Advisory on Energy Efficiency Requirements
MA Building Code, 780 CMR, 7th Edition

In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Green Communities Act, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) has amended the Building Code as of January 1, 2010, requiring the use of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with MA amendments, instead of IECC 2006. Recognizing the burden this may place on projects under design, BBRS is allowing a 6-month concurrency period, through June 30, 2010, during which either the IECC 2006 w/2007 IECC Supplement and MA amendments or IECC 2009 with MA amendments may be used.

Regards,

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780 CMR 61.00

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

780 CMR 6101.0 JURISDICTION

6101.1 Energy Efficiency. Energy efficiency is to be met via compliance with the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2006 with the 2007 Supplement, or with the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2009. These MA amendments apply to the IECC 2006 or the IECC 2009:

1. Amend Section 404.6.2 as follows:

404.6.2 Specific Approval. Performance analysis tools meeting the applicable sections of 404 shall be permitted to be approved. Tools are permitted to be approved based on meeting a specified threshold for a jurisdiction. The code official shall be permitted to approve tools for a specified application or limited scope. RESecheck with the IECC 2006 or with the IECC 2009 code is allowed.

2. Add a new Section 404.7 Home Energy Rating.

404.7 Home Energy Rating.

404.7.1 General. A proposed building, for which the builder or the buyer obtains a Home Energy Rating by an accredited Home Energy Rating System (HERS), will be considered to comply with the intent of Section 4 if the rating score on the building is 100 or fewer points.

404.7.1.1 Accreditation. Accreditation of the rating organization or agency with the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) or the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources is required for acceptance of the energy rating as a compliance tool for Section 4.

404.7.1.2 Rating Score. The minimum compliance score of 100 or fewer points will be based on the 2006 Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Systems Standards, and the rating score shall be determined with an acceptable software analysis program as required by RESNET accreditation procedures, on a scale of 0-100 points.

404.7.2 Documentation. A compliance report which includes a proposed Energy Rating score of 100 or fewer points, a description of the building's energy features, and a statement that the rating score is "based on plans" will be required for issuance of a building permit. A copy of the final rating certificate indicating the score of 100 or fewer points for the finished building will be submitted to the building official before the Certificate of Occupancy is issued.