



Codes and Standards

What You Should Know

MARCH 2024

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Code Council**

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The International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors removes anti-competitive provisions from 2024 International Energy Conservation Code

Washington, D.C. – The International Code Council’s Board of Directors approved appeals from AGA and others to the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code.

SUMMARY of ICC Appeals Ruling: The final IECC 2024 Code will remove the **electric-ready provisions** of the code and place these provisions in a **non-mandatory appendix**. Therefore, there will no longer be a mandatory requirement for all new homes to include electric-ready provisions for natural gas appliances such as cooking appliances, water heaters and clothes dryers.

Electric-Ready Provisions to be included in a non-mandatory appendix: All new homes can consider inclusion of electric-ready provisions for the following natural gas appliances: cooking appliances, water heaters and clothes dryers.

Solar-Ready Provision to be included in a non-mandatory appendix: All new homes can consider inclusion of a solar-ready provision.



Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Provision to be included in a non-mandatory appendix: All new homes can consider inclusion of an EV Ready Provision.

Optional Appendix RE is an All-Electric Appendix. This is not a mandatory requirement but is listed as an option for a jurisdiction / municipality to adopt if they so choose. The board decided to move the All-Electric Appendix to a resource with a cautionary note regarding the risk of preemption.

This important ICC Ruling will “safeguard affordability for consumers” as the AGA has stated by removing the unnecessary and costly provisions to include electric systems at each natural gas appliance.

[Read More Here from ICC](#)

[Read More Here from AGA](#)

What's up with DOE?

DOE Final Rule Requires a Minimum Efficiency of 95% AFUE Standard for Consumer Furnaces

On December 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a final rule requiring consumer furnaces to meet a minimum efficiency of 95% AFUE. What does this mean? This rule effectively bans the sale of non-condensing natural gas furnaces and therefore greatly reduces consumer choice for heating. Instead, the choices given to consumers are 1) expensive retrofits to homes for the installation of a condensing furnace, which may very difficult if not impossible because of the physical characteristics of the building, or 2) expensive retrofits so that a less efficient electric appliance can be installed which will result in additional increased monthly energy costs. In either case, consumers are stuck with unnecessary costs which will result in increased greenhouse gas emissions.

On the same day the final rule was published, AGA, the American Public Gas Association, the National Propane Gas Association, and furnace manufacturer Thermo Products, filed a petition in the US Court of Appeals for DC challenging this DOE Furnace Final Rule. There will be updates in the future as events unfold.

Natural Gas Stoves fare well in DOE final ruling

The Department of Energy's Cooking Products Rule preserves consumer choice, with 97% of stoves meeting energy-efficiency standards.

Nearly one year after issuing their initial proposed rules, the Department of Energy (DOE) has finalized energy-efficiency standards for natural gas and electric cooktops. Gas stoves can keep the features consumers enjoy about the appliance, including high-powered burners, oversize cast iron grates and more under the new standards. DOE says the final rules mean 97% of gas stoves on the market already meet the new standards. New stoves will have to meet DOE's updated standards by 2028 and do not impact stoves already in consumers' homes.



DOE National Definition for a Zero Emissions Building

DOE released a Request for Information (RFI) January 3rd, soliciting feedback on Part 1 of a draft National Definition for a Zero Emissions Building. The definition, once established, will serve as a framework to influence design and operations of buildings to reduce building emissions. As proposed, the definition of a zero operating emissions building is one that is: 1) highly energy efficient, 2) free of on-site emissions from energy use, and 3) powered solely from clean energy. A challenging component of the current draft is the "Free of **on-site** emissions" component. This component does not account for source generation emissions and would likely restrict use of any fuel appliances for buildings to which this definition would apply. The initial February 5th comment deadline was extended to March 6th. AGA submitted comments.



[National Definition of a Zero Emissions Building: Part 1 Operating Emissions \(Version 1.00\), Draft Criteria.](#)
[energy.gov]

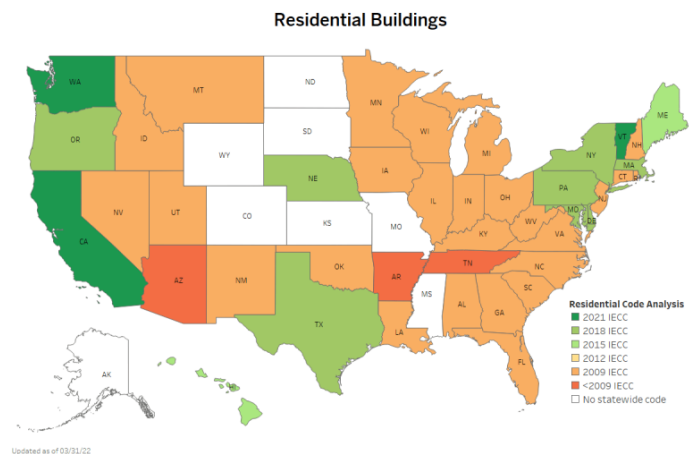
[AGA Comments to DOE on Draft Definition for Zero Emissions Buildings - American Gas Association](#)

State Happenings

Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts

Illinois Stretch Energy Code

The Illinois Stretch Energy Code is an above-baseline energy code required by the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). The Illinois Stretch Energy Code will be available for Illinois municipalities to adopt and will be a requirement for buildings funded by the Illinois



Capital Development Board (CDB). The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act outlines the performance target requirements of the Illinois Stretch Energy Code relative to the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. The stretch code efficiency targets specified by CEJA increase in efficiency throughout the decade such that there will be four (4) stretch codes developed through 2031. Various elements of the currently proposed Illinois Stretch Energy Code do not contribute to the efficiency requirements enumerated in CEJA. These elements include an all-electric appendix, electric-ready provisions, a requirement for commercial buildings without electric heat pumps to meet 1.25 times the energy credits as compared to those buildings with heat pumps, EV-ready provisions, and solar-ready ready provisions. The Illinois Stretch Energy Code was voted down by the Illinois Capital Development Board during the February 2024 monthly Board meeting. The code will be voted on again in the April Capital Development Board meeting.

[Illinois Stretch Energy Code \(20 ILCS 3125/55\)](#)

Chicago Indoor Emissions Ordinance

01.24.24 Mayor Johnson introduced an emissions ordinance limiting CO₂ combustion to no more than 25 kg per mmbtu for new construction and additions/renovations which increase space by 25% or more. The ordinance was referred to the Rules committee. It will be voted on at a later City Council meeting.

Maine LD 2077

“LD 2077 is a proposed bill in Maine which would prohibit gas expansion, service line extension credits, and promotional rebates for natural gas. Energy choice is valued in Maine and there was a strong political showing in opposition to the bill.

Committee members and lawmakers from both parties seem to understand that consumers want energy choice and access to a lower carbon and affordable energy source in Maine to warm their homes and fuel their businesses. Maine remains the most heating oil dependent state in the country, with 60% of Maine’s homes reliant on heating oil.

Despite overwhelming opposition, the advocates for the bill continue to push for a proceeding on the future of gas with the goal of restricting gas access and energy choice.

Conversations among all stakeholders are ongoing and whether the bill moves forward in amended form or dies in committee should be clear in coming weeks.”

Other News

IECC 2027 Call for Committees

Contact Tom Schultz with any questions

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