NYC Buildings

September 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRESENTATION: 2020 NYCECC Residential Provisions

Admin, Forms, Inspections

Q1. Is the 2020 Code available for purchase?

A1. The 2020 NYCECC is available for purchase on ICC's website **https://shop.iccsafe.org/state-and-local-codes/2020-new-york-city-energy-conservation-code.html.** The City Store's operations are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q2. Where is the Energy Code resource section on the DOB web site?

A2. The resources are listed on the Energy Code Webpage on the Department's website, near the bottom of the page at **https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/codes/energy-conservation-code.page**.

Q3. If I am a design applicant or inspector for a project that was designed to the 2016 NYCECC, would we continue to use the older TR8 form when submitting reports to the DOB?

A3. Yes.

Q4. DOB released a sample tabular analysis spreadsheet relating to the 2011 Code. Will something similar be released for the 2020 Code?

A4. Please check the **Energy Code page** on the DOB website under the Reference Guides section there are sample tabular analysis spreadsheets that align with 2020 NYCECC provisions - one for the residential provisions, one for the commercial ECC provisions, and one for the ASHRAE provisions.

Q5. Can compliance be deferred to a later year?

A5. All projects must comply prior to approval. You can't get a permit unless the design complies.

Q6. If a job has to follow IA7, can 'No' be selected for IA6?

A5. Please check our **Supporting Documents How-to Guide** pages BE-7 and BE-8 for examples on when IA6 and IA7 should be selected 'Yes' and 'No.'

Q7. Aside from NYStretch, where are the future guidelines coming from?

A7. **Local Law 32 of 2018** dictates the future of the 2022 NYCECC and the 2025 NYCECC.

Envelope

Q1. Is thermal bridging required in wood-framed residential projects, specifically cantilevered balconies?

A1. Yes, for all buildings the thermal bridges must be documented in the drawings, even for wood-framed buildings.

Q2. Are thermal bridging requirements for renovations or new construction?

A2. The thermal bridging requirements should be called out for all new buildings, additions, and for alterations where areas of total wall assemblies are being altered. Refer to our **Supporting Documents How-to Guide** pages BE-9 through BE-11.

Q3. Does thermal bridging for an existing building where the envelope is not part of scope other than penetrations provided for ventilation of say, a mechanical room?

A3. Penetrations of electrical or HVAC equipment are not required to be included in the thermal bridge documentation.

Q4. When will air barrier testing be required?

A4. Air barrier, or blower door testing, has been required since the 2016 NYC Energy Code went into effect. It's required for ALL buildings regulated under the residential code provisions.

Q5. When is Air Barrier - Visual Inspection vs. Air Barrier- Testing typically required, i.e. existing buildings?

A5. The air barrier testing- or blower door testing- is required for new buildings and certain additions and alterations. See our **Supporting Documentation How to Guide** page BE-8 for information on when air barrier testing applies to additions and alterations.

HVAC

Q1. Must ducts penetrate the roof slab immediately when branching off the RTU?

A1. All ducts and air handlers are required to be located within conditioned space, therefore an RTU located on a roof would not comply with the residential provisions.

Q2. If ducts must be in conditioned space, how do we condition attics and crawl spaces?

A2. If ducts or air handlers are located within attics or crawl spaces, the attic or crawl space must be within the thermal envelope and conditioned. Otherwise, air handlers and ducts will need to be relocated into another space within the thermal envelope or use ductless systems.

Q3. Are the piping insulation requirements for renovations or new construction?

A3. The piping insulation requirements are for any newly installed piping that is part of the scope of work.

Sustainable Roofing Zone

Q1. If it was determined by analysis that the minimum 4kw solar system cannot be accommodated on a pitched roof, how does this impact the new code requirements?

A1. If a project can neither accommodate a green roof due to slope nor solar due to exposure limitations, the project cannot comply. This should be explained when submitting the LL92/94 form.

Q2. How is a sustainable roof installation tracked? As an architect, am I only required to identify the sustainable zone in the drawings?

A2. The project will not get sign-off if the installation is not complete.

Q3. Why aren't there any TR8 inspections for solar panels and green roofs (now required on all new construction?

A3. TR8 inspections are only for the Energy Code. The solar and green roof requirements are under the Building Code.