



MASSACHUSETTS Energy Code Technical Support

Changes to the Residential Energy Provisions in the 9th Edition of the MA State Building Code

Major Changes from 2012 to 2015 IECC

Section	Changes
R403.2.1	Increases insulation requirements for return ducts in attics from R-6 to R-8.
R403.4.1.1 (NEW) R403.4.1.2 (NEW)	Adds language on heated water circulation systems and heat trace systems. Makes IECC, IRC, and IPC consistent.
R403.4.2 Table R403.4.2	Deletes requirement for insulation on DHW pipes to kitchen and the generic requirement on long/large-diameter pipes. Adds DHW pipe insulation for all 3/4-inch pipes.
R403.4.2 (NEW)	Adds demand control requirements for recirculating systems that use a cold water supply pipe to return water to the tank.
R403.2 (NEW)	Requirement for outdoor setback control on hot water boilers to control boiler water temperature based on the outdoor temperature.

MA Amendments to 2015 IECC

Section	Changes
R401.2 (NEW) R406.1.1 (NEW)	Allows for alternatives to HERS ERI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Certified RESNET HERS rating with MA amendments b. Certified Energy Star Homes, Version 3.1 c. Certified Passivehaus performance method
R401.3 (NEW) Table R402.1.2	Specifies that mandatory certificate must include final HERS index if HERS approach is used Reduces maximum fenestration U-factor from 0.32 to 0.30 for prescriptive compliance
R403.3.3 and R403.6.2 (NEW)	Specifies that duct leakage testing and ventilation system performance must be done by a HERS Rater, HERS Rating Field Inspector, or BPI Certified Professional
R406.4 R406.4.1	Specifies that ERI must be satisfied without credits for onsite renewable electricity generation Allows higher ERI if using renewables
R502.1.2	Adds an exception allowing HERS index approach to be used for compliance of additions to an existing building
Appendix U (NEW)	New detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses must include a Solar-Ready Zone, provide associated documentation, and prepare for future solar installations. Note that there are explicit exceptions based on house size, orientation, and solar access.

New MA Stretch Code

Section	Changes
AA 103.1 R-use buildings.	In all R-use buildings, of four stories or less above <i>grade plane</i> with one or more dwelling units, each <i>dwelling unit</i> shall comply with Section R406 (Energy Rating Index Compliance Method)
AA104 Existing (residential) buildings	For alterations, renovations, additions or repairs of existing buildings the energy efficiency requirements of the residential code shall be used.

(10/9/17)