

December 5, 2016

## 2015 National Plumbing Code Takes Effect in Alberta Jan. 1, 2017

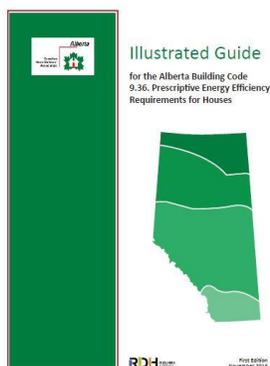
The plumbing code regulation is on track to go to Cabinet this month which would see the adoption of the 2015 National Plumbing Code into Alberta with a coming into force date of Jan. 1, 2017. Key changes for residential construction are:

- Changes to some fire sprinkler requirements;
- Changes to maximum length of p-traps;
- Reduction in water flows for toilets from 6.0 litres to 4.8 litres, as well as reduction in flow rates for taps and urinals. The toilet water reduction will create some issues of drain line carry for some applications.
- All Alberta-specific changes previously included in Alberta regulation have been removed. This means Alberta has now fully adopted the National Plumbing Code without Alberta-specific changes.



Members should ensure they [purchase the 2015 National Plumbing Code](#) and familiarize themselves with the previous Alberta requirements to ensure their installations meet the 2015 National Plumbing Code.

## Alberta Illustrated Guide for 9.36 Available



CHBA – Alberta, in conjunction with RDH Engineering, supplier and builder members, has created an Illustrated Guide to foster understanding of the prescriptive energy efficiency requirements in Section 9.36 of the 2014 Alberta Building Code. Section 9.36 came into effect November 1, 2016. The Guide provides examples of above and below grade assemblies and the calculations required to assess the assembly RSI values. The Guide also discusses windows, HVAC and air sealing. There is an extensive resource section that provides links to many more assembly details and RSI calculators. The Guide is available for free by download from the [CHBA – Alberta Technical Resources Webpage](#).

## New Assembly RSI Calculator

The Alberta Masonry Council has created a new [wall assembly calculator](#), with the National Energy Code for (large) Buildings (NECB) in mind. The calculator allows the user to drag and drop a visual wall section into place. Clicking on the element dragged allows you to change the properties of the assembly (thickness, material type, framing spacing etc.) Other articles on the site also deal with specific challenges when wood and masonry meet in multi-family construction.

## ***Radon Action Month Events Reach Government and Public***

During National Radon Action month in November, radon awareness events aimed at the public and politicians were held across Alberta. Two sessions of note reached a large audience in the province.



The Alberta Lung Association held meetings with several MLAs and had information displays in the rotunda of the Legislature. CHBA – Alberta attended an Alberta Lung Association reception and talked with several municipal councilors participating in the event. It was an opportunity to educate people on the role of builders in dealing with radon in new homes.

The information sessions at the University of Calgary were attended by over 350 members of the public and 300 family physicians. Posters were circulated by the Alberta Lung Association to doctor's offices throughout Alberta.

CSA is working on new radon standards for existing and new construction. CHBA – Alberta and CHBA National are participating in reviews on these standards.

## ***Net Zero Training Coming In January***

ENERVISION is bringing the CHBA Net Zero Builder Training session to Edmonton January 26 & 27. It will be a chance for designers, construction managers and managers to gain insight into how to move toward the next 15% increase in energy efficiency in the 2020 codes. The session is being delivered by Andy Oding of Building Knowledge who has a great body of experience in advanced homes and has worked with Mattamy Homes in Alberta on their recent net zero project. To register, [download the registration form](#) and forward it to ENERVISION.

## ***Furnaces for Temporary Heat***

The dialogue continues between CHBA National and the Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI) to try to pinpoint the concerns of HRAI members while trying to pinpoint the point in time where manufactures believe furnaces can be used for construction heat.

CHBA – Alberta members are exploring better care and commissioning protocols.

## ***Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters***

CHBA's request to the Canadian Standards Association Committee to remove the requirements for Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters from the Canadian Electrical Code was not accepted. CHBA then submitted a Code Change Request to the National Building Code (NBC) to provide an exception to the reference to the CEC so that AFCIs shall not be required to be installed on circuits serving single dwelling units. The CCR was reviewed at the SC-HSB meeting October 27-28. The SC-HSB determined that the CCR had merit and is forming a working group to review the CCR.

***BEST of the Season to all!***



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