



Maine Energy Code Training – IECC 2015 Questions and Answers

Commercial Code – June 29, 2021

Q: Can you clarify your interpretation of insulation required under roof drains?

A: IECC Section C402.2.2 addresses insulation requirements for roof assemblies. The commentary to this section, published by the International Code Council (ICC), indicates that “service openings and roof penetrations need not be considered”. Our interpretation is that roof drains would meet this exception. For roof systems with insulation entirely above the roof deck, the continuous insulation per IECC Table C402.1.3 should be maintained right up to the perimeter of the roof drain.

Q: Please clarify wall assembly total R-value requirements and if there is a requirement for continuous wall insulation.

A: Requirements for total wall assembly R-values are addressed in IECC Table 402.1.3 based on the type of construction and climate zone, for both framing cavities and continuous insulation. The 2015 edition of the IECC includes higher requirements for continuous insulation in Climate Zones 6 and 7 when compared to the 2009 edition of the IECC, however it is important to note that continuous insulation was also required under the 2009 edition. The IECC does allow for alternative designs that do not include continuous insulation. These alternative designs would be compared against the base code requirements using the component performance alternative methodology set forth in IECC Section C402.1.5

Q: If an existing building is renovated such that the occupancy is changed to one with a higher energy use, does code require that the building envelope be brought up to current code?

A: Changes in occupancy or use are addressed by IECC Section C505.1 which states that “Spaces undergoing a change in occupancy that would result in an increase in demand for either fossil fuel or electrical energy shall comply with this code”. Per this section, the exterior wall assemblies would be required to comply with code. The designer would have the option of utilizing the *Total Building Performance* compliance pathway (IECC Section C407) to document compliance if it was desired to trade off more efficient mechanical, electrical, or water heating systems in lieu of upgrading the exterior wall assemblies.

Commercial Code – July 7, 2021

There were no questions were submitted during the webinar

Commercial Code – July 15, 2021

Q: We are builder of both stick and modular residential and light commercial buildings. Modular construction as we all know in Maine falls under the oversight of the Maine Manufactured Housing Board. Currently modular is subject to alternate building codes with regards constructions to energy. Will these changes moving to IECC 2015 apply to modular light commercial buildings such as office space etc. or will they still follow the current alternate methods? Understanding the foundation system will have to follow the new requirements.

A: The Manufactured Housing Board regulates State-certified modular homes for one- and two-family dwellings only. The codes including the energy standards for these homes are in Chapter 110, [State Certification of Modular Homes] Subchapter 2 and apply to the envelope of the home. All modular commercial buildings including offices, classrooms, apartments, etc. are under the State Fire Marshall's Office and local municipality's jurisdictions and therefore subject to the same codes, standards and regulations as any other commercial building including the 2015 IECC.