

1 RCNY §103-07

CHAPTER 100 Subchapter C Maintenance of Buildings

§103-07 Energy audits and retro-commissioning of base building systems

(a) **Definitions.** As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

ACCEPTABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY REPORT (EER). An acceptable EER is a technical energy audit and retro-commissioning report filed by an energy auditor and retro-commissioning agent that meets the requirements of the Administrative Code and this section, as determined by the department.

COMMON AREA. Common area is an area that is not considered a tenant area. Common area typically includes but is not limited to non-occupiable spaces such as egress corridors, egress stairwells, elevators, lobbies, public restrooms, janitorial closets, shared amenities, storage, mechanical or electrical rooms containing equipment that is owned, maintained and operated by the building owner.

MAJOR EQUIPMENT, SUB-EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS. Major equipment is a base building system listed in Table 1:

Table 1 – Major Equipment

	Group R occupancies	All occupancies other than Group R
Boilers	All boilers with rated input capacity greater than or equal to 300,000 BTU/h	
Chillers	All chillers	All chillers
Cooling Towers and dry coolers	All cooling towers And dry coolers	All cooling towers and dry coolers
Air handling units (AHU), fan coil units (FCU), heat recovery units (HRU), heating and ventilation units (H&V), packaged and split air conditioning units	Capacity greater than or equal to 2,500 CFMs	Capacity greater than or equal to 5,000 CFMs
HVAC motors, fans and pumps	Greater than or equal to 2.5HP	Greater than or equal to 5 HP
Heat exchangers	Serving 10,000 square feet or more	
Domestic hot water heaters (Storage and instantaneous)	All water heaters with rated input capacity greater than 155,000 Btu/h	
Domestic water pumps	Greater than or equal to 10 HP	

Sub-equipment and components of the associated major equipment are listed in Table 2:

Table 2 – Sub-Equipment and Components of the Major Equipment

Sub-equipment and components		
Existing cabinets/casing	Valves	Grilles
Terminal and induction units	Actuators	Filters
Access doors	Dampers	Air outlets
Control panels	Chilled or hot water coils	Fans and motors

Controls and sensors	Steam or DX coils	VFDs
Interlocks	Belts	Ductwork
Electrical/mechanical switches	VAV and fan powered boxes	Piping
Operating and modulating pressure controls	Steam traps	

NON-COMMON OWNER AREA. A non-common owner area is an occupiable space, as defined in section 202 of the Building Code, that: (1) is not a non-common tenant area; and (2) is maintained by and accessible to the building owner.

NON-COMMON TENANT AREA. A non-common tenant area is an area of a dwelling unit or other space leased or intended to be leased.

(b) References. Energy audit: Article 308 of Chapter 3 of Title 28 of the Administrative Code (Article 308); American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers Inc. (“ASHRAE”) Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits – ASHRAE 211-2018 (American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved/Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) co-sponsored).

Retro-commissioning: Article 308; National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB) Standard S120-2016 – Technical Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings (ANSI approved).

(c) Energy auditor and retro-commissioning agent qualifications.

(1) The energy auditor performing or supervising the audit may not be on the staff of the building being audited. The energy auditor must be a registered design professional, and the energy auditor or an individual under the direct supervision of the energy auditor must be one of the following:

- (i) a Certified Energy Manager or Certified Energy Auditor, certified by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE);
- (ii) a High-Performance Building Design Professional certified by ASHRAE;
- (iii) a Building Energy Assessment Professional certified by ASHRAE;
- (iv) for audits of multifamily residential buildings only, a Multifamily Building Analyst, certified by the Building Performance Institute; or
- (v) an Energy Management Professional certified by the Energy Management Association.

(2) The retro-commissioning agent performing or supervising the retro-commissioning may not be on the staff of the building being retro-commissioned. The retro-commissioning agent must be a registered design professional, a certified Refrigerating System Operating Engineer, or a licensed High Pressure Boiler Operating Engineer. In addition, the retro-commissioning agent or an individual under the direct supervision of the retro-commissioning agent must be one of the following:

- (i) a Certified Commissioning Professional certified by the Building Commissioning Association;
- (ii) a Certified Building Commissioning Professional certified by the AEE;
- (iii) an Existing Building Commissioning Professional as certified by the AEE;
- (iv) a Commissioning Process Management Professional certified by ASHRAE;
- (v) an Accredited Commissioning Process Authority Professional approved by the University of Wisconsin;
- (vi) a Certified Commissioning Authority certified by the Associated Air Balance Council Commissioning Group;
- (vii) a Building Commissioning Professional certified by ASHRAE;

(viii) a Commissioning Process Professional certified by NEBB;

(ix) a Technical Retro-Commissioning Certified Professional certified by NEBB; or

(x) a Building Systems Commissioning Professional certified by NEBB

(3) Registrations. An energy auditor or a retro-commissioning agent who is currently registered with the department and is not a registered design professional may continue to submit the EER as an approved agent until the expiration of the registration or December 31, 2021, whichever occurs first. No registration shall be renewed once expired. The provisions of sections 28-401.6, 28-401.8 and 28-401.19 of the Administrative Code apply to such registered energy auditors and retro-commissioning agents.

(d) **Energy audit procedures.** An energy audit must be performed on the base building systems of a covered building prior to filing an EER. The scope of such energy audit must be at a minimum equivalent to the procedures, requirements, and reporting described for a Level 2 energy audit in accordance with ANSI/ASHRAE/ACCA Standard 211-2018 – Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits, published by ASHRAE.

(e) **Contents of the energy audit report.** An audit report must be prepared for the owner that is at a minimum equivalent to the report prescribed by ANSI/ASHRAE/ACCA Standard 211-2018, or any subsequent, edition – Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits, published by ASHRAE, and must include the information required by §28-308.2 of the Administrative Code. The table of contents of the audit report must include all of the sections provided in the Level 2 energy audit report outline in Informative Annex D of standard 211-2018, or subsequent edition. Such report must be retained by the owner in accordance with subdivision (j) of this section. The energy auditor must certify that the audit satisfies the requirements of §28-308.2 of the Administrative Code and this section. The energy audit report and certification form must be uploaded through the web-based Energy Audit template tool.

(f) **Retro-commissioning procedures.** The base building system components subject to retro-commissioning as per §28-308.3 of the Administrative Code must be assessed in accordance with NEBB Standard S120-2016, or any subsequent, edition – Technical Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings and §28-308.3 of the Administrative Code, as applicable to the requirements of this section, including the technical retro-commissioning process, the testing protocols, master list of findings and repairs and deficiencies corrected, deliverables and documentation. Deficiencies found in the assessment must be corrected, prior to submission of the EER, as required by this subdivision.

The Current Facility Requirements (CFR) will be the following for all space uses served by a base building system, unless the agent provides acceptable rationale demonstrating otherwise. Acceptable rationale must be documented and can include needs of a space use as defined by owner interviews, tenant leasing requirements, and tenant controlled set points and setbacks. The CFR must be justified by references including ASHRAE fundamentals, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and equipment, and applications handbooks, ANSI references, Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) lighting handbook, New York City Housing Maintenance Code (HMC), New York City Building Code (BC), approved design drawings and/or manufacturer’s guidelines. Acceptable rationale does not include needs as a result of deficient equipment or historic operations.

- Winter indoor space temperatures should be between 68 and 76 degrees F and summer indoor space temperatures should be between 72 and 80 degrees F during occupied periods of time for non-common tenant areas (without individual HVAC controls) and non-common owner areas of the facility.
- Operating steam system pressure (cut-out setting) should not be greater than four psig for low pressure steam heated buildings. For any building requiring higher operating steam pressure, substantial documentation, including design/as-built documents indicating design operating steam pressure shall be submitted to, and accepted by the department.
- Domestic hot water is stored and delivered per the HMC for Group R occupancies and per the New York City Plumbing Code requirements for all other occupancies.
- Minimum outside air requirements are met in areas with mechanical supply ventilation per the design and/or New York City Mechanical Code effective at the time of installation of the major equipment.

- Lighting levels (foot candles) are in accordance with the BC and HMC for all egress lighting, including common laundry rooms, and in accordance with IES lighting handbook for all other space use types in the common areas and non-common owner areas.
- Daily, weekly, and seasonal operating hours, including occupied and non-occupied hours, of the building and base building systems.
- A description of the current space use of base building areas.
- A description of any changes in space use that impact the energy consumption of the heating, cooling, ventilation, or domestic hot water systems.

Retro-commissioning agent must consider the following to develop, document, and define the CFR:

- Age of facility.
 - Interviews with owners, facility manager, and occupants.
 - Available design or as-built drawings.
 - Lease terms with regard to energy usage.
- (1) HVAC and service water equipment.
- (i) Pre-testing verification. An inspection, documented through pre-test verification forms, of all major equipment and its sub-equipment and components located in all common areas, at least 20% of such equipment located in non-common owner areas and at least 10% of such equipment located in accessible non-common tenant areas must be conducted to check for cleanliness and proper operation. Such inspection ensures that the system is able to be tested. Where major equipment, sub-equipment, and components are found to require cleaning, repair or correction for proper operation, correct all deficiencies prior conducting functional performance testing and document the post-correction condition in the retro-commissioning report under issues log.
 - (ii) Functional performance testing. Performance verification through functional performance testing for all major equipment and its sub-equipment and components located in the common areas, at least 20% of such equipment located in the non-common owner areas and at least 10% of such equipment located in the non-common tenant areas must be performed during normal operating conditions. Functional performance testing includes but is not limited to all controls, actuation, automation and sequencing functions impacting energy consumption of the major equipment such as control sequence of operation, economizer function, staging and load distribution, automatic reset function and integrated system level testing. The functional performance test process and results must be reported on forms acceptable to the department. Proper function must be determined from field observation and may include interviews with facility staff, trend analysis, or dedicated data loggers. Where equipment requires correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report. Completed functional performance test forms must be included in the retro-commissioning report.
 - (iii) Temperature and pressure setpoints and setbacks. All major equipment and its sub-equipment and components located in all common areas, at least 20% of such equipment located in the non-common owner areas and at least 10% of such equipment located in the non-common tenant areas must be tested to verify that such system set points are appropriate to the CFR and setbacks operate during unoccupied periods as stated by the CFR. Where set points and setbacks require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.
 - (iv) Sensors. Sensors include the following in Table 3 below, if present and serving major equipment(s).

Table 3 – Critical and Monitoring Sensors Associated with Major Equipment

AHU/FCU/H&V/package and Split AC units	Boiler	Cooling Tower	Chiller
OA temp	OA temp	OA temp (Dry bulb and wet bulb)	OA temp
Supply and return air temp	Return temp	Inlet water temp	Evap. water temp in
Mixed air temp	Supply temp	Outlet water temp	Evap. water temp out
Supply and return air flow rate	System pressures (Steam Boilers)	Flow rate	Cond water temp in
Static pressure	Indoor zone temp	Humidity	Cond water temp out
Zone temp	-	Supply and return temp	Zone temp and system pressures

- (A) All critical sensors that are part of a control sequence and have direct control of major equipment located in the common area must be tested for proper calibration. Acceptable and allowable tolerances for proper calibration must be supported by a reference acceptable to industry or manufacturer’s guidelines. Where sensors require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.
- (B) For monitoring sensors that are not part of a control sequence, a sample set constituting at least 10% of all monitoring sensors within the common area must be tested for proper calibration. Acceptable and allowable tolerances for proper calibration must be supported by a reference acceptable to industry or manufacturer’s guidelines. If more than 80% of the sample set is found to be satisfactory, then no further sampling is required for the purposes of the retro-commissioning report. If less than 80% of the sample set is found to be satisfactory, then all monitoring sensors must be tested for proper calibration. Where sensors require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.
- (v) Simultaneous heating and cooling. All major equipment air handling units located in the common areas and at least 20% of the major equipment air handling units in the non-common owner areas must be tested to verify that simultaneous heating and cooling is not occurring, unless intended. Where unintended simultaneous cooling and heating is occurring, the condition must be corrected and post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.
- (vi) Boilers tuned for optimal efficiency. A combustion efficiency test must be conducted for each low pressure major equipment boiler (includes H-stamped domestic hot water heater). Each boiler must be tuned and cleaned to perform as per manufacturer’s guidelines for combustion efficiency (%), oxygen (%), carbon dioxide (%), ambient air temperature (degrees F), stack temperature (flue gas temp minus combustion air temp, degrees F), carbon monoxide (ppm), and smoke number, as applicable. If manufacturer’s guidelines are not available, cleaning/tuning and combustion efficiency testing must be conducted to meet the requirements in Table 4 below at high and low fire rates for all fuel types. Results (Actual print-outs directly obtained from the calibrated combustion analyzer) of the combustion efficiency test must be included in the retro-commissioning report.

Table 4 – Acceptable Range for Combustion Efficiency Test Results

	High fire			Low fire	
	Residential/Commercial gas fired		Commercial oil fired	Commercial gas fired	Commercial oil fired
	Atmospheric and fan assist boilers	Power burners	Power burners	Power burners	Power burners

Oxygen %	6% to 9%	3% to 6%	3% to 6%	5% to 8%	6% to 10%
Stack temperature deg. F	325 to 450	350 to 550	350 to 500	300 to 380	300 to 400
Carbon monoxide (ppm) air free	< 50 ppm	< 100 ppm	< 100 ppm	< 100 ppm	< 100 ppm
Smoke number	-	-	-	Zero or per manufacturer requirements	Zero or per manufacturer requirements

(vii) Manual override remediation. In all cases where the major equipment has the capability of being operated automatically, the retro-commissioning agent must confirm that major equipment is not being manually operated. Where a manual override condition exists, it must be noted as a deficiency to be corrected, and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(viii) Leaks. Major equipment and its sub-equipment and components in all common areas, at least 20% of such equipment located in non-common owner areas and at least 10% of such equipment located in the accessible non-common tenant areas must be visually checked for water, steam, oil, or air leaks. These checks do not include duct tightness testing. All leaks identified must be repaired, and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(2) HVAC and service water distribution.

(i) Pipe insulation. All exposed (uninsulated and/or with deteriorated insulation) pipes three inches or greater in diameter, pipe fittings, and associated valves located in the common areas, at least 20% of such equipment located in non-common owner areas and at least 10% of such equipment located in the non-common tenant areas, containing steam or fluid outside the operating temperature range of 60 degrees F and 105 degrees F must be thermally insulated in accordance with the New York City Energy Conservation Code in effect at the time of installation, and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

Exception: Existing insulation with asbestos containing materials is not required to be removed or replaced for the purposes of the retro-commissioning report. The condition must be noted on the retro-commissioning report and correction of such condition is not required.

(ii) High pressure steam traps. All high pressure steam traps operating above 15 PSI of pressure must be tested using ultrasonic leak detection to verify proper operations or replaced. All steam traps found to be functioning improperly must be replaced, repaired or rebuilt, and the condition must be noted on the retro-commissioning report.

(iii) One-pipe steam distribution.

(A) All one-pipe steam distribution systems serving the major equipment must have steam traveling from the steam header to the end of each main loop vent(s) at an average of less than five minutes. Retro-commissioning agents must conduct the steam and travel time test using temperature data loggers (temperature sensors/thermocouples) that provide an output of timestamps and surface temperature readings. At the beginning of each test, the temperature at the end of each main loop vent must be 140 degrees F or less. At the end of the test, the end of each main loop vent must be 195 degrees F or more.

(B) The average time at which the steam header reaches at least 195 degrees F and the end of each main loop vent(s) reaching at least 195 degrees F must be less than five minutes. A temperature (degrees F) vs. time (minutes) curve to be plotted in 10-second intervals and all data points logged used to plot this curve must be provided in a tabular format in the report. Data points must include time from the start of the boiler/burner until the steam reaches the header and then to the end of all main loops.

- (C) The retro-commissioning agent must provide a schematic plan of the steam piping distribution in the common area. This schematic plan should indicate the location of the boiler(s), supply lines, header and each main line vent.
- (iv) Two-pipe steam distribution.
- (A) The main supply and main return piping surface temperatures for all two-pipe steam distribution systems serving major equipment must have a differential of 30 degrees F or more. The retro-commissioning agent must conduct the differential temperature test utilizing temperature data loggers (temperature sensors or thermocouples) that provide an output listing timestamps and surface temperature readings. The retro-commissioning agent must provide Pressure vs. Time and Temperature vs. Time plots, as recorded in intervals of 5 minutes. The temperature readings must be recorded using data loggers insulated and located on the main supply/header and main return piping, and on the inlet of a condensate/vacuum tank. This test cannot be performed on systems with master traps or double steam traps; it also cannot be performed on systems with heat exchangers and heat recovery that are used to cool the condensate down. The data loggers must provide readings during two consecutive cycles of the boiler where each cycle (boiler run time) takes at least 30 minutes at the design operating pressure.
- (B) In the event that a two-pipe steam distribution system has a differential between the main supply and main return piping surface temperatures of not more than 30 degrees F for any duration of the test specified above, all steam traps in the common areas, at least 20% of steam traps in the non-common owner areas and at least 10% of steam traps in the non-common tenant area, served by the major equipment, must be tested to verify for proper function. If less than 80% of the sample set, for each sample size, is found to be functioning properly, then all respective areas served by the two pipe steam distribution must be tested to verify the steam traps are functioning properly. All steam traps found to be functioning improperly must be replaced, repaired, rebuilt, or removed and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report. Steam trap testing must utilize ultrasonic leak detection technology and/or thermal imaging camera, as necessary to determine the trap condition. A comprehensive steam trap schedule including number, type, location, size (orifice) of traps and test results must be included in the retro-commissioning report. If the work required is so extensive that it would require more time than available to meet the compliance deadline, the condition may be corrected within two years of submitting the retro-commissioning report to the department and must be noted in the report. Documented verification must be submitted on a form provided by the department showing that the differential between the main supply and main return piping surface temperatures is more than 30 degrees F for any duration of the test specified in the differential temperature test described in subparagraph (A), above, after replacement, repair or rebuilding of deficient steam traps.
- Exception: If all steam traps in the common areas, at least 20 % of steam traps in the non-common owner areas and at least 10% of the steam traps in the non-common tenant areas have been replaced and/or tested and verified as functioning properly, within five years from the date the EER was submitted, and supporting documentation acceptable to the department is provided, then testing of steam traps is not required. Acceptable supporting documentation includes, but is not limited to, copies of paid invoices for the completed work, steam trap test reports and post-correction findings.
- (v) Air-side distribution. All dampers, fans, actuators and controls associated with air-side distribution serving major equipment must be functionally tested for proper operation as per CFR. Where deficiency is identified, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report. Completed functional performance test forms must be included in the retro-commissioning report.
- (vi) Water-side distribution. All valves on coils, automatic isolation valves at pumps, actuators and controls associated with water-side distribution serving major equipment must be functionally tested for proper operation as per CFR. Where deficiency is identified, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report. Completed functional performance test forms must be included in the retro-commissioning report.

(vii) Domestic hot water system temperature settings. All storage and delivery hot water temperatures of major equipment hot water heaters must be checked to verify that the water temperature settings are appropriate for the CFR. Where the temperature settings are found to require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(viii) Mechanical ventilation rates. A sample set constituting at least 10% of all mechanical outdoor air intakes, but in no event fewer than three outdoor air intakes, must be measured to verify that the flow rates are appropriate for the CFR. If more than 80% of the sample set is found to be appropriate, then no further sampling is required for the purposes of the retro-commissioning report. If less than 80% of the sample set is found to be appropriate, then all mechanical outdoor air intakes serving base building systems must be measured. Where flow rates require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(3) Lighting system.

(i) Light levels. Lighting levels (foot candles) in all common areas and lighting levels in at least 20% of the non-common owner areas must comply with the CFR. The sample set should include at least 10% of each area of different use. Where the light levels are found to require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(ii) Sensors and controls. All interior lighting systems in the common areas, at least 20% of the interior lighting systems in the non-common owner areas, and all exterior lighting systems must be checked to verify that the lighting sensors and associated automatic lighting controls are functioning properly. Where lighting sensors and controls are found to require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(4) Envelope.

(i) Sealants and weather-stripping. An inspection must be conducted in all common areas, at least 20% of non-common owner areas and at least 10% of non-common tenant areas to confirm that accessible sealants and weather stripping are installed around doors, windows, conduits, piping, joints, and other areas of potential major air infiltration and in good condition. Where any sealant or weather stripping is found to require correction, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

Exception: Sealants and weather stripping with asbestos containing materials shall not be required to be removed or replaced for the purposes of retro-commissioning. The condition must be noted on the retro-commissioning report and correction of such condition is not required.

(ii) Windows and doors. An inspection must be conducted in common areas to confirm that all windows and doors are in good condition. Where and door or window is not in good condition, the condition must be corrected and the post-correction condition must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(5) Training and documentation. On-site documentation in accordance with § 28-308.3(3) of the Administrative Code must be verified and noted on the retro-commissioning report. Training of critical operations and maintenance staff on the energy conservation techniques and preventative maintenance schedules, based on manufacturer's guidelines or recognized industry standards, for all major equipment and sub-systems must be documented in the retro-commissioning report.

(g) **Contents of the retro-commissioning report.** In accordance with §28-308.3.1 of the Administrative Code, the retro-commissioning agent must prepare and certify a retro-commissioning report that satisfies the requirements of §28-308.3 of the Administrative Code and this rule. In establishing the table of contents, the retro-commissioning agent shall refer to "K. Informative Appendix – Retro-Commissioning Report" of the NEBB Standard S120-2016, or any subsequent, edition – Technical Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings as guidelines until a final retro-commissioning report outline is prescribed by the department. Such report must include the model number, serial number, last calibration date and manufacturer recommended calibration frequency for each reference instrument used for functional performance testing. The report must also include photos of deficiencies, adjustments and repairs. All photos must include a timestamp visible on

the front of the photo within the report. Calibration certificates and additional photos must be provided, if requested by the department. The retro-commissioning report must be uploaded through the web-based Energy Audit template tool when submitting to the department. Such report must be retained by the owner in accordance with subdivision (j) of this section.

(h) Contents of the EER. An EER in accordance with §28-308.5 of the Administrative Code must be submitted to the department in accordance with §28-308.4 of the Administrative Code on forms prescribed by the department. The EER must include the Deep Energy Retrofit Plan Analysis tool when submitted to the department. The results of this tool must also be presented to the owner prior submitting to the department.

(i) Multiple buildings.

(1) Multiple buildings on a lot. Two or more buildings on a lot that constitute a covered building in accordance with §28-308.1 of the Administrative Code are subject to an energy audit and retro-commissioning of base building systems as follows:

(i) Multiple buildings on a covered lot that are equipped with base building systems that are wholly separate from each other are subject to the requirements for an EER for each individual building.

(ii) Multiple buildings on a covered lot that share base building systems are subject to the requirements for an EER for each grouping of buildings that share base building systems.

(2) Multiple buildings on multiple tax lots that share systems. Two or more buildings on more than one tax lot that share base building systems are subject to the requirements for an EER for each grouping of buildings that share base building systems.

(3) Buildings on different blocks with shared base building systems. Two or more buildings on separate blocks that constitute a covered building in accordance with § 28-308.1 of the Administrative Code are subject to the requirements for an EER for each grouping of buildings that share base building systems. The due date for the EER will be in the calendar year with a final digit that is the same as the last digit of the block number that is highest or with respect to a city building as defined in § 28-308.1 of the Administrative Code in accordance with the schedule of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The owner must notify the department by December 31 of the year in which the earliest covered building is due to comply, out of all covered buildings on different blocks with shared base building system(s), through the form prescribed by the department.

(4) Multiple covered buildings under cooperative corporations. A cooperative corporation that owns multiple covered buildings located on different tax block numbers that is required to file an EER for more than one covered building in different calendar years, may consolidate all such EERs into one report, disaggregated by covered building, due no later than the year in which the last EER would be due, which shall be accepted by the department in satisfaction of the requirements of this section for each covered building included in such consolidated report. The owner must notify the department by December 31 of the year in which the earliest covered building is due to comply through the form prescribed by the department.

(j) Record retention. Owners of covered buildings as defined in § 28-308.1 of the Administrative Code must maintain the Energy Audit Report required by §28-308.2.1 of the Administrative Code and the Retro-commissioning Report required by §28-308.3.1 of the Administrative Code as proof of energy audits and retro-commissioning as required in Article 308. Such records must be retained for eleven years from the required submission date and must be made available to the department upon request.

(k) Fees. Owners of covered buildings must pay a filing fee as provided in §101-03 of these rules.

(l) Extension of time to file report.

(1) An owner may apply for an extension of time to file an EER if, despite good faith efforts, the owner is unable to complete the required energy audit and retro-commissioning prior to the due date of the report, for reasons other than financial hardship of the building. The application must be on a form provided by the department and must be filed by December 31 of the year in which the report is due.

(2) An owner may apply for annual extensions of time to file an EER based on the financial hardship of the building. The application must be on a form provided by the department and must be filed by October 1 of the year in which the report is due and by December 31 of every subsequent year for which an extension is requested.

(m) EER under comprehensive review. A violation will be issued if an EER submission that is chosen for comprehensive review fails to resolve all issued objections after three revisions, or two years from the date of issuance of the first Notice of Objections, whichever occurs first. Such EER submission shall be subject to a penalty for failure to submit an acceptable EER in accordance with subdivision (n) of this section.

(n) Violation and penalty. Failure to submit an acceptable EER is a Major (Class 2) violation which may result in a penalty of \$3,000 in the first year and \$5,000 for each additional year until the EER is submitted to the department.

(o) Challenge to violations.

(1) An owner may challenge a violation issued pursuant to this section by providing:

(i) proof from the Department of Finance that the building in question is not a “covered building” as defined in section 28-308.1 of the Administrative Code; or

(ii) proof of early compliance with the filing requirements pursuant to section 28-308.7 of the Administrative Code; or

(iii) proof that the building is a new building (NB) with a first temporary certificate of occupancy less than ten years old at the time the building was due to comply; or

(iv) proof that the application to defer filing an EER was approved; or

(v) proof that the owner was granted an extension of time to file the report.

(2) Such challenge must be made in writing on a form provided by the department within thirty days from the postmark date of the violation served by the department.