

ENERGY CODES

APPLICATIONS & INSPECTIONS

Edmonton

The new National Energy Code for Buildings 2017 and Energy Efficiency requirements of Section 9.36 of the **National Building Code (Alberta Edition) 2019** have been introduced by the Government of Alberta as part of the greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy.

These codes are the minimum standard for construction for all applications after **December 1, 2019**.

The introduction of these new energy efficiency standards has been one of the most comprehensive code changes seen to date. As such, the City of Edmonton has been committed to working collaboratively with industry and stakeholders to communicate expectations, facilitate information sessions, identify issues, implement solutions and determine best processes for moving forward together.

APPLICATIONS

There are options to achieve compliance with the new requirements:

- Prescriptive
- Prescriptive with Trade-Offs
- Performance

Once the City of Edmonton began receiving Section 9.36 applications, it was quickly recognized that sufficient information was not being provided on applications, and that compliance calculation reports were not in alignment with Performance path report requirements being submitted.

This is significant because this information is not only the basis of application approval and permit issuance, but also an inspection reference document.

EXAMPLES

Some examples of incomplete information include:

- Window U-values not corresponding between drawings and Performance compliance report and supplier-provided specifications
- Air barrier details required per air tightness level not depicting location, material or continuity

Examples of acceptable required drawing details are being published and will be found on edmonton.ca/energycode.

APPLICATION STANDARD

The City of Edmonton is additionally in conversation with other major municipalities and Alberta Municipal Affairs to develop a province-wide application standard, solidifying reasonable submission detail level to satisfactorily demonstrate a compliant construction intention through plans, details and documents, and to support inspection activity.

INSPECTIONS

The City of Edmonton recognizes the transition to the energy efficiency regulations has been a learning process for all involved. As such, the City of Edmonton is committed to closely monitoring 9.36-related inspection outcomes for the first fifty projects identified through framing inspection bookings. By doing so, the City of Edmonton will be able to communicate any issues being encountered in the field back to industry.

Note: Throughout the inspection process, the City of Edmonton will be monitoring and identifying issues.

This will be communicated promptly to industry via the Building Edmonton newsletter (email developmentservicesrelations@edmonton.ca to sign up).

INSPECTION PROCESS

Having clear and consistent energy efficiency-related details on approved plans for the following items will help inform the basis of the inspection process:

- Selection of windows: max U-value, listed by type or whole house
- Clear wall, roof and floor details supporting the ETR of the assemblies
- Air barrier details to the degree required for the airtightness level to be achieved

City of Edmonton inspectors have received training specific to Section 9.36, and further training is being provided for consistency and accuracy.

The City of Edmonton does not anticipate delays within the current inspection time frame of 2-5 business days; however, the City of Edmonton does have a Safety Codes contractor fully engaged in all disciplines to assist, should this become necessary.

In order to determine best course of action moving forward. The City of Edmonton is committed to making the Energy Efficiency and Energy Code application and inspection process clear, effective and consistent.

CONTACT

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