

2015 MN ENERGY CODE CHANGES

Effective Date: February 14th, 2015

****Disclaimer: This document is to serve as informational purposes only. This is not a code book or a final interpretation of the code by the building official. This is to serve as a guide for some of the major code changes that will go into effect on February 14th, 2015.**

Plan Review

In an effort to make sure that codes are communicated throughout the jobsite, the submittals required are listed below. There are several code changes that are very different from the previous code, and this will help make everyone successful in meeting the requirements of the new code.

The following Information must be provided either in schedule form or in notes on the plans:

1. Window manufacturer, size, and U-value
2. Door manufacturer, size, and U-value
3. Header type, size on all openings
4. Wall sections with the following information:
 - a. Siding type
 - b. Roofing type and manufacturer, wind ratings, sub roofing materials including location of ice and water
 - c. Building wrap or barrier
 - d. Sheathing type and thickness both walls and roof
 - e. Stud size and grade
 - f. Truss size, or notation of pre-engineered products, and engineered drawings for pre-engineered material
 - g. Floor joist size, type, and engineered drawings for each material
 - h. Cavity insulation type and R-Value
 - i. Rim joist insulation type and R-value
 - j. Attic insulation type and R-value
 - k. Attic ventilation type
 - l. Interior barrier type
 - m. Wall covering type
 - n. Footing type and strength, and list admixtures to be added (will also verify on delivery ticket at site)
 - o. Foundation Wall type, strength, waterproofing, and drainage
 - p. Foundation Insulation type and R-value

- q. All materials sub-floor in basement, including type, size, and depth of material
- r. Sub floor barrier type, insulation type and R-value
- s. Radon Mitigation Plan

Insulation Change Requirements

Wall insulation-Minimum of **R-21** cavity insulation. No exterior continuous insulation is required in the new code.

Attic insulation-Minimum of **R-49** (*attic depth markers are required*)

Foundation and crawl space insulation-Minimum of **R-15**

Fenestration U Factors-**0.32** or better, **Skylights**-**0.55** or better

Blower Door Tests

Every new home will need to pass a blower door test that allows no more than 3 air changes per hour with a pressure differential of 50 Pascals.

Per the Department of Labor and Industry, there is a contractor that performs these tests within 1.5 hrs of anywhere in the state, for an average cost of \$300.

Hot Water Pipe Insulation

Hot water piping will be insulated to at least R-3 as follows:

Piping is larger than 3/4" in nominal diameter,

Piping serves more than one dwelling unit,

Piping runs from water heater to kitchen outlets,

Piping is located outside of conditioned space,

Piping runs from water heater to a distribution manifold,

Piping is located under a floor slab,

Piping is buried,

Supply and return piping is in recirculation systems other than demand recirculation systems,

Piping run exceeds the following maximum run lengths:

Nominal diameter of largest pipe diameter in run	3/8"	1/2"	3/4"	> 3/4"
Max run length	30 ft	20 ft	10 ft	5 ft

Duct Sealing

Duct Sealing (Mandatory). All ducts are required to be tested for total duct leakage (tightness).

Exception: The test is not required where the air handler and entire duct system are located within conditioned space.

Construction Phase	Total Duct Leakage CFM25 per 100 ft ² CFA	
	2009 IECC	2012 IECC
Post-Construction	12	4
Rough-in	6	4
Rough-in if air-handler not yet installed	4	3

Note: Duct Leakage is measured in cubic feet per minute (CFM) at a pressure of 25 Pascals for every 100 square feet of conditioned floor space (CFA)

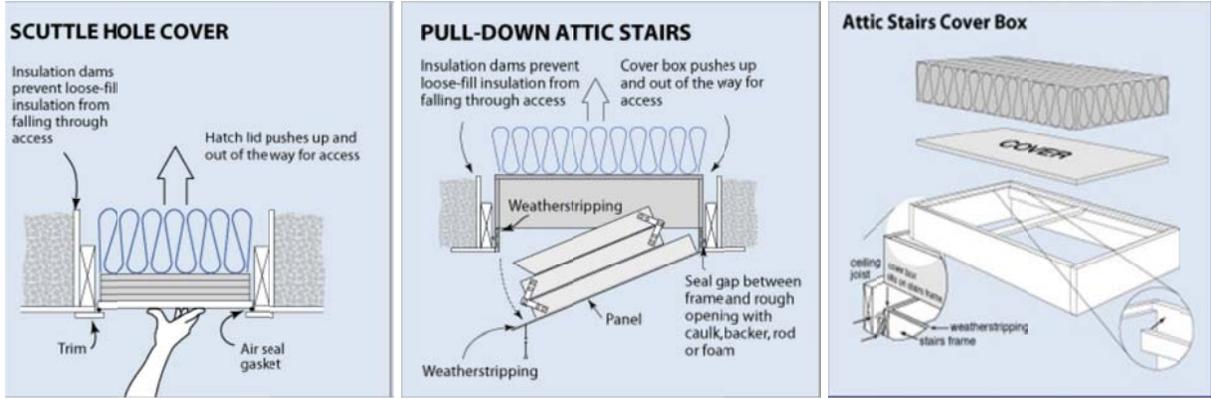
Building cavities are no longer allowed for supply or return air; (R403.2.3)

High-Efficacy lamps

A minimum of 75% of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficacy lamps.

Attic Access Hatches

Attic access doors from conditioned to unconditioned spaces shall be weather-stripped and insulated. Insulation dam/baffling required.



Fireplaces.

New wood-burning fireplaces will have tight-fitting flue dampers and outdoor combustion air.