

## **Massachusetts Stretch Code and Specialized Code for Low-Rise Residential**

**(Note: please see 225 CMR 23 for Commercial, Multi-family and all other construction)**

The Massachusetts Stretch energy code (Stretch Code) first became available for municipal adoption in 2009 as Appendix 110.aa and then 115.aa as part of the building code in 780 CMR. In 2021 the Massachusetts legislature passed new legislation moving authority for updates to the Stretch Code to the Department of Energy Resources and 225 CMR.

This code takes effect on January 1, 2023 and is designed to align with the forthcoming MA 10<sup>th</sup> edition building code promulgated under 780 CMR. Building permit applications for projects received on or after Jan. 1, 2023 in Stretch Code communities shall comply with this code.

As with the 10<sup>th</sup> edition building code, this energy code is based on modified versions of the 2021 code books as published by the International Code Council (ICC). Specifically, the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC 2021) as amended.

This section (225 CMR 22) covers low-rise residential buildings. All other buildings are covered by 225 CMR 23. 225 CMR 22 and 23 in combination form the Stretch Code – and must be adopted together and not in part.

Municipalities may also elect to adopt the combination of Appendix RC of 225 CMR 22 (Low rise residential) and Appendix CC of 225 CMR 23 (all other buildings) which together form the Municipal Opt-in Specialized code (Specialized Code).

For communities that have adopted the Stretch Code, the following 225 CMR 22 amendments to the IECC 2021 apply together with 225 CMR 23 for all other buildings.

For communities that adopt the Specialized Code, the following 225 CMR 23 amendments apply in combination with Appendix RC, along with 225 CMR 23 and Appendix CC for all other buildings.

In both the Stretch Code and the Specialized Code these amendments to the IECC 2021 replace Chapter 13 – Energy Efficiency of 780 CMR in the Base energy code.

Please remember that the Massachusetts amendments posted online are *unofficial versions* that are made available for convenience. Official versions of the Massachusetts amendments may be purchased from the State House Bookstore at [www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/) and the IECC 2021 can be purchased from the ICC at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

225 CMR 22: MASSACHUSETTS FRONT-END AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY  
CONSERVATION CODE 2021

**MASSACHUSETTS STRETCH ENERGY CODE – 2023 Residential low-rise  
amendments to IECC2021**

**IECC 2021 and IRC 2021 CHAPTER 11: ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**CHAPTER 1 [RE] SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION R103 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS**

*R103.2 Insert after Subsection R103.2(8) the following:*

10. EV Ready Space locations in accordance with Section R404.4.
11. Solar-Ready Zone in accordance with Appendix RB, or Solar Zone Area when complying with Appendix RC for fossil-fuel heated homes.

**CHAPTER 2 [RE] DEFINITIONS**

**R202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

*R202 Add the following definitions:*

**ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING.** A building with no on-site *combustion equipment* for fossil fuel use or capacity including fossil fuel use in space heating, water heating, cooking, or drying appliances.

**CLEAN BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM.** Wood-pellet fired central boilers and furnaces where the equipment has a thermal efficiency rating of 85% (higher heating value) or greater; and a particulate matter emissions rating of no more than 0.08 lb PM<sub>2.5</sub>/MMBtu heat output.

**COMBUSTION EQUIPMENT.** Any *equipment* or *appliance* used for space heating, *service water heating*, cooking, clothes drying and/or lighting that can use *fuel gas*, *fuel oil* or solid fuel and that is not a *clean biomass heating system*.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE.** An automotive-type vehicle for on-road use, such as passenger automobiles, buses, trucks, vans, neighborhood electric vehicles, electric motorcycles, and the like, primarily powered by an electric motor that draws current from a rechargeable storage battery, fuel cell, photovoltaic array, or other source of electric current.

*Informational Note: defined as in 527 CMR 12.00: Massachusetts Electrical Code (Amendments) section 625.2.*

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT (EVSE).** The conductors, including the ungrounded, grounded, and equipment grounding conductors, and the *Electric Vehicle* connectors, attachment plugs, and all other fittings, devices, power outlets, or apparatus installed specifically for the purpose of transferring energy between the premises wiring and the *Electric Vehicle*.

*Informational Note:* defined as in 527 CMR 12.00: Massachusetts Electrical Code (Amendments) section 625.2.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE READY PARKING SPACE (“EV Ready Space”).** A designated parking space which is provided with wiring and electrical service sufficient to provide AC level II or equivalent EV charging, as defined by Standard SAE J1772 for *EVSE* servicing light duty *Electric Vehicles*.

**ENTHALPY RECOVERY RATIO.** Change in the enthalpy of the outdoor air supply divided by the difference between the outdoor air and entering exhaust air enthalpy, expressed as a percentage.

**HIGH-EFFICACY LAMPS.** Light-emitting diode (LED) lamps with an efficacy of not less than the following:

1. 60 lumens per watt for lamps over 40 watts.
2. 50 lumens per watt for lamps over 15 watts to 40 watts.
3. 45 lumens per watt for lamps 15 watts or less.

**MIXED-FUEL BUILDING.** A *building* that contains *combustion equipment* or includes piping for such *equipment*.

**POTENTIAL SOLAR ZONE AREA.** The combined area of any low-sloped roofs and any steep-sloped roofs oriented between 90 degrees and 300 degrees of true north where the annual solar access is 70 percent or greater. Annual solar access is the ratio of “annual solar insolation with shade” to the “annual solar insolation without shade”. Shading from obstructions located on the roof or any other part of the building shall not be included in the determination of annual solar access.

## **CHAPTER 3 [RE] GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION R301 CLIMATE ZONES**

*R301* Replace Section R301 as follows:

**R301.1 General.** Massachusetts is in *climate zone 5A*

## CHAPTER 4 [RE] RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### SECTION R401 GENERAL

*R401 Replace Section R401 as follows:*

**R401.1 Scope.** This chapter applies to *residential buildings*. Municipalities which have adopted the Stretch Energy Code shall use the energy efficiency requirements of this chapter, or Chapter 51 where applicable for existing buildings. Municipalities which have adopted the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch energy code shall comply with R401.2.4 including both the requirements of Appendix RC and this chapter.

**R401.2 Application.** Residential buildings shall comply with Section R401.2.5 and either Sections R401.2.2, R401.2.3 or R401.2.4. R-use buildings without individually separate dwelling units (such as single-room occupancy buildings) may comply with Section R401.2.1. The option selected for compliance shall be identified in the certificate required by Section R401.3.

**Exception:** Additions under 1,000 sf, *level 1 and level 2 alterations*, and repairs to existing buildings complying with Chapter 5 [RE].

**R401.2.1 Prescriptive Compliance Option.** The Prescriptive Compliance Option requires compliance with Sections R401 through R404 and R408.

**R401.2.2 Passive House Building Certification Option.** The Passive House Building Certification Option requires compliance with Section R405 and R404.4.

**R401.2.3 Energy Rating Index Option.** The Energy Rating Index (ERI) Option requires compliance with Section R406, R403.6 and R404.4.

**R401.2.4 Appendix RC.** Residential Buildings and dwelling units covered by this chapter may elect to comply with the requirements of IECC Appendix RC and R404 as amended.

**R401.2.5 Additional energy efficiency.** This section establishes additional requirements applicable to all compliance approaches to achieve additional energy efficiency.

1. For buildings complying with Section R401.2.1, two of the additional efficiency package options shall be installed according to Section R408.2.
2. For buildings electing to be *all-electric buildings*, both R408.2.2 and R408.2.3 shall apply for primary space heating and domestic hot water supply.

*R402.1.5.1 Add Subsection R402.1.5.1 as follows:*

**R402.1.5.1 Approved software for Total UA alternative:** The following software is approved for demonstrating Total UA compliance:

REScheck-Web for IECC2021 Massachusetts stretch code available at  
<http://www.energycodes.gov/rescheck>

**R402.4.1.1** Modify Table R402.4.1.1 to amend the Insulation Installation Criteria as follows:

**TABLE R402.4.1.1 AIR BARRIER AND INSULATION INSTALLATION**

COMPONENT	INSULATION INSTALLATION CRITERIA
General requirements	All insulation shall be installed at Grade I quality in accordance with ICC/RESNET 301. Air-permeable insulation shall not be used as a sealing material.

**R403.3.5** Insert the following to the end of Subsection R403.3.5:

Postconstruction or rough-in testing and verification shall be done by a HERS Rater, HERS Rating Field Inspector, or an applicable BPI Certified Professional. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the *code official*.

**R403.6** Replace Section R403.6 as follows:

**R403.6 Mechanical ventilation.**

Outdoor air intakes and exhausts shall have automatic or gravity dampers that close when the *ventilation* system is not operating.

Each dwelling unit of a residential building shall be provided with a continuously operating mechanical balanced ventilation system that has been site verified to meet a minimum airflow per:

1. RESNET HERS Index in accordance with RESNET/ICC Standard 301
2. ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2019 or 62.2-2022
3. the following formula for one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses of three or less stories above grade plane:

$$Q = .03 \times CFA + 7.5 \times (N_{br} + 1) - 0.052 \times Q_{50} \times S \times WSF$$

Where: CFA is the conditioned floor area in sq ft

$N_{br}$  is the number of bedrooms

$Q_{50}$  is the verified blower door air leakage rate in cfm measured at 50 Pascals

S is the building height factor determined by this table:

stories above grade plane	1	2	3
S	1.00	1.32	1.55

WSF is the shielded weather factor as determined by this table:

<b>County</b>	<b>WSF</b>
Barnstable	0.60
Berkshire	0.52
Bristol	0.54
Dukes	0.59
Essex	0.58
Franklin	0.52
Hampden	0.49
Hampshire	0.59
Middlesex	0.55
Nantucket	0.61
Norfolk	0.52
Plymouth	0.53
Suffolk	0.66
Worcester	0.59

**R403.6.1** *Replace Subsection R403.6.1 and Subsections R403.6.1.1 and R403.6.1.2 as follows:*

**R403.6.1 Heat or Energy Recovery Ventilation.**

Heat or energy recovery balanced ventilation systems shall be provided for dwelling units as specified in either Section R403.6.1.1 or R403.6.1.2, as applicable.

**R403.6.1.1 Large Systems.** Systems with a rated airflow exceeding 300\_cfm shall have an enthalpy recovery ratio of not less than 50 percent at cooling design condition and not less than 60 percent at heating design condition, determined in accordance with AHRI 1060 at an airflow not less than the design airflow.

**R403.6.1.2 Other Systems.** Systems with a rated airflow of 300 cfm or less shall have a sensible recovery efficiency (SRE) of not less than 65 percent at 32°F (0°C) at an airflow not less than the design airflow. SRE shall be determined in accordance with CAN/CSA-C439 and shall be listed. Linear interpolation of listed values for SRE shall be permitted.

**R403.6.3** *Replace Subsection R403.6.3 as follows:*

**R403.6.3 Testing and Verification.** Installed performance of the mechanical ventilation system shall be tested and verified by a HERS Rater, HERS Rating Field Inspector, or an applicable BPI Certified Professional, and measured using a flow hood, flow grid, Residential IAQ Fault Indicator Display certified to the California Energy Commission, or other airflow measuring device in accordance with either RESNET Standard 380 or ACCA Standard 5.

**R403.6.4 – R403.6.7** *Add Subsections R403.6.4 – R403.6.7 as follows:*

**R403.6.4 Air-moving equipment, selection and installation.** As referenced in ASHRAE Standard 62.2, Section 7.1, ventilation devices and equipment shall be tested and certified in accordance with HVI 920 (Home Ventilating Institute), or equivalent and the certification label shall be found on the product. Installation of systems or equipment shall be carried out in accordance with manufacturers' design requirements and installation instructions. Where multiple duct sizes and/or exterior hoods are standard options, the minimum size shall not be used.

**R403.6.5 Sound Rating.** Sound ratings for fans used for whole building ventilation shall be rated at a maximum of 1.0 sone.

**Exception:** HVAC air handlers and remote-mounted fans need not meet sound requirements. There must be at least 4ft of ductwork between the remote-mounted fan and intake grille.

**R403.6.6 Documentation.** The owner and the occupant of the dwelling unit shall be provided with information on the ventilation design and systems installed, as well as instructions on the proper operation and maintenance of the ventilation systems. Ventilation controls shall be labeled with regard to their function, unless the function is obvious or unless the function is communicated through a digital user interface provided with the control.

**R403.6.7 Air Inlets and Exhausts.** All ventilation air inlets shall be located a minimum of 10ft from vent openings for plumbing drainage systems, appliance vent outlets, exhaust hood outlets, vehicle exhaust, or other known contamination sources; and shall not be obstructed by snow, plantings, or any other material. Outdoor forced air inlets shall be covered with rodent screens having mesh openings not greater than ½ inch. A whole house mechanical ventilation system shall not extract air from an unconditioned basement unless approved by a registered design professional. Where wall inlet or exhaust vents are less than seven (7) feet above finished grade in the area of the venting, including but not limited to decks and porches, a metal or plastic identification plate shall be permanently mounted to the exterior of the building at a minimum height of eight (8) feet above grade directly in line with the vent terminal. The sign shall read, in print size no less than one-half (1/2) inch in size, "MECH. VENT DIRECTLY BELOW. KEEP CLEAR OF ALL OBSTRUCTIONS".

**Exceptions:**

1. Ventilation air inlets in the wall  $\geq$  3 ft. from dryer exhausts and contamination sources exiting through the roof.
2. No minimum separation distance shall be required between local exhaust outlets in kitchens/bathrooms and windows.
3. Vent terminations that meet the requirements of the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54/ ANSI Z223 .1) or equivalent.

**R404.4** Add Section R404.4 and Table R404.4 as follows:

**R404.4 Wiring for Electric Vehicle Charging Spaces (“EV Ready Spaces”).** *EV Ready Spaces* shall be provided in accordance with Table R404.4. The dedicated branch circuit shall be identified as “EV READY” in the service panel or subpanel directory, and the termination location shall be marked as “EV READY”. The circuit shall terminate in a NEMA receptacle or a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standard J1772 electrical connector for *EVSE* servicing *Electric Vehicles*, located within 6 feet (1828 mm) of each *EV ready space*. Conductors and outlets for *EVSE* shall be sized and installed in accordance with the MA electrical code.

**TABLE R404.4 EV READY SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

Type of Building	Number of parking spaces
1 & 2 family dwellings and town homes	At least 1 50-amp branch circuit per dwelling unit to provide for AC Level II charging
All other R-use buildings	At least 20% of all installed spaces served with a 40-amp, 208/240-volt circuit with a minimum capacity of 9.6 kVA.

**Exceptions:**

1. In no case shall the number of required *EV Ready Spaces* be greater than the number of parking spaces installed.
2. This requirement will be considered met if all spaces which are not *EV Ready* are separated from the premises by a public right-of-way.
3. R-2 multi-family properties may elect to comply with Commercial EV ready requirements in C405.13
4. One or more SAE Level II spaces may be substituted with multiple SAE Level I spaces provided with wiring for a minimum 20amp, 120-volt EVSE, with a ratio of at least 3 Level I spaces for each Level II space required.

**R405.** Replace Section R405 in its entirety as follows:

**R405 Passive House Building Certification Option.** Projects may document compliance with either Phius certification in accordance with R405.2 or PHI certification in accordance with R405.3.

**R405.1 Compliance.** Projects pre-certified as meeting the Phius CORE 2021 or Phius ZERO 2021 Passive Building Standard – North America, or newer, demonstrated using approved software by Phius, where Phius Design-certification is demonstrated by Phius and a Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC); or, Projects pre-certified as meeting the Certified Passive House standard using the current software and program criteria by the Passive House Institute (PHI), where PHI certification is demonstrated by a Certified Passive House Designer and a Certified Passive House Certifier.



**R405.2 Phius Documentation.** When using WUFI Passive or other Phius approved software:

1. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the following items must be provided to the Building Official:
  - a. A Phius 2021 (or newer) Verification Report which demonstrates project compliance with Phius 2021 (or newer) performance requirements.
  - b. A statement from the CPHC that the verification report results accurately reflect the plans submitted.
  - c. Evidence of project registration from Phius.

OR

- a. A Design Certification Letter from Phius.

2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the following item(s) must be provided to the building official:

- a. Design Certification Letter from Phius.
- b. An updated Verification Report by the CPHC which reflects “as-built” conditions and test results that demonstrate project compliance with Phius (blower door and ventilation results).
- c. A statement from the CPHC that the envelope meets the Phius hygrothermal requirements found in Appendix B of the Phius 2021 Certification guidebook
- d. A statement from the Phius Certified Verifier or Rater that the project test results and other Phius verification requirements are met.
- e. A copy of the Phius workbook listing all testing results and as-built conditions.

OR

- a. A Project Certificate demonstrating final certification awarded by Phius.

AND

- f. A statement from the Phius Verifier or Rater of compliance with R404.4: EV ready, and Appendix RB: Solar Ready Provisions.

**R405.23 Passive House International (PHI) Documentation.**

1. If using PHI Passive House software, prior to the issuance of a building permit, the following items must be provided to the Building Official:
  - a. A PHPP compliance report which demonstrates project compliance with current PHI performance requirements;
  - b. A statement from the Certified Passive House Consultant/Designer (CPHC/D) that the PHPP results and compliance report accurately reflect the plans submitted;
  - c. Evidence of project registration from a Certified Passive House Certifier.

OR

- a. A Design Certification Letter from a Certified Passive House Certifier.

2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the following item(s) must be provided to the building official:

- a. A Design Certification Letter from a Certified Passive House Certifier.

- b. An updated PHPP compliance report which reflects “as-built” conditions and test results (blower door and ventilation results) that demonstrates project compliance with PHI performance requirements;
- c. A copy of the Passive House Verifier’s or Rater’s test results;
- d. A statement from the CPHD that the project test results meet the model performance requirements, all the mandatory limits and any other mandatory requirements.

OR

- a. A Final Certification Letter from a Certified Passive House Certifier;

AND

- e. A statement from the Passive House Verifier or Rater of compliance with R404.4, and Appendix RB: Solar Ready Provisions.

**R406.2** *Revise TABLE R406.2 as follows:*

*Delete*

R401.2.5	Additional efficiency packages
----------	--------------------------------

*And replace with:*

R403.6.1	Heat or Energy Recovery Ventilation
----------	-------------------------------------

*Delete*

R406.3	Building thermal envelope
--------	---------------------------

*And replace with:*

R404.4	Wiring for Electric Vehicle Charging Spaces
--------	---

**R406.3** *Reserve this section:*

**R406.3 Building thermal envelope.** Reserved.

**R406.4** *Replace Section R406.4 with the following:*

**R406.4 Energy Rating Index.** The Energy Rating Index (ERI) shall be the RESNET certified HERS index determined in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301. Energy used to recharge or refuel a vehicle used for transportation on roads that are not on the building site shall not be included in the *ERI reference design* or the *rated design*.

**R406.5** *Replace Section R406.5 and Table R406.5 with the following:*

**R406.5 ERI-based compliance.** Compliance based on an ERI analysis requires that the *rated proposed design* and confirmed built dwelling be shown to have an HERS index rating less than or equal to the appropriate value indicated in Table R406.5 when compared to the *HERS index reference design* for each dwelling unit prior to credit for onsite renewable electric generation.

**TABLE R406.5 MAXIMUM ENERGY RATING INDEX**

Clean Energy Application	Maximum HERS Index score <sup>a, b</sup>		
	New construction until June 30, 2024	New construction permits after July 1, 2024	Major-alterations, additions, or Change of use <sup>c</sup>
<i>Mixed-Fuel Building</i>	52	42	52
Solar Electric Generation	55	42	55
<i>All-Electric Building</i>	55	45	55
Solar Electric & <i>All-Electric Building</i>	58	45	58

<sup>a</sup> Maximum HERS rating prior to onsite renewable electric generation in accordance with Section R406.5

<sup>b</sup> The building shall meet the mandatory requirements of Section R406.2, and the building thermal envelope shall be greater than or equal to the levels of efficiency and SHGC in Table R402.1.2 or Table R402.1.4 of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code.

<sup>c</sup> Alterations, Additions or Change of use covered by Section R502.1.1 or R503.1.5 are subject to this maximum HERS rating.

**R406.5.1** Add Subsection R406.5.1, as follows:

**R406.5.1 Trade-off for Clean energy systems.** New construction following Section R406 or existing buildings and additions following IECC chapter 5[RE] may use clean energy trade-offs to increase the maximum allowable HERS rating for each unit separately served by any combination of the following:

1. Solar Electric Generation: Solar photovoltaic array rated at 4kW or higher shall offset 3 HERS points for Level 3 alterations, Change of use to Residential R-use categories or for fully attached additions.
2. *All-Electric Buildings* shall offset 3 HERS points for each dwelling unit in new construction, Level 3 alterations, change of use to Residential R-use categories and fully attached additions.

**R406.6** Revise Section R406.6 by replacing the reference to Section R406.6 in the first sentence with reference to Section R406.5.

**R407** Reserve this Section:

**SECTION R407** Reserved.

**R408.2.1** Revise the first sentence of Subsection R408.2.1 by replacing 95 percent with 90 percent to read as follows:

**R408.2.1 Enhanced envelope performance option.**

The total *building thermal envelope* UA, the sum of *U*-factor times assembly area, shall be less than or equal to 90 percent of the total UA resulting from multiplying the *U*-factors in Table R402.1.2 by the same assembly area as in the proposed building.

**R408.2.2** Delete option 1. of Subsection R408.2.2 and renumber option 2. As option 1., and option 3 as option 2.

**R408.2.3** Delete option 1. of Subsection R408.2.3 and renumber option 2. As option 1., and option 3 as option 2.

## CHAPTER 5 [RE] EXISTING BUILDINGS

### R502 ADDITIONS.

**R502.1** Revise Subsection R502.2 by replacing the third and fourth sentence as follows:

An *addition* shall be deemed to comply with this code where the *addition* alone complies, where the existing *building* and *addition* comply with this code as a single building, or where the *building* with the *addition* achieves a certified HERS rating in accordance with Table R406.5. *Additions* shall be in accordance with Section R502.1.1, R502.2 or R502.3.

**R502.1.1** Add Subsection R502.1.1 as follows:

**R502.1.1 Large additions.** *Additions* to a *dwelling unit* exceeding 1,000 sq ft or exceeding 100% of the existing *conditioned floor area*, shall require the *dwelling unit* to comply with the maximum HERS ratings for alterations, additions or change of use shown in TABLE R406.5.

**R502.2** Delete the Exceptions in Subsection R502.2.

**R502.3.1** Replace the Exception in Subsection R502.3.1 as follows:

**Exception:** New envelope assemblies in additions of less than 1,000 sq ft are exempt from the requirements of Section R402.4.1.2.

**R503.1.5** Add new subsection as follows:

**R503.1.5 Level 3 Alterations or Change of Use.** Alterations that meet the IEBC definition for *Level 3 Alteration*, exceeding 1,000 sq ft or exceeding 100% of the existing *conditioned floor area*, shall require the *dwelling unit* to comply with the maximum HERS ratings for alterations, additions or change of use shown in TABLE R406.5.

**R505.1** Delete the Exception in Section R505.1.

*Appendix RB* revise the Appendix RB title as follows:

## **Appendix RB: Solar-ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-family Dwellings, Low-rise Residential buildings and Townhouses (Adopted as amended)**

*RB101.1* Replace Section RB101.1 as follows:

**RB101.1 General.** These provisions shall be applicable for new construction, except additions under 1,000 sq ft.

**Exception:**

Buildings and *dwelling units* complying with Appendix RC Sections RC102 or RC105

*RB103.1* Replace Section RB103.1 as follows:

**RB103.1 General.** New R-use buildings including, but not limited to, detached one- and two-family dwellings, and townhouses with not less than 600 square feet (55.74 m<sup>2</sup>) of roof area oriented between 110 degrees and 270 degrees of true north shall comply with Sections RB103.2 through RB103.8.

**Exceptions:**

1. New residential buildings with a permanently installed on-site renewable energy system.
2. A building with a solar-ready zone that is shaded for more than 70 percent of daylight hours annually.

*RB103.3* Replace *International Fire Code* with *Massachusetts Fire Code* in Section RB103.3:

*Appendix RC revise the Appendix RC title and notes as follows:*

## APPENDIX RC

### MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL OPT-IN SPECIALIZED STRETCH CODE 2023

#### RESIDENTIAL LOW-RISE BUILDING PROVISIONS

*The provisions contained in this appendix together with referenced sections from the Stretch energy code constitute the Specialized opt-in code for residential low-rise buildings, and may be adopted by a city or town together with the Commercial Specialized code Appendix CC as their stretch energy code. When adopted by the local municipality, the provisions in this appendix are mandatory in combination with the IECC2021 with Massachusetts Stretch code amendments.*

---

**User Note:**

***About this appendix:** This appendix provides requirements for residential buildings. Where adopted by ordinance as a requirement, Section RC101 language is intended to replace Section R401.2.*

---

---

#### SECTION RC101 COMPLIANCE

*RC101 Replace Section RC101 as follows:*

**RC101.1 Compliance.** Existing residential buildings shall comply with Chapter 5 of the stretch energy code. New residential buildings shall be *Net Zero Buildings* and comply with Section R404.4 (EV wiring) and either Section R405 (Passive House) or Section R406 (HERS) in accordance with RC101.2, as well as one of the following Specialized code pathways:

1. Section RC102 Zero Energy pathway
2. Section RC103 All-Electric pathway
3. Sections RC104 and RC105 Mixed-Fuel pathway.

**RC101.2 Application.** New *dwelling units* over 4,000 square feet in *conditioned floor area* shall comply with either RC101.1 option 1. Zero Energy pathway or option 2. All-Electric pathway, and follow either Section RC102 or Section RC103.

R-use buildings with total *conditioned floor area* greater than 12,000 square feet shall comply with the provisions of Section R405 Passive House Building Certification Option, and any of the pathways in Section RC101.1.

**RC101.3 Definitions.**

**NET ZERO BUILDING.** A building which is consistent with achievement of MA 2050 net zero emissions, through a combination of highly energy efficient design together with being either a *Zero Energy Building*, or an *All-Electric Building*, or where fossil fuels are utilized, a building fully pre-wired for future electrification and that generates solar power on-site from the available *Potential Solar Zone Area*.

**ZERO ENERGY BUILDING.** A building which through a combination of highly energy efficiency design and onsite renewable energy generation is designed to result in net zero energy consumption over the course of a year as measured in MMBtus or KWh<sub>eq</sub>, on a site energy basis, excluding energy use for charging vehicles.

*RC102 Replace Section RC102 and Table RC102.2 as follows:*

**SECTION RC102 ZERO ENERGY PATHWAY**

**RC102.1 General.** New *zero energy buildings* shall comply with Section RC102.2 and demonstrate a certified HERS rating of 0 or less and comply with Section R406, or complete Design Certification to the Phius ZERO standard and comply with Section R405.

**RC102.2 Energy Rating Index Zero Energy Score.** Compliance with this section requires that the final HERS rated design be shown to have a score less than or equal to the values in Table RC102.2 when compared to the Energy Rating Index (ERI) reference design determined in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301 for both of the following:

1. ERI value not including on-site power production (OPP) calculated in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301.
2. ERI value including on-site power production calculated in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301 with the OPP in Equation 4.1.2 of RESNET/ICC 301.

**TABLE RC102.2 MAXIMUM ENERGY RATING INDEX<sup>a</sup>**

<b>FUEL USAGE</b>	<b>ENERGY RATING INDEX NOT INCLUDING OPP</b>	<b>ENERGY RATING INDEX INCLUDING OPP</b>
All Electric	45	0
Mixed-Fuel	42	0

a. The building shall meet the requirements of Table R406.2, and the building thermal envelope shall be greater than or equal to the levels of efficiency and SHGC in Table R402.1.2 or R402.1.3.

*RC103 Add Section RC103 and Table RC103.2 as follows:*

**SECTION RC103 ALL ELECTRIC PATHWAY**

**RC103.1 General.** New *all electric buildings* shall comply with Section R401.2.5 and either Section RC103.2 to demonstrate a certified final HERS rating of 45 or less, or Section R405 and be pre-certified to the PHI or Phius CORE standard.

All new buildings shall comply with Appendix RB solar ready provisions and Section R404.4 Wiring for Electric Vehicle Charging Spaces

**RC103.2 All Electric Energy Rating Index score.** Compliance with this section requires that the rated design be shown to have a certified HERS Index score less than or equal to the values in Table RC103.2 when compared to the Energy Rating Index (ERI) reference design determined in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301 and the following:

1. ERI value not including on-site power production (OPP) calculated in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301.

**TABLE RC103.2 MAXIMUM ENERGY RATING INDEX<sup>a</sup>**

<b>FUEL USAGE</b>	<b>ENERGY RATING INDEX NOT INCLUDING OPP</b>
All Electric	45

- a. The building shall meet the requirements of Table R406.2, and the building thermal envelope shall be greater than or equal to the levels of efficiency and SHGC in Table R402.1.2 or R402.1.3.

**RC104** Add Section RC104 and Table RC104.2 as follows:

**SECTION RC104 MIXED-FUEL PATHWAY**

**RC104.1 General.** This section establishes requirements for new *residential mixed-fuel buildings* with any space heating systems, water heating systems or appliances capable of using fossil fuels such as natural gas, heating oil or propane fuel. All buildings shall comply with either:

1. HERS certification: Sections RC104.2 through RC104.5 and RC105
2. Passive House pre-certification: Section R405 and Section RC104.3

**RC104.1.1 Biomass heating.** New *residential buildings* using *clean biomass heating systems* may comply with this section. Biomass heating that does not meet the performance standards of *clean biomass heating systems* shall not be permitted as a primary heating system.

**RC104.2 Energy Rating Index score.** Compliance with this section requires that the rated design be shown to have a HERS Index score less than or equal to the values in Table RC103.2 when compared to the Energy Rating Index (ERI) reference design determined in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301 for both of the following:

1. ERI value not including on-site power production (OPP) calculated in accordance with RESNET/ICC 301.

**TABLE RC104.2 MAXIMUM ENERGY RATING INDEX<sup>a</sup>**



<b>FUEL USAGE</b>	<b>HERS RATING INDEX NOT INCLUDING OPP</b>
Mixed-Fuel building	42

- a. The building shall meet the requirements of Table R406.2, and the building thermal envelope shall be greater than or equal to the levels of efficiency and SHGC in Table R402.1.2 or R402.1.3.

**RC104.3 Electric Readiness.** Any installed gas, fuel oil or propane furnaces, boilers, water heaters, dryers, or cooking equipment shall comply with the requirements of Sections RC104.3.1 through RC104.3.4. Capacity for the future electric circuits required in this section shall be included in the load calculations of the original installation of electric service to the building and each *dwelling unit*.

**RC104.3.1 Space Heating.** The building and each *dwelling unit* shall be provided with a designated exterior location(s) in accordance with the following:

1. Natural drainage for condensate from cooling equipment operation or a condensate drain located within 3 feet (914 mm), and
2. A dedicated branch circuit in compliance with IRC Section E3702.11 based on heat pump space heating equipment sized in accordance with R403.7 and terminating within 3 feet (914 mm) of the location with no obstructions. Both ends of the branch circuit shall be labeled “For Future Heat Pump Space Heater.”

**Exception:** Where an electrical circuit in compliance with IRC Section E3702.11 exists for space cooling equipment based on heat pump space heating equipment sized in accordance with R403.7.

**RC104.3.2 Household Ranges and Cooking Appliances.** An individual branch circuit outlet with a minimum rating of 250-volts, 40-amperes shall be installed within three feet of each gas or propane range or permanently installed cooking appliance.

**RC104.3.3 Household Clothes Dryers and Water Heaters.** An individual branch circuit outlet with a minimum rating of 250-volts, 30-amperes shall be installed within three feet of each gas or propane household clothes dryer and water heater.

**RC104.3.4 Water Heating Space.** Any permanently installed domestic hot water heating equipment shall be installed in an indoor space:

- A) with a minimum volume of 700 cubic feet (20,000 L) or the equivalent of one 16-inch (406 mm) by 24-inch (610 mm) grill to a heated space and one 8-inch (203 mm) duct of no more than 10 feet (3048 mm) in length for cool exhaust air.
- B) that is at least 3 feet (914 mm) by 3 feet (914 mm) by 7 feet (2134 mm) high surrounding or within 3 feet (914 mm) of the installed water heater.

## **RC104.4 On-site Renewable Energy**

New buildings shall comply with either RC104.4.1 or RC104.4.2. Buildings following HERS certification shall comply with the requirements of RC105 solar-roof zone. Buildings following the Passive House pre-certification shall comply with Appendix RB solar ready provisions.

**RC104.4.1 One- and two- family dwellings and townhouses.** One- and two- family dwellings and townhouses shall install an on-site renewable energy system with a nameplate DC power rating measured under standard test conditions, of no less than 4kW per dwelling unit.

**Exception:**

1. A building where the *potential solar zone area* is less than 300 square feet.

**RC104.4.2 Other Group R Occupancies.** Buildings in Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 shall install an on-site renewable energy system with a rated capacity of not less than 0.75 W/ft<sup>2</sup> multiplied by the gross conditioned floor area.

**Exceptions:**

1. A building with a permanently installed domestic solar water heating system with a minimum solar savings fraction of 0.5.
2. A building where the *potential solar zone area* is less than 300 square feet.

**RC104.5 Electric Vehicle Readiness.** All buildings shall comply with Section R404.4 Wiring for Electric Vehicle Charging Spaces

*RC105 Add Section RC105 as follows:*

**SECTION RC105 SOLAR-ROOF ZONE**

**RC105.1 General.** New detached one- and two-family dwellings, and townhouses with not less than 600 square feet (55.74 m<sup>2</sup>) of roof area oriented between 110 degrees and 270 degrees of true north shall comply with Sections RC105.2 through RC105.10.

**Exceptions:**

1. A building where all areas of the roof that would otherwise meet the requirements of Section RC105 are in full or partial shade for more than 70 percent of daylight hours annually.

**RC105.2 Construction document requirements for solar- zone.** Construction documents shall indicate the solar zone.

**RC105.3 Solar zone area.** The total solar zone area shall be not less than 300 square feet (27.87 m<sup>2</sup>) exclusive of mandatory access or setback areas as required by the *MA Fire Code*. New townhouses three stories or less in height above grade plane and with a total floor area less than or equal to 2,000 square feet (185.8 m<sup>2</sup>) per *dwelling unit* shall have a solar zone area of not less than 150 square feet (13.94 m<sup>2</sup>). The solar zone shall be composed of areas not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) in width and not less than 80 square feet (7.44 m<sup>2</sup>) exclusive of access or setback areas as required by the *MA Fire Code*.

**RC105.4 Obstructions.** Solar zones shall be free from obstructions, including but not limited to vents, chimneys, and roof-mounted equipment.

**RC105.5 Shading.** The solar zone shall be set back from any existing or new permanently affixed object on the building or site that is located south, east or west of the solar zone a distance not less than two times the object's height above the nearest point on the roof surface. Such objects include, but are not limited to, taller portions of the building itself, parapets, chimneys, antennas, signage, rooftop equipment, trees and roof plantings.

**RC105.6 Capped roof penetration sleeve.** A capped roof penetration sleeve shall be provided adjacent to a solar zone located on a roof slope of not greater than 1 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (8-percent slope). The capped roof penetration sleeve shall be sized to accommodate photovoltaic system conduit and shall have an inside diameter of not less than 1 1/4 inches (32 mm).

**RC105.7 Roof load documentation.** The structural design loads for roof dead load and roof live load shall be clearly indicated on the construction documents.

**RC105.8 Interconnection pathway.** Construction documents shall indicate pathways for routing of conduit or plumbing from the solar-ready zone to the electrical service panel or service hot water system.

**RC105.9 Electrical service reserved space.** The main electrical service panel shall have space to allow installation of a dual pole circuit breaker for solar electric installation.

**RC105.10 Construction documentation certificate.** A permanent certificate, indicating the solar PV system size in AC and DC KW and or solar thermal size in KW equivalent and other requirements of this section, shall be posted near the electrical distribution panel, water heater or other conspicuous location by the builder or registered design professional.

*Referenced Standards: Add the following Reference Standards:*

a. CSA Group

8501 East Pleasant Valley Road, Cleveland, OH 44131-5516  
CAN/CSA-C439-18. Laboratory methods of test for rating the performance of heat/energy-recovery ventilators.

b. AHRI Air-Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute

2311 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201  
1060-2018. Performance Rating of Air-To-Air Exchangers for Energy Recovery Ventilation Equipment.