

Commercial Building Energy Standards (RBES) Update Webinar

Q&A

February 19, 2014

- 1. Q: What about not requiring a glazing SHGC requirement for buildings that do not have air-conditioning?**

A: This may be worth considering, but would need to address the possibility that a building may have air-conditioning added on at a future date. No SHGC requirement might be appropriate for north-facing fenestration or glazing that has permanent, full seasonal shading built in to the structure. For all other orientations, this may be worth considering further, in tandem with a certain percentage of operable window area.

- 2. Q: Is there a code interpretation document available for the 2015 IECC?**

A: No, currently, ICC has not developed such a document.

- 3. Q: Can there be a grace period or grandfathering option between when the newer CBES version becomes effective and the prior CBES version is still in effect?**

A: Per Vermont statute, there must be at least 3 months between when the updated CBES becomes adopted and when it becomes effective. However, there is no provision allowing for either a grace period or grandfathering option during which either the new or prior CBES can be met.

- 4. Q: Why isn't there symmetry between RBES and CBES regarding duct insulation requirements?**

A: RBES requires duct insulation to be at a level equal to the proximal surface. CBES requires a level based on climate zone 8 in the IgCC, which is the maximum level in that document. There was a proposal to make the 2011 CBES duct insulation requirements similar to the RBES (using the proximal surface language) but faced opposition due to concern that given the size and complexity of commercial buildings (as compared to houses), ducts that had to run across flat roofs could not physically meet the requirement of R-20 or R-30 insulation, etc. This topic will be included again for discussion and input in the current 2014 CBES update.

- 5. Q: Has the State determined the level of compliance with the 2011 CBES?**

A: On behalf of the Public Service Department, Navigant conducted a nonresidential market assessment with respect to the 2005 CBES. The study determined weighted overall technical compliance rates of 88%. The highest scoring category is mechanical systems with an overall compliance rate of 93%. Building envelope follows closely behind with a score of 91%, while both service water heating and electrical power and lighting achieved scores of 78%. For more

information, see Section 4 Assessment of CBES Compliance in the market assessment report available at <http://bit.ly/1gRA3JF>