

# CHAPTER R2 DEFINITIONS

## SECTION ECC R201 GENERAL

**R201.1 Scope.** Unless stated otherwise, the words and terms provided in italics within this code shall have the meanings as defined in Section R202, C202 or as defined within the chapter or appendix where the word or term is found, except as provided in Sections R201.3 and R201.4.

**R201.2 Interchangeability.** Words and terms used in the present tense include the future; words in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

**R201.3 Terms defined in other codes.** Where italicized words and terms are not defined in this code but are defined in the New York City Construction Codes, New York City Fire Code, or the New York City Electrical Code shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those codes.

**R201.4 Terms not defined.** Where words and terms are not italicized or are italicized but not defined in this publication or in the publications listed in Section R201.3, such words and terms shall have the meanings defined in applicable referenced standards, statutes, regulations or shall have the ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

## SECTION ECC R202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**2025 NYS ASHRAE 90.1.** The New York State-specific version of the publication entitled “Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-rise Residential Buildings,” published by the International Code Council (ICC), and also known as “NYS ASHRAE 90.1-2025: New York State version of the Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.”

**2025 NYC ASHRAE 90.1.** New York City amendments to 2025 NYS ASHRAE 90.1.

**ABOVE-GRADE WALL.** A wall more than 50 percent above grade and enclosing conditioned space. This includes between-floor spandrels, peripheral edges of floors, roof and basement knee walls, dormer walls, gable end walls, walls enclosing a mansard roof and skylight shafts.

**ACCESS (TO).** That which enables a device, appliance or equipment to be reached by ready access or by a means that first requires the removal or movement of a panel or similar obstruction.

**ADDITION.** An extension or increase in the floor area, number of stories or height of a building or structure.

**AIR BARRIER.** One or more materials joined together in a continuous manner to restrict or prevent the passage of air through the *building thermal envelope* and its assemblies.

**ALTERATION.** Any construction, retrofit or renovation to an existing structure other than *repair* or *addition*. Also, a change in a building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system that involves an extension, addition or change to the arrangement, type or purpose of the original installation.

**APPROVED.** See Section 28-101.5 of the *Administrative Code*.

**APPROVED AGENCY.** See Section 28-101.5 of the *Administrative Code*.

**APPROVED SOURCE.** An independent person, firm or corporation approved by the building official, who is competent and experienced in the relevant subject matter and, where applicable, the application of engineering principles to materials, methods or system analyses.

**AREA WEIGHTED AVERAGE.** A mathematical technique for combining different amounts of various components, based on proportional relevance, into a single number. Weighted averaging may be used where there is more than one insulation or thermal resistance value for floor, wall, ceiling insulation, for fenestration in a building. As an example, the area weighted average for window fenestration U-factors equals  $(\text{Area 1} \times \text{U-factor 1}) + (\text{Area 2} \times \text{U-factor 2}) + \dots / \text{Total Area} = \text{weighted average fenestration U-factor}$ .

**AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION.** The governmental unit or agency responsible for administration and enforcement of the New York City Building Codes and NYCECC.

**AUTOMATIC.** Self-acting, operating by its own mechanism when actuated by some impersonal influence, as, for example, a change in current strength, pressure, temperature or mechanical configuration (see "Manual").

**AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF CONTROL.** A device capable of automatically turning loads off without manual intervention. Automatic shutoff controls include devices such as, but not limited to, occupancy sensors, vacancy sensors, door switches, programmable time switches (i.e., timeclocks), or count-down timers.

**BALANCED VENTILATION SYSTEM.** A ventilation system that simultaneously supplies outdoor air to and exhausts air from a space, where the mechanical supply airflow rate and the mechanical exhaust airflow rate are each within 10 percent of the average of the two airflow rates.

**BASEMENT OR CELLAR, ENERGY CODE.** A story that is not a story above grade plane. See the definition of "Story above grade plane."

**BASEMENT WALL.** See "Below-grade wall"

**BELOW-GRADE WALL.** A wall where 50 percent or more of the total surface area is below the adjoining grade and enclosing conditioned space.

**BIODIESEL BLEND.** A homogeneous mixture of hydrocarbon oils and mono alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids.

**BUILDING.** Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy or for affording shelter to persons, animals or property, including any mechanical systems, service water-heating systems and electric power and lighting systems located in the building or on the building site and supporting the building. The term "building" shall include, but shall not be limited to, factory manufactured homes (as defined in Section 372(8) of the Executive Law) and mobile homes (as defined in Section 372(13) of the Executive Law).

**BUILDING OFFICIAL.** The Commissioner of Buildings of the City of New York or his or her duly authorized representative. See Section 28-101.5 of the Administrative Code.

**BUILDING SITE.** A contiguous area of land that is under the ownership or control of one entity.

**BUILDING SYSTEM.** The term “building system” means a combination of central or terminal equipment or components or controls, accessories, interconnecting means, and terminal devices by which energy is transformed so as to perform a specific function, such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning, service water heating or illumination.

**BUILDING THERMAL ENVELOPE.** The exterior walls, floors, ceilings, slabs, roofs, fenestration and any other building element assemblies (above and below grade) that enclose conditioned space or provide a boundary between conditioned space and exempt or unconditioned space.

**CAVITY INSULATION.** Insulating material located between framing members.

**CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.** A document issued by the authority having jurisdiction certifying that the building, or portion thereof, complies with the approved construction documents that have been submitted to and approved by the authority having jurisdiction, indicating it to be in a condition suitable for occupancy.

**CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY.** A change in the use of a building or a portion of a building that results in any of the following:

1. A change of occupancy classification.
2. A change from one group to another group within an occupancy classification.
3. Any change in use within a group for which there is a change in the application of the requirements of this code.

**CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES.** Those visual aspects, physical elements and spaces that comprise the appearance of a historic building and that are significant to the historical, architectural, and cultural values, including the overall shape of the historic building or property, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment.

**CIRCULATING HOT WATER SYSTEM.** A specifically designed water distribution system where one or more pumps are operated in the service hot water piping to circulate heated water from the water-heating equipment to fixtures and back to the water-heating equipment.

**CLIMATE ZONE.** A geographical region based on climatic criteria as specified in this code.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING.** For this code, all buildings that are not included in the definition of “Residential building.”

**COMMISSIONER.** The commissioner of buildings of the city of New York, or his or her duly authorized representative. (See “Authority Having Jurisdiction” and “Building official”)

**COMMON AREAS.** All conditioned spaces within group R occupancy buildings that are not dwelling units or sleeping units.

**CONDITIONED FLOOR AREA.** The horizontal projection of the floors associated with the *conditioned space*.

**CONDITIONED SPACE.** An area, room or space that is enclosed within the building thermal envelope and that is directly or indirectly heated or cooled using fossil fuel or electricity as the energy source. Spaces are indirectly heated or cooled where they communicate through openings with conditioned spaces, where they are separated from conditioned spaces by uninsulated walls, floors or ceilings, or where they contain uninsulated ducts, piping or other sources of heating or cooling using fossil fuel or electricity.

**CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.** Written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location and physical characteristics of the elements of a project necessary for obtaining a building permit.

**CONTINUOUS AIR BARRIER.** A combination of materials and assemblies that restrict or prevent the passage of air through the *building thermal envelope*.

**CONTINUOUS INSULATION (ci).** Insulating material that is continuous across all structural members without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings. It is installed on the interior or exterior, or is integral to any opaque surface, of the building thermal envelope.

**CONTINUOUS PILOT.** A pilot which, once placed in operation, is intended to remain ignited continuously until it is manually interrupted.

**CRAWL SPACE WALL.** The opaque portion of a wall that encloses a crawl space and is partially or totally below grade.

**CURTAIN WALL.** Fenestration products used to create an external nonload-bearing wall that is designed to separate the exterior and interior environments.

**DAMPER.** A manually or automatically controlled device to regulate draft or the rate of flow of air or combustion gases.

**DEMAND RECIRCULATION WATER SYSTEM.** A water distribution system where one or more pumps prime the service hot water piping with heated water upon demand for hot water.

**DEMAND RESPONSE SIGNAL.** A signal that indicates a price or a request to modify electricity consumption for a limited time period.

**DEMAND RESPONSIVE CONTROL.** A control capable of receiving and automatically responding to a demand response signal.

**DIMMER.** A control device that is capable of continuously varying the light output and energy use of light sources.

**DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EFFICIENCY (DSE).** A system efficiency factor that adjusts for the energy losses associated with delivery of energy from the equipment to the source of the load.

**DUCT.** A tube or conduit utilized for conveying air. The air passages of self-contained systems are not to be construed as air ducts.

**DUCT SYSTEM.** A system that consists of space conditioning equipment and ductwork, and includes any apparatus installed in connection therewith.

**DUCTWORK.** The assemblies of connected ducts, plenums, boots, fittings, dampers, supply registers, return grilles, and filter grilles through which air is supplied to or returned from the space to be heated, cooled, or ventilated. Supply ductwork delivers air to the spaces from the space conditioning equipment. Return ductwork conveys air from the spaces back to the space conditioning equipment. Ventilation ductwork conveys air to or from any space.

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EMITTANCE.** The ratio of the radiant heat flux emitted by a specimen measured on a scale from 0 to 1, where a value of 1 indicates perfect release of thermal radiation.

**EMBODIED CARBON.** The total greenhouse gas emissions associated with the life cycle of building materials and products, excluding operational emissions from the building itself.

**ENCLOSED REFLECTIVE AIRSPACE.** An unventilated cavity with at least one low-emittance surface adjacent to an empty air space bounded on all sides by building components.

**ENERGY ANALYSIS.** A method for estimating the annual energy use of the *proposed design* and *standard reference design* based on estimates of energy use.

**ENERGY CODE.** The *New York City Energy Conservation Code*.

**ENERGY COST.** The total estimated annual cost for purchased energy for the building functions regulated by this code, including applicable demand charges.

**ENERGY RATING INDEX (ERI).** A numerical integer value that represents the relative energy performance of a rated design or constructed dwelling unit as compared with the energy performance of the ERI Reference Design, where an ERI value of 100 represents the energy performance of the ERI Reference Design and an ERI value of 0 represents a rated design or constructed dwelling unit with zero net energy performance.

**ENERGY SIMULATION TOOL.** An approved software program or calculation-based methodology that projects the annual energy use of a building.

**ERI REFERENCE DESIGN.** A version of the rated design that meets the minimum requirements of the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code.

**EXISTING BUILDING.** A building that is legally occupied and/or for which a certificate of occupancy authorizing its use(s) has been issued, without regard to the date on which such legal occupancy began or the date on which such certificate of occupancy was issued.

**EXTERIOR WALL.** Walls including both above-grade walls and *basement walls*.

**FENESTRATION.** Products classified as either *vertical fenestration* or *skylights*.

**Skylights.** Glass or other transparent or translucent glazing material installed at a slope of less than 60 degrees (1.05 rad) from horizontal including unit skylights, tubular daylighting devices, and glazing materials in solariums, sunrooms, roofs and sloped walls.

**Vertical fenestration.** Windows that are fixed or operable, doors that are more than half glazed, glazed block and combination opaque and glazed doors composed of glass or other transparent or translucent glazing materials and installed at a slope of not less than 60 degrees (1.05 rad) from horizontal.

**FENESTRATION PRODUCT, SITE-BUILT.** A fenestration designed to be made up of field-glazed or field-assembled units using specific factory cut or otherwise factory-formed framing and glazing units. Examples of site-built fenestration include storefront systems, curtain walls and atrium roof systems.

**F-FACTOR (THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE).** The perimeter heat loss factor for slab-on-grade floors (Btu/h × ft × °F) [W/(m × K)].

**FUEL GAS.** A natural gas, manufactured gas, liquefied petroleum gas or a mixture of these.

**FUEL OIL.** Kerosene or any hydrocarbon oil having a flash point not less than 100°F (38°C).

**GRADE PLANE, ENERGY.** A reference plane representing the average of the finished ground level adjoining the building at all exterior walls. Where the finished ground level slopes away from the exterior walls, the reference plane is established by the lowest points within the area between the building and the lot line or, where the lot line is more than 6 feet (1829 mm) from the building, between the structure and a point 6 feet (1829 mm) from the building.

**HEAT EXCHANGER.** A device that transfers heat from one medium to another.

**HEATED SLAB.** Slab-on-grade construction in which the heating elements, hydronic tubing, or hot air distribution system is in contact with, or placed within or under, the slab.

**HISTORIC BUILDING.** An existing building or structure that is any of the following:

1. Listed, or certified as eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or in the New York State Register of Historic Places.
2. Designated as historic under an applicable state or local law.
3. Certified as a contributing resource within a National Register-listed, state-designated or locally designated historic district.

**INFILTRATION.** The uncontrolled inward air leakage into a building caused by the pressure effects of wind or the effect of differences in the indoor and outdoor air density or both.

**INSULATED SIDING.** A type of continuous insulation with manufacturer-installed insulating material as an integral part of the cladding product having an R-value of not less than R-2.

**INTERMITTENT IGNITION.** Type of ignition that is energized when an appliance is called on to operate and that remains continuously energized during each period of main burner operation and where the ignition is deenergized when the main burner operating cycle is completed.

**INTERRUPTED IGNITION.** Type of ignition that is energized prior to the admission of fuel to the main burner and that is deenergized when the main flame is established.

**KNEE WALL.** An above-grade wall assembly, or wall defined by vertical truss members, of any height that separates conditioned space from unconditioned buffer spaces, such as ventilated attics and entry porch roofs, rather than ambient outdoors.

**LABELED.** See Section 28-101.5 of the Administrative Code.

**LEAD ENERGY PROFESSIONAL.** The registered design professional who signs and seals the energy analysis for an entire project. Such individual may be the same registered design professional who signs and seals the design drawings for the same project.

**LIQUID FUEL.** A fuel oil or biodiesel blend.

**LISTED.** See Section 28-101.5 of the Administrative Code.

**LIVING SPACE.** Space within a dwelling unit utilized for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, bathing, washing and sanitation purposes.

**LOW SLOPE.** See “Roof, low slope.”

**MANUAL.** Capable of being operated by personal intervention (see “Automatic”).

**OCCUPANT SENSOR CONTROL.** An automatic control device that detects the presence or absence of people within an area and causes lighting, equipment or appliances to be regulated accordingly.

**OCCUPIABLE SPACE.** An enclosed space intended for human activities, excluding those spaces intended primarily for other purposes, such as storage rooms and equipment rooms, that are only intended to be occupied occasionally and for short periods of time.

**ON-DEMAND PILOT.** A pilot that, once placed into operation, is intended to remain ignited for a predetermined period of time following an automatic or manual operation of the main burner gas valve, after which the pilot is automatically extinguished when no automatic or manual operation of the main burner gas valve occurs during the predetermined period of time.

**ON-SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY.** Energy from renewable energy resources harvested at the building site.

**OPAQUE DOOR.** A door that is not less than 50-percent opaque in surface area.

**PLENUM.** An enclosed portion of the building structure, other than an occupiable space being conditioned, that is designed to allow air movement and thereby serve as part of the supply or return ductwork.

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION.** See Section 28-101.5 of the *Administrative Code*.

**PROJECT.** A design and construction undertaking comprised of work related to one or more buildings and the site improvements. A project is represented by one or more plan/work applications, including construction documents compiled in accordance with Section 107 of the New York City Building Code, that relate either to the construction of a new building or buildings or to the demolition or alteration of an existing building or buildings. Applications for a project may have different registered design professionals and different job numbers, and may result in the issuance of one or more permits.

**PROPOSED DESIGN.** A description of the proposed dwelling unit or sleeping unit used to estimate annual energy use for determining compliance based on simulated building performance.

**RADIANT BARRIER.** A material having a low emittance surface of 0.1 or less installed in building assemblies.

**RATED DESIGN.** A description of the proposed dwelling unit or sleeping unit used to determine the energy rating index.

**READY ACCESS (TO).** That which enables a device, appliance or equipment to be directly reached without requiring the removal or movement of any panel or similar obstruction.

**REFLECTIVE INSULATION.** A material with a surface emittance of 0.1 or less in an assembly consisting of one or more enclosed reflective airspaces.

**REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL.** An individual who is a licensed and registered architect (RA) in accordance with Article 147 of the New York State Education Law or a licensed and registered professional engineer (PE) in accordance with Article 145 of the New York State Education Law.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC).** A market-based instrument that represents and conveys the environmental attributes of 1 megawatt hour of renewable electricity generation and could be sold separately from the underlying physical electricity associated with renewable energy resources; also known as an energy attribute certificate (EAC).

**RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.** Energy derived from solar radiation, wind, waves, tides, landfill gas, biogas, biomass or extracted from hot fluid or steam heated within the earth.

**REPAIR.** The reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing building for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage.

**REROOFING.** The process of recovering or replacing an existing roof covering. See "Roof recover" and "Roof replacement."

**RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.** For this code, includes the following:

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses having not more than three stories above grade plane.
2. Buildings that are classified in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Building Code of New York State as Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less in height above grade plane.
3. Factory manufactured homes (as defined in Section 372(8) of the New York State Executive Law).

**ROOF ASSEMBLY.** A system designed to provide weather protection and resistance to design loads. The system consists of a roof covering and roof deck or a single component serving as both the roof covering and the roof deck. A roof assembly includes the roof covering, underlayment and roof deck and can also include a thermal barrier, an ignition barrier, insulation or a vapor retarder.

**ROOF, LOW SLOPE.** A roof slope less than 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (17 percent slope).

**ROOF RECOVER.** The process of installing an additional roof covering over an existing roof covering without removing the existing roof covering.

**ROOF REPAIR.** Reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purposes of its maintenance.

**ROOF REPLACEMENT.** An alteration that includes the removal of any existing layer of roof material and installing new replacement material(s) above the existing roof deck.

**ROOF, STEEP SLOPE.** A roof slope greater than or equal to 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (17 percent slope).

**R-VALUE (THERMAL RESISTANCE).** The inverse of the time rate of heat flow through a body from one of its bounding surfaces to the other surface for a unit temperature difference between the two surfaces, under steady state conditions, per unit area ( $h \times ft^2 \times \text{°F/Btu}$ ) [ $m^2 \times K/W$ ].

**SERVICE WATER HEATING.** Supply of hot water for purposes other than comfort heating.

**SIMULATED BUILDING PERFORMANCE.** A process in which the proposed building design is compared to a standard reference design for the purposes of estimating relative energy use to determine code compliance.

**SLEEPING UNIT.** A single unit that provides rooms or spaces for one or more persons, includes permanent provisions for sleeping and can include provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are part of a dwelling unit are not sleeping units.

**SOLAR HEAT GAIN COEFFICIENT (SHGC).** The ratio of the solar heat gain entering the space through the fenestration assembly to the incident solar radiation. Solar heat gain includes directly transmitted solar heat and absorbed solar radiation that is then re-radiated, conducted or transferred by convection into the space.

**SOLAR-READY ZONE.** A section or sections of the roof or building overhang designated and reserved for the future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system.

**SPACE CONDITIONING.** The treatment of air so as to control the temperature, humidity, filtration or distribution of the air to meet the requirements of a conditioned space.

**SPACE CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT.** The heat exchangers, air-handling units, filter boxes and any apparatus installed in connection therewith used to provide space conditioning.

**STANDARD REFERENCE DESIGN.** A version of the proposed design that meets the minimum requirements of this code and is used to determine the maximum annual energy use requirement for compliance based on simulated building performance.

**STEEP SLOPE.** See “Roof, steep slope.”

**STORY.** The portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above. See the definitions of “Basement or Cellar, Energy and “Grade plane, Energy.” A story is measured as the vertical distance from top to top of two successive tiers of beams or finished floor surfaces and, for the topmost story, from the top of the floor finish to the top of the ceiling joists or, where there is not a ceiling, to the top of the roof rafters.

**STORY ABOVE GRADE PLANE.** Any story having its finished floor surface entirely above grade plane, or in which the finished surface of the floor next above is:

1. More than 6 feet (1829 mm) above average grade plane; or
2. More than 12 feet (3658 mm) above the finished ground level at any point.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT.** Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alteration, addition or other improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or is more than 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement. The cost of improvements to a building to correct health, sanitary or safety code violations issued by the building official does not need to be included in the calculation of market value.

**SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION.** A building permit application that, in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, includes sufficient information and documentation required by the stricter of either the authority having jurisdiction's Code Enforcement Program or the requirements set forth in 19 NYCRR Part 1203, such that the authority having jurisdiction can examine the application and make a determination as to whether the proposed work is in conformance with the requirements of the Uniform Code and Energy Code.

**SUNROOM.** A one-story structure attached to a dwelling with a glazing area in excess of 40 percent of the gross area of the structure's exterior walls and roof.

**TESTING UNIT ENCLOSURE AREA.** The sum of the area of all ceiling, floors, and side walls separating a dwelling unit's or sleeping unit's conditioned space from the exterior or from adjacent conditioned or unconditioned spaces. Wall height shall be measured from the finished floor of the dwelling unit or sleeping unit to the underside of the floor above.

**THERMAL BRIDGES.** A structural element or interface of elements that has higher thermal conductivity than the surrounding building thermal envelope, which creates a path of decreased resistance for heat transfer.

**CLEAR FIELD THERMAL BRIDGE.** Elements of a building envelope assembly creating paths of decreased resistance for heat transfer which repeat at regular intervals, such as metal or wood studs, girts, and purlins.

**CHI-FACTOR ( $\chi$ -FACTOR).** The heat loss factor for a single thermal bridge characterized as a point element of a building thermal envelope (Btu/h x °F) [W/K].

**LINEAR THERMAL BRIDGE:** a length-based element associated with horizontal, vertical, or diagonal elements that penetrates the insulation in the building thermal envelope and with a length measured along an exterior surface of the building thermal envelope, such as balconies, parapet-, roof-, floor-, or fenestration intersections, and shelf angles.

**POINT THERMAL BRIDGE.** An element that penetrates the insulation in the building thermal envelope, such as columns or beams passing through envelope assemblies, attachments, anchors, and connections not defined as clear field- or linear thermal bridges. The cross-sectional area is measured at the external surface of the outermost penetrated insulation layer.

**PSI-FACTOR ( $\psi$ -FACTOR).** The heat loss factor per unit length of a thermal bridge characterized as a linear element of a building thermal envelope (Btu/h x ft x °F) [W/(m x K)].

**THERMAL DISTRIBUTION EFFICIENCY (TDE).** The resistance to changes in air heat as air is conveyed through a distance of air duct. TDE is a heat loss calculation evaluating the difference in the heat of the air between the air duct inlet and outlet caused by differences in temperatures between the air in the duct and the duct material. TDE is expressed as a percent difference between the inlet and outlet heat in the duct.

**THERMAL ISOLATION.** Physical and space conditioning separation from conditioned spaces. The conditioned spaces shall be controlled as separate zones for heating and cooling or conditioned by separate equipment.

**THERMOSTAT.** An automatic control device used to maintain temperature at a fixed or adjustable setpoint.

**TOWNHOUSE, OR TOWNHOUSE UNIT.** A single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit:

1. Extends from the foundation to roof.
2. Has open space on at least two sides.
3. Has a separate means of egress.

**U-FACTOR (THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE).** The coefficient of heat transmission (air to air) through a building component or assembly, equal to the time rate of heat flow per unit area and unit temperature difference between the warm side and cold side air films (Btu/h × ft<sup>2</sup> × °F) [W/(m<sup>2</sup> × K)].

**VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**VENTILATION AIR.** That portion of supply air that comes from outside (outdoors) plus any recirculated air that has been treated to maintain the desired quality of air within a designated space.

**VISIBLE TRANSMITTANCE (VT).** The ratio of visible light entering the space through the fenestration product assembly to the incident visible light. Visible Transmittance includes the effects of glazing material and frame and is expressed as a number between 0 and 1.

**WHOLE HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM.** An exhaust system, supply system, or combination thereof that is designed to mechanically exchange indoor air with outdoor air when operating continuously or through a programmed intermittent schedule to satisfy the whole house ventilation rates.

**WORK AREA.** That portion or portions of a building consisting of all reconfigured spaces as indicated on the construction documents. Work area excludes other portions of the building where incidental work entailed by the intended work must be performed and portions of the building where work not initially intended by the owner is specifically required by this code.

**ZONE.** A space or group of spaces within a building with heating or cooling requirements that are sufficiently similar so that desired conditions can be maintained throughout using a single controlling device.