Nebraska's Commercial Energy Code: The 2018 IECC COMcheck Basics

Nebraska Energy Code Training Program

Instructor: Matt Belcher

December 7, 2022: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST







Housekeeping

- Attendees are muted upon entry
- Enter questions in the chat box
- This training is being recorded
- Slides and recording will be emailed to attendees and posted on the MEEA website
- CEUs are provided (ICC and AIA)
- Email Corie at <u>canderson@mwalliance.org</u> with any questions







About MEEA

- MEEA is a nonprofit membership organization with 160+ members, including:
 - Utilities
 - Research institutions
 - State and local governments
 - Energy efficiency-related businesses

 MEEA helps stakeholders understand and implement cost-effective energy efficiency strategies









About the Nebraska Training Program

- Goal: prepare the Nebraska workforce for upcoming changes in construction best practices
 - Residential and Commercial Energy Code
 - Building Science
 - Practical Solutions
- Focused on providing training to builders, code officials, design professionals, public officials and students
- For more information, visit: <u>https://www.mwalliance.org/nebraska-energy-codes-training-program</u>







About Matt/Verdatek Solutions



- 40+ Years in the Building Industry
- Served as a Top Building Codes official in the St. Louis area.
- Director of University of Missouri Columbia High Performance Buildings Research Center. Created and Instructed Curriculum for Students and Industry Professionals.
- Currently Assisting University of Missouri Science & Technology in Building and Energy Code Curriculum and Policy
- ICC Member serving on 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2024 Energy Code Development Committee. 2021 Building Code-General Committee
- NAHB-Approved Instructor for Advanced Building Science and Advanced Business Management









COMcheck Learning Objectives:

Basics of using the COMcheck software, reviewing generated compliance reports and the latest and greatest new features.

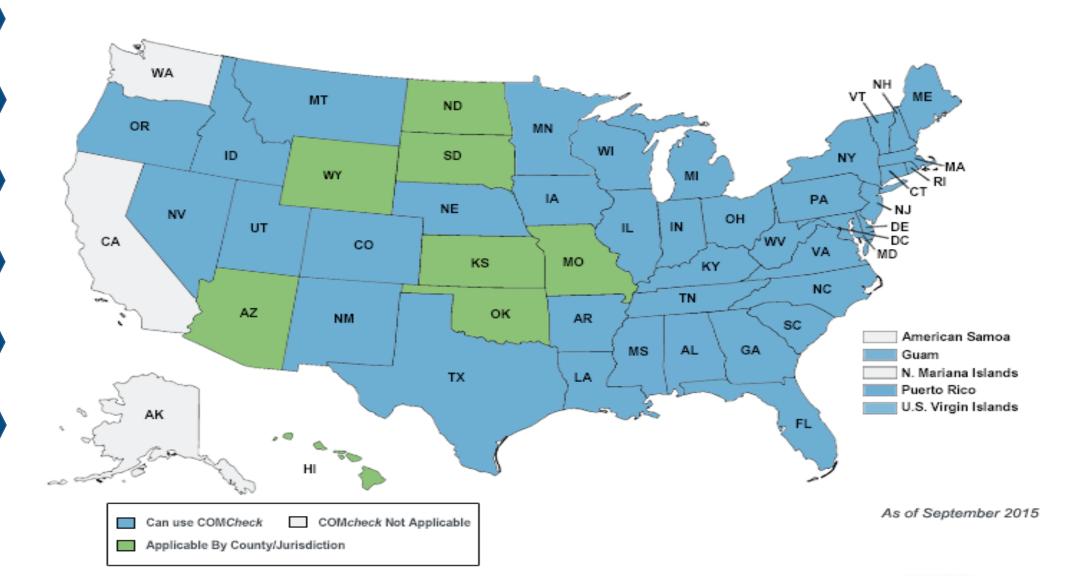
- Obtain an overview of the basic functions and how COMcheck calculates compliance for the building envelope, interior and exterior lighting.
- 2. Be able to identify the construction specifications needed to complete a compliance calculation in the software.
- 3. Learn how to enter the building envelope, lighting, and mechanical components into the software.
- 4. Understand how the compliance reports are created and what they entail.







States that allow COMcheck



Commercial Compliance Tools

Desktop Software Tools





Web-Based Tools



Printed Materials



Compliance Guides
Prescriptive Tables

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COMcheck-Web simplifies commercial and highrise residential energy code compliance.

It performs just like **COMcheck**, the desktop version, but you don't need to download or install any software on your computer.

Can exchange files between desktop and web







COMcheck/COMcheck Web

- The COMcheck software product group makes it easy to determine whether new commercial or high-rise residential buildings, additions and alterations meet the requirements of the IECC and ASHRAE Standard 90.1.
- COMcheck also simplifies compliance for building officials, plan checkers and inspectors by allowing them to quickly determine if a building project meets the code.



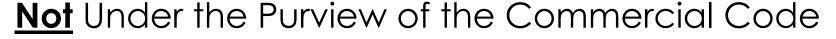




Commercial Buildings in the IECC

Under the Purview of the Commercial Code

- ✓ Buildings with commercial use
- ✓ Multifamily residential buildings four stories or greater in height



- × One- and two-family residential
- × R-2, R-3, R-4 three stories or less in height









What About Mixed Use? – C101.4.1

- Treat the residential building portion under the applicable residential code
- Treat the commercial building portion under the commercial code
- Code Official has final authority



Image: agarch.com







Commercial Compliance Options







2018 IECC – Prescriptive

- ✓ C402 Envelope
- √ C403 Mechanical
- ✓ C404 SWH
- ✓ C405 Lighting

AND Pick at Least One C406:

- □C406.2 Eff. HVAC Performance
- □C406.3 Reduced Lighting Power
- □C406.4 Enhanced Lighting Controls
- □ C406.5 On-site Supply of Renewable Energy
- □C406.6 Dedicated Outdoor Air System
- □C406.7 High Eff. Service Water Heating
- □C406.8 Enhanced Envelope Performance
- □C406.9 Reduced Air Infiltration



2018 IECC - Performance

- C407 Total Building Performance
- C402.5 Air Leakage
- C403– Mandatory Mechanical Provisions
- C404 SWH
- C405 Lighting
- Building energy cost to be <
 85% of standard reference design building



ASHRAE) 90.1 Simplified Approach Option for **HVAC Systems**

The simplified approach is an optional path for buildings that meet these criteria:

- Building is two stories or fewer in height.
- Gross floor area is less than 25,000 sq. ft.
- System serving single HVAC zone
- Each HVAC system in the building must comply with all 19 requirements.









COMcheck: Who May Submit?

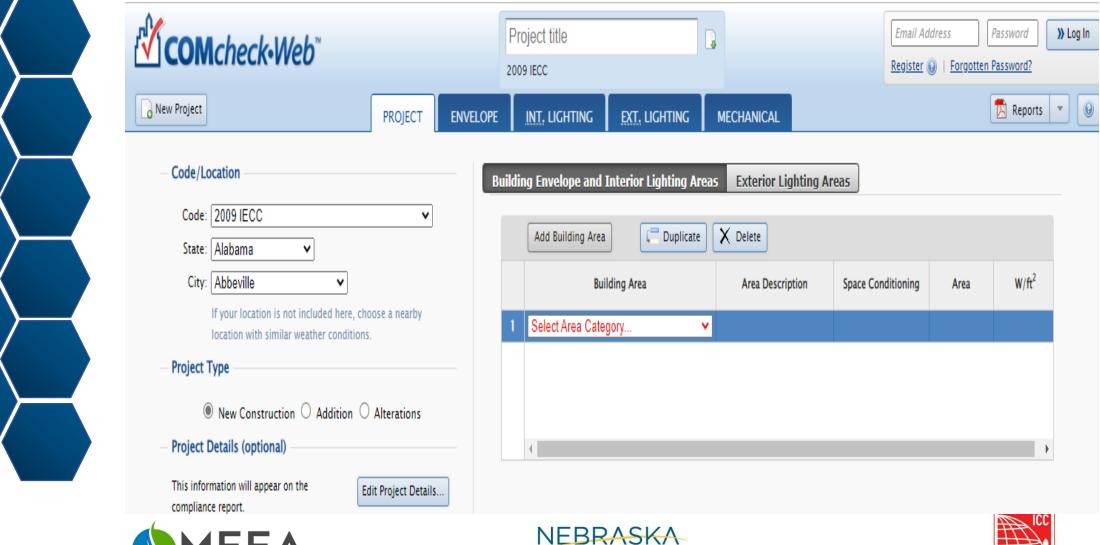
- The commercial energy code requires that a registered professional submit compliance documentation (construction documents and compliance verification).
- In the IECC, Section C103.1 Construction Documents, General, the wording states that construction documentation and other supporting data shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit.
- The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. Where special conditions exist, the code official is authorized to require necessary construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional.







Landing Page

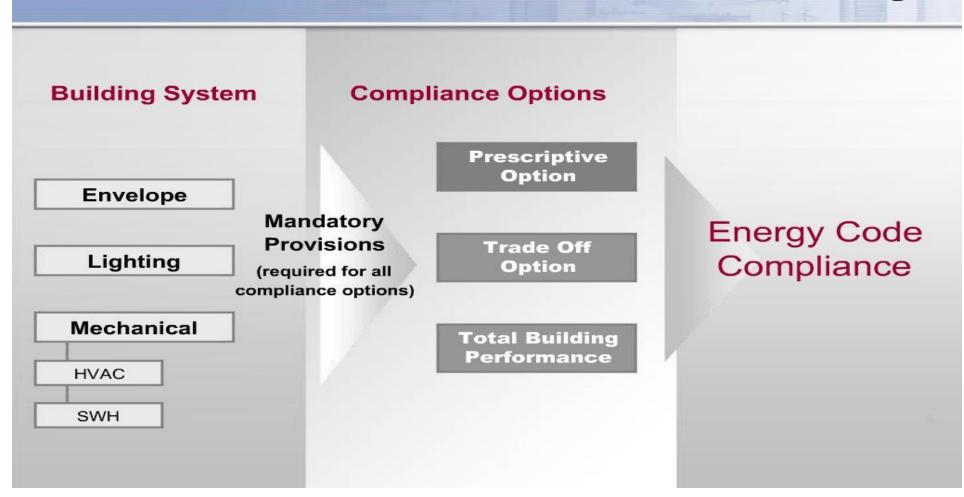


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DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



Commercial Buildings









Mandatory Requirements Include:

- Air Leakage
- Air barriers
- Fenestration air leakage
- Rooms Containing Fuel-burning Appliances
- Air intakes, exhaust openings, stairways and shafts
- Loading dock weather seals
- Vestibules
- Recessed lighting
- Commissioning









- Envelope
 - trade-off calculations are based on envelope loads only
 - defines a proposed design and a budget design
- Lighting
 - Watts/square foot (LPDs)
- Mechanical
 - short wizard to customize a list of requirements applicable to the system identified







Envelope Trade-Off Methods:

- ➤ ASHRAE 90.1 (Pre-2013) Normative Appendix C Methodology for Building Envelope Trade-Off Option
- 90.1-2007/2010
- 2009/2012 IECC
- ➤ ASHRAE 90.1-2013 Appendix C has limited performance method (EnergyPlus) (New)
- ➤2015 IECC Component Performance Alternative (Total UA) (New)







Project Types:

New Construction: Trade-off compliance method

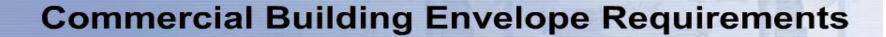
Addition Trade-off compliance method

Alteration Prescriptive compliance









- Mandatory Requirements:
 - Moisture Control
 - Air Leakage
- Climate Specific Requirements:
 - Roof
 - Above Grade Walls
 - Below Grade Walls
 - Floor
 - Slab
 - Skylights, Windows, and Doors

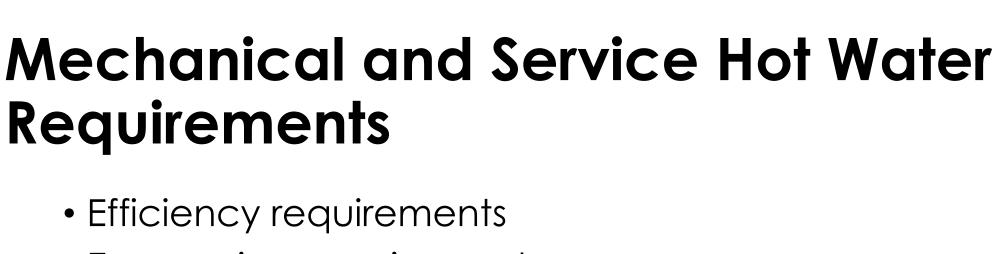








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- Efficiency requirements
- Economizer requirements
- Fan Power Limitation
- Mandatory requirements
- No compliance metric available









Lighting Requirements

- Mandatory requirements: Controls, Switching
- Interior/Exterior lighting power requirements

Complies if total connected power <= lighting power allowance









When do Lighting and Power Requirements Apply?

- Original Installed Lighting System in a New Building, Addition, or Tenant Build-out
- Existing Lighting System that is Altered
- Change in Occupancy that Increases Energy
- Change in Occupancy that requires less LPD as shown in the LPD tables

Exceptions:

- Alterations where less than 10% of the luminaires in a space are replaced and installed interior power lighting is not increased
- Lighting within dwelling units
 - Where ≥ 75% of permanently installed fixtures (except low-voltage) are fitted for and include high-efficacy lamps





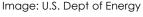


Electrical Lighting and Power Systems Requirements

- Mandatory Interior Lighting requirements
 - Required Controls
 - Wattage/Efficiency Limits
- Interior Lighting Power Allowances (watts/ft²)
- Exterior Lighting Controls
 - Required Controls
 - Lamp Efficiency
- Exterior Lighting Power Allowances (watts/ft²)
- Dwelling Electric Meters
- Electrical Transformers and Motors
- Vertical and Horizontal Transportation Systems and Equipment





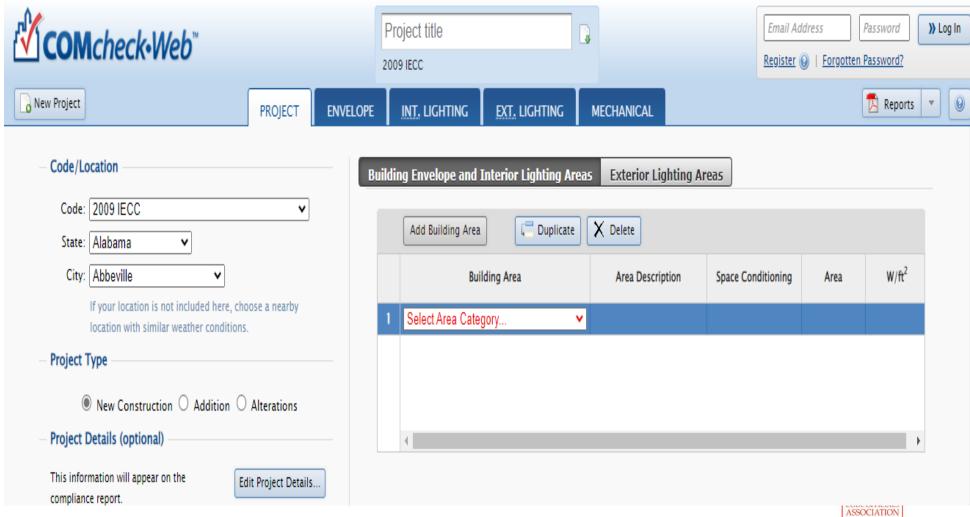






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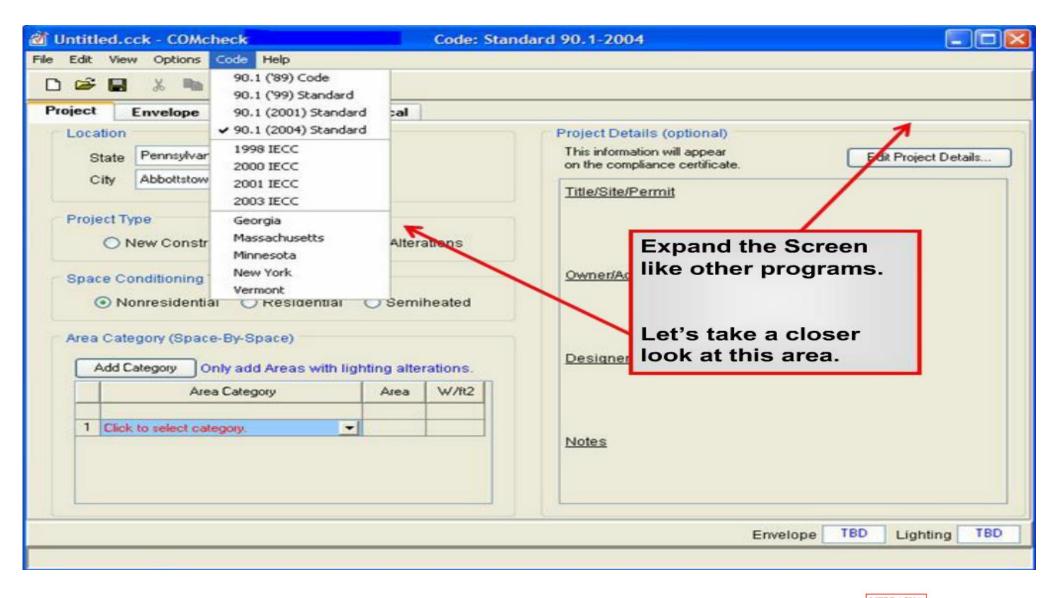


















COMcheck Basics

 COMcheck is a reflection of the difference between a 'design' building energy performance factor (EPF) and a 'code' or budget building EPF.

• The methodology used to determine EPF is provided in ASHRAE 90.1 Normative Appendix C: Methodology for Building Envelope Trade-off Option.









COMcheck Project Specification Steps

- Project
- Building Envelope Components
- Lighting
- Mechanical
- Requirements/ View/Print/ Save







Information You will need:

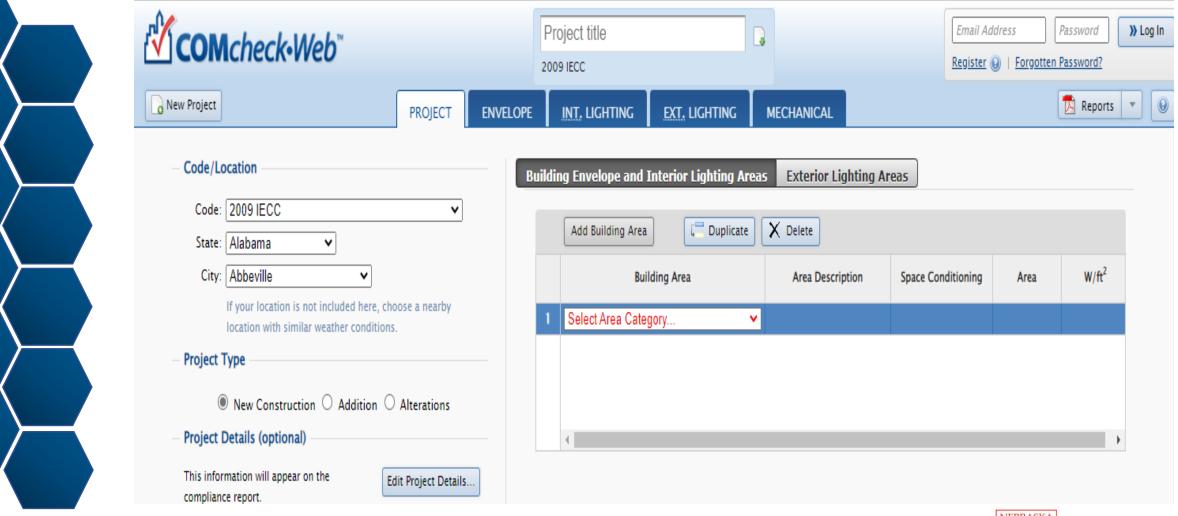
- Energy Code
- Builder and project location
- Area take-offs for envelope assemblies
- Insulation R-values, fenestration performance data
- Lighting fixture details
- Heating and cooling system details
- Service water heating details







Landing Page

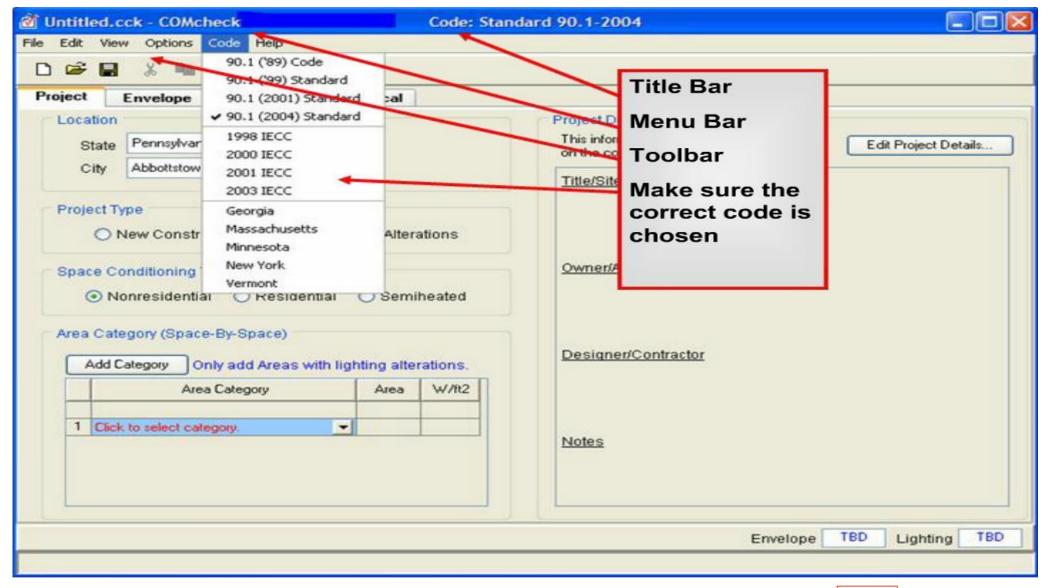










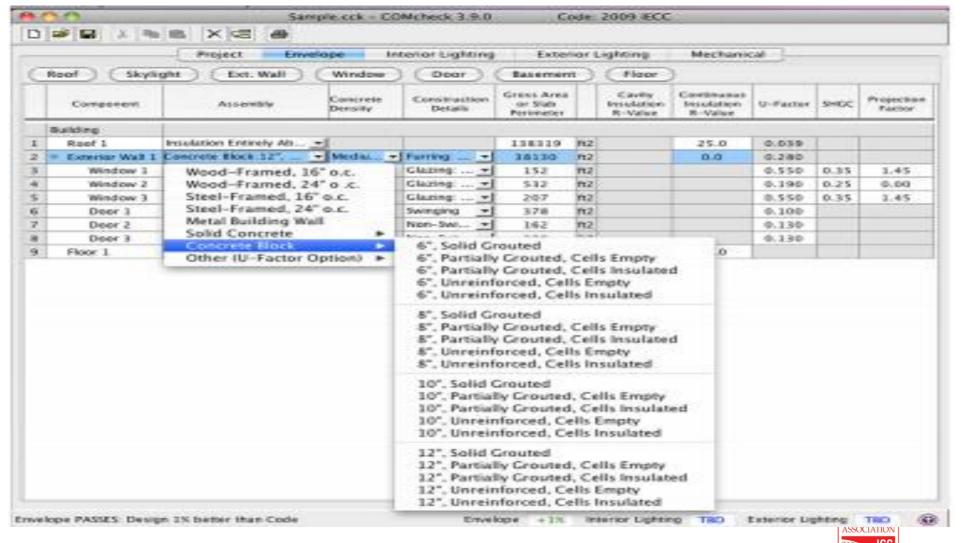








Envelope Requirements







U/A Trade-Off Compliance

compliance: Passes using UA trade-o			
Compliance: 12.2% Better Than Code	Maximum UA: 500	Your UA: 439	
tie N. Better or Worse Than Code Index reflects how to	see to compliance the house is been	ed on sode trade-off rules.	

Assembly	Gross Area or Perimeter	Cavity R-Value	Cont. R-Value	Glazing or Door U-Factor	UA
Exterior Wall Type A: Steel Frame, 16" o.c.	1200	13.0	5.0	1.1.1.25 (11.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	88
Window 2: Wood Frame: Double Pane with Low-E	75			0.330	25
Door B: Solid	41			0.420	17
Exterior Wall Type B: Steel Frame, 16" o.c.	2513	13.0	5.0		173
Window 1: Wood Frame: Double Pane with Low-E	210			0.330	69
Window 2: Wood Frame:Double Pane with Low-E	30			0.330	10
Window 3: Wood Frame: Double Pane with Low-E	5			0.330	2
Door A: Glass	24			0.310	7
Roof Type 1: Steel Joist/Rafter, 16" o.c.:2x10	823	0.0	35.0		21
Window 4 - Skylight: Metal Frame with Thermal Break: Triple Pane	32			0.700	22
Window 5 - Skylight: Other	9			0.540	5

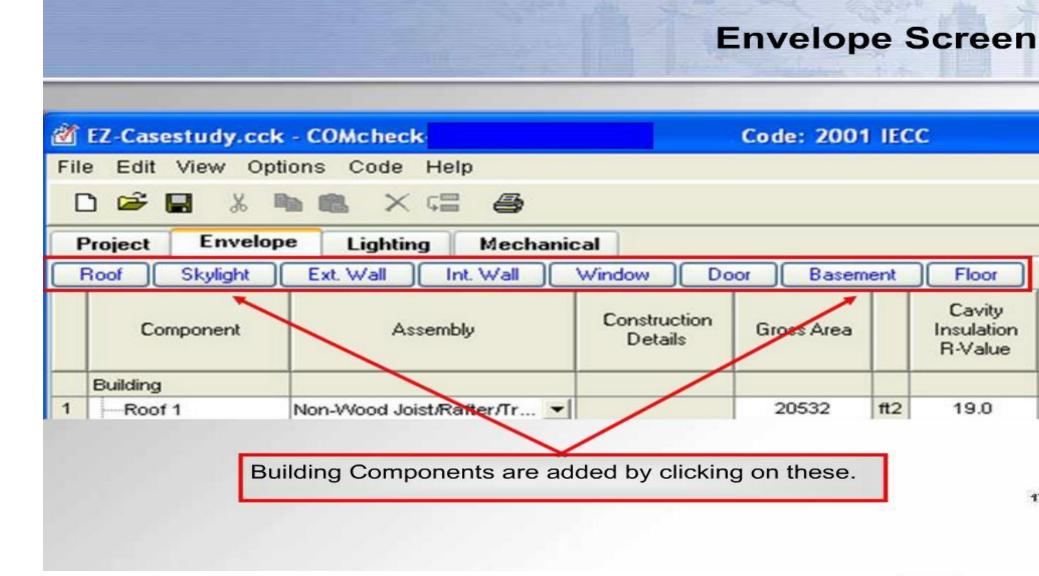
Compliance Statement: The proposed building design described here is consistent with the building plans, specifications, and other calculations submitted with the permit application. The proposed building has been designed to meet the 2010 New York Energy Conservation Construction Code requirements in REScheck Version 4.4.1 and to comply with the mandatory requirements listed in the REScheck Inspect Checklist.

Name - Tide Signature Date











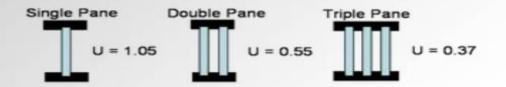




Windows - U-Factors

Table 102.3(1) U-Value Default For Windows Glazed Doors and Skylights

Frame Material and Product Type	Single Glazed	Double Glazed
Metal without thermal break		
Operable (including Sliding and swinging		
glass door)	1.27	D.87
Fixed	1.13	D.639
Genden Window	2.60	1.81
Curtain Well	1.22	D.79
Skylight	1.98	1.31
Site-assembled Slopedroverhead glazing	1.36	0.82
Metal with thermal break		-
Operable (including Sliding and swinging glass door)		
Faced	1.08	D.625
Genden Window	1.07	D.63
Curtain Well	1.11	D.68
Skylight	1.89	1.11
Site essembled Slopedfoverhead glazing	1.25	D.70
Reinforced vinythmetal clad wood		
Operable (including sliding and swinging glass		
doors)	0.90	0.57
Fared	D.98	D.56
Skylights	1.75	1.05
Wandvirylfilargless		-
Operable (including sliding and swinging	Section 10 States	100000000
glass doors)	D.89	D.55
Faced	0.98	D.56
Genden Window	2.31	1.61
Skylight	1.47	D.84



- NFRC tested and certified or default window U-value range
- Use assembly U-value
- All windows must meet or exceed

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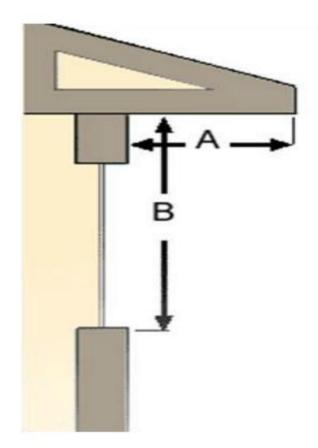








Overhang/Projection Factor (PF)



PF= A/B PF=0.5









Questions so far?

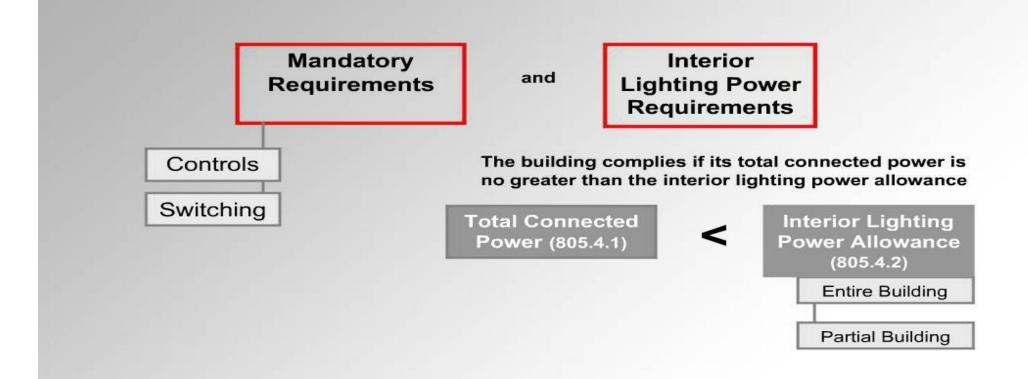
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Interior Lighting Compliance

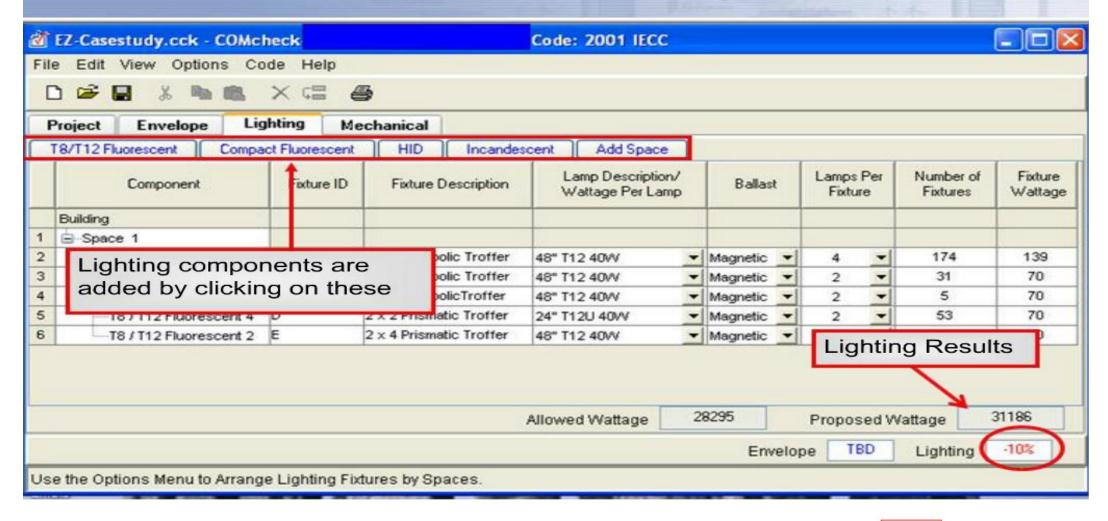








Adding Lighting









Functional Testing of Lighting Controls Section C408.3.1

 Prior to passing final inspection, registered design professional to provide evidence that lighting control systems have been tested to ensure that control hardware and software are calibrated, adjusted, programmed and in proper working order per construction documents and manufacturer's installation instructions.

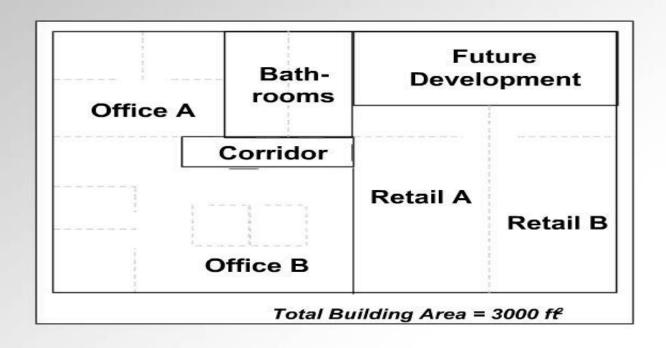






Lighting Using Space-by-Space

Office A: 400 ft²
Office B: 850 ft²
Bathrooms: 350 ft²
Corridor: 50 ft²
Retail A: 500 ft²
Retail B: 500 ft²
Future: 350 ft²









Mechanical Systems and SWH Commissioning Section C408.2

- Prior to the final mechanical and plumbing sections, the registered design professional or approved agency shall provide evidence of mechanical systems commissioning and completion in accordance with section C408.2
- Mechanical Systems exempt from commissioning requirements (all other systems must comply)
 - In buildings where total mechanical equipment capacity is < 480,000 Btu/h (40 tons) cooling capacity **and** < 600,000 Btu/h combined service water heating and space-heating capacity
 - Included in Section C403.3 that serve individual dwelling units and sleeping units

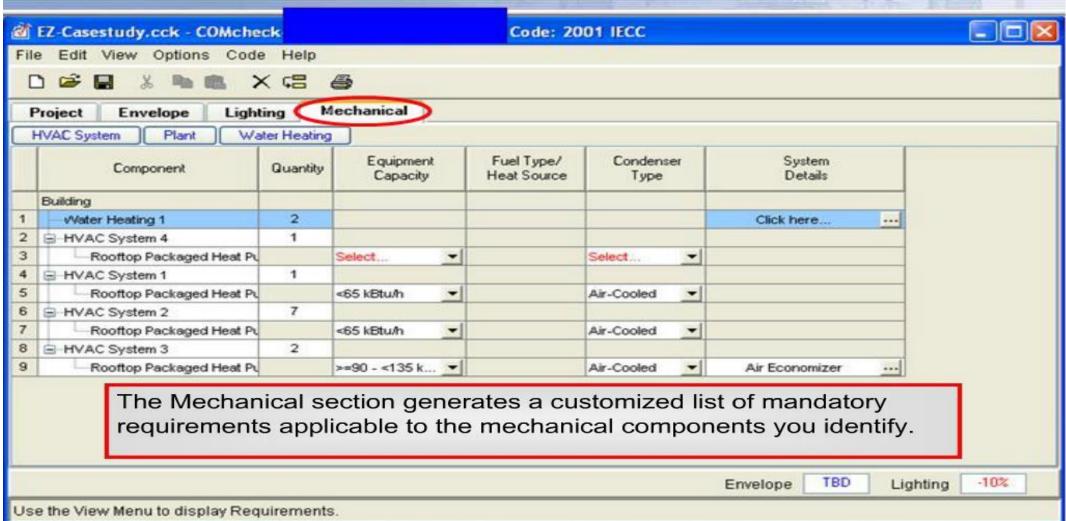








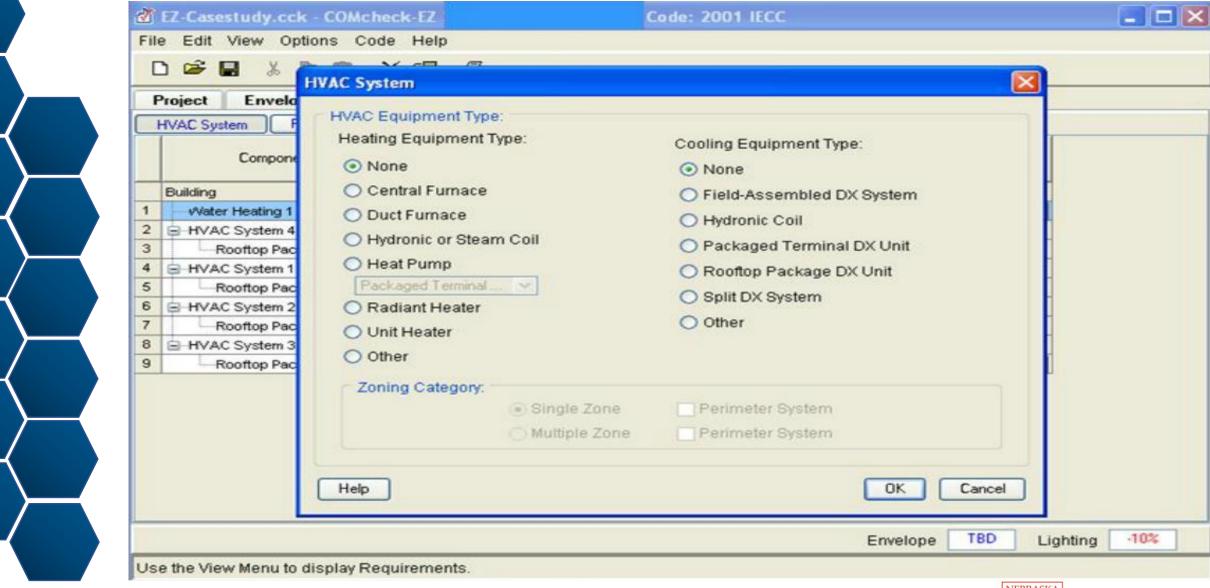
Mechanical



















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	Rooftop Packaged Heat Pu		Sele	Service wa	ter rieating beta	ilis 🔼				
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5	HVAC System 2	7		☐ Heat T	race Tape Installed	in the System				
	Rooftop Packaged Heat Pu		<65	Help	OK	Cancel				
3	HVAC System 3	2	1100			Conce				
3	Rooftop Packaged Heat Pu		>=90	J - <135 K ▼		Air-Coolea 💌	Air Ecor	omizer	***	







Alteration Type Project:

- > Projects involve changes to or replacement of
- Existing building components that are part of building envelope
- Lighting, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and water-heating equipment
- Specify only those envelope components, lighting fixtures, or mechanical systems/equipment that will exist upon completion of the project
- ➤ Alteration detail dialogs
- Specify exemptions if applicable
- Additional qualifications may be required (e.g., Window/wall ratio)
- ➤ Compliance shown as Pass/Fail for Envelope and Lighting







Existing Buildings Section C503 - Alterations

- Code applies to any new construction
 - Additions or new work in existing structures
- Unaltered portion(s) may not need to comply
- When complying via ASHRAE 90.1-2016, alterations do not need to comply with C402-C405
- Where existing building exceeds fenestration area limitations of Section C402.4.1 prior to alteration, building is exempt from C402.4.1 provided there is no increase in fenestration area



Image: montgomerycountymd.gov







Existing Buildings Section C503 - Alterations

- Heating and Cooling
 - New HVAC systems and duct systems that are part of the alteration to comply with Section C403
- Service hot water systems
 - New SWH systems that are part of the alteration to comply with C404
- Lighting Systems
 - New Lighting systems that are part of the alteration to comply with C405
 - <u>Exception</u> alteration that replace <10% of the luminaires in a space provided such alteration does not increase the installed interior lighting power







Existing Buildings - Lighting Power and Systems Section C502.2.6

New lighting systems installed as part of an addition to comply with C405

- Total interior lighting power to comply C405.3.2
 - Stand alone addition
 - Addition + existing building as a single building
- Total exterior lighting power to comply C405.4.2
 - Stand alone addition
 - Addition + existing building as a single building
- Repairs C504.2
 - Repairs exempt where only the bulb, ballast or both within the existing luminaires in a space are replaced, provided that the replacement does not increase the installed interior lighting power







Building Controls are Complicated

- Since 2004, about 30% of all new requirements have been related to building controls
- Control requirements can be difficult to implement and verification is beyond the expertise of most building code officials
- Assumption is that they are implemented and working correctly

Source: https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-26348.pdf

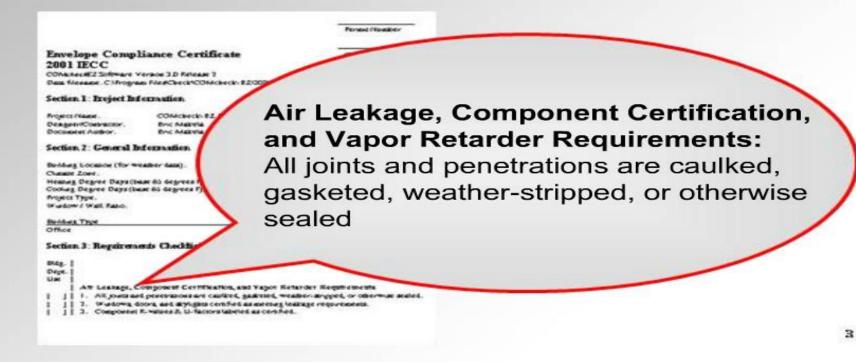






Mandatory Requirements in COMcheck Software

- Requirements Checklist generated automatically based on input
 - applicable code
 - building location





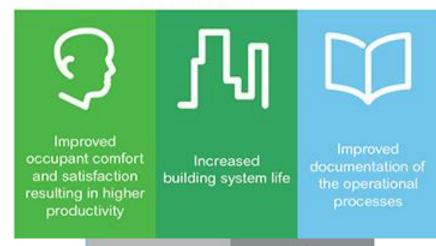




Systems Commissioning and Completion Requirements Section C408

- Commissioning is critical to ensure that buildings are working as designed
- Preliminary and final reports required
- Mechanical and lighting commissioning detailed in section C408

Benefits of Commissioning











Functional Testing of Lighting Controls Section C408.3.1

 Prior to passing final inspection, registered design professional to provide evidence that lighting control systems have been tested to ensure that control hardware and software are calibrated, adjusted, programmed and in proper working order per construction documents and manufacturer's installation instructions







Compliance Certificate for Permit









Thank you! Questions?

Matt Belcher, Verdatek Solutions

matt@verda-solutions.com

Cell: (314) 749-4189

Corie Anderson, MEEA canderson@mwalliance.org







Upcoming Trainings

Online Commercial Energy Code Certificate Course through Metropolitan Community College (MCC)

- 8-weeks, **January 10-Fébruary 28**, **2023**
- Tuesdays 6p.m.-8p.m.
- \$50 registration fee
- ICC and AIA CEUs provided

FREE Duct and Envelope Verifier Training and Train-the-Trainer in Lincoln, NE. Become DET certified in 2 days or learn to train others in 3 days! The course runs January 24-26, 2023, 9a.m.-5p.m.









Poll: MCC Commercial Energy Code Course

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