efficiency requirements for all buildings and renovations are now in effect for building permits applied for on or after November 1, 2016. There has been some question around whether the code applies to renovation or retrofit. According to Division A, Section 1.1 the Alberta Building Code applies to:

- an alteration (change or extension) to any building and
- the installation, replacement or alteration of any equipment regulated by the code.

More information on the codes is available through these websites:

- Municipal Affairs, Codes and Standards page, [Code Notice](#)
- CHBA – Alberta, [Code Adoption page](#)

National Radon Campaign Launches

Health Canada will begin a national radon campaign for the public on November 2. The CBC News Network and Radio Canada (French network) will carry television ads and website ads in November, December and January. Social media on Google and YouTube will promote a Mike Holmes video during this same period. On November 15, a live Facebook event will be held. The [“Take Action on Radon”](#) website has also been revamped. Public Service Announcements will also run on local radio stations by the Alberta Lung Association. Events will also take place in Edmonton and Calgary.

CHBA National has distributed a package to all Executive Directors that includes samples of the posters and facts for HBAs. Additional information for CHBA members is available with a password on the [Technical Research Committee portal](#) on the CHBA national website. If you have questions or need more information you can contact David Foster (foster@chba.ca) or Kathleen Maynard (conference@chba.ca).



Modeling Row/Townhouses for 9.36

CHBA worked with the City of Calgary to clarify how row/townhouses could be modeled in the performance path of 9.36. There was confusion around the usage of the words “house” and “building” in relation to whether a row/town was modeled as a full building or as individual units in building. NRC has [released a letter](#) that clarifies that the provisions in Subsection 9.36.5 for row/townhouses were intended for modeling as individual units and not as a building.

Changes to 2015 NBC Out for Review

Although Alberta has not yet adopted the majority of the 2015 National Codes, The National Research Council has released proposed changes to the National Energy Code for Buildings and the National Plumbing Code. Members are urged to review these and contact CHBA - Alberta if there are any concerns. Proposed changes include:

NPC:

- Reference standards for backflow preventers more consistently
- Clarify requirements for air pressure testing of drainage or venting systems

NECB:

- Reduce overall thermal transmittance of roofs, fenestration and doors
- Reduce losses through thermal bridging in building assemblies and reduce the allowable percentage of skylight area
- Introduce more stringent interior and exterior lighting requirements
- Require energy recovery systems
- Require temperature controls in individual guest rooms in hotels and motels
- Require demand control ventilation systems in commercial kitchens
- Clarify the lighting trade-off path requirements in Part 4
- Make performance compliance requirements in Part 8 consistent with prescriptive requirements

For more information go to the [home page of the public review for fall 2016](#).

Energy Efficiency Alberta Up and Running

The Alberta Provincial Government announced the Board of Directors and the first initiatives for [Energy Efficiency Alberta](#). The board will focus on three initial initiatives:

- No charge installation of low-cost energy efficiency products to residences, such as lighting, water and heating components.
- Point of sale rebates to residential customers at retail outlets with products such as lighting, insulation and appliances.
- Incentives for high-efficiency products and installation of electric and gas based products such as lighting, heating and cooling systems and hot water systems for businesses, non-profits and institutions.

It is unclear yet if these programs will apply to new homes. Energy Efficiency Alberta will be putting out requests for proposals on these initiatives in the coming weeks.

For more information contact:

Joan Maisonneuve, Manager, Policy and Industry Issues
CHBA – Alberta 1-800-424-5890 (ext 226) 800-661-3348 (ext 226)
[***joan.maisonneuve@chbaalberta.ca***](mailto:joan.maisonneuve@chbaalberta.ca)