2019 ENERGY CODE TRAINING

Do you want to learn more about the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code)? The California Energy Commission’s Building Standards Outreach and Education (O&E) Unit is available to provide training at no charge. The O&E Unit can provide sessions that range from one-hour general or topic specific presentations, to full-day sessions. We are an International Code Council (ICC) Preferred Provider, and can offer continuing education units for attendees. If you would like to schedule a training session at your location, email Title24@energy.ca.gov.

Are you looking for a webinar training to attend online? Consider the training options from our partner Energy Code Ace or a training offered by one of your local utilities. No matter which training option you choose, we want to make sure you are getting the information you need for the upcoming 2019 Energy Code.

The 2019 Energy Code documents are available here.

Subscribe to the Blueprint Newsletter for more information on the upcoming 2019 Energy Code requirements.
NEW VIDEOS FOR NONRESIDENTIAL HVAC PRESCRIPTIVE REQUIREMENTS

New educational videos are now available on the Online Resource Center (ORC). These videos provide an overview of the 2016 Energy Code prescriptive requirements for HVAC systems in nonresidential, high-rise residential, hotel and motel buildings. To view the videos listed below, please visit the ORC.

Prescriptive Requirements for Nonresidential Space Conditioning Systems

» Course 2A: Prescriptive Approach Overview
» Course 2BC: Size, Equipment Selection and Calculations
» Course 2D: Power Consumption of Fans
» Course 2EFN: Space Conditioning Systems Controls
» Course 2G: Electric Resistance Heating
» Course 2H: Heat Rejection Systems
» Course 2IJ: Water Chillers
» Course 2K: Hydronic System Measures
» Course 2L: Air Distribution Duct Leakage Sealing
» Course 2M: Fan Control
» Course 2O: Economizers
» Course 2P: Performance Approach Overview
» Course 2Q: Additions and Alterations

WHOLE HOUSE FAN COMPLIANCE FOR LOW-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Installing and using a whole house fan (WHF) can be an effective way to cool a home through ventilation cooling. Ventilation cooling uses high volumes of outdoor air to cool the indoor space instead of air conditioning. Section 150.1(c)12 of the 2016 Energy Code covers the prescriptive requirements for ventilation cooling. It requires the installation of a WHF in newly constructed single-family buildings in climate zones 8 through 14. These prescriptive requirements also apply to additions with greater than 1,000 ft² of conditioned floor area (CFA) to existing single-family buildings within the same climate zones.

To comply with the 2016 Energy Code, the following criteria for WHF installations must be met:

• Provide at least 1.5 cubic feet per minute (CFM) of air flow for each square foot of CFA by one or more WHFs; and

• Provide at least 1 ft² of attic vent free area for each 750 CFM of WHF air flow, or the manufacturer’s specified attic vent free area, whichever is greater; and

• Provide the homeowner a one-page “How to Operate Your Whole House Fan” informational sheet; and

• WHFs must be listed in the Energy Commission’s Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System (MAEDbS).

For more information on these requirements, see Section 4.7.10 of the 2016 Residential Compliance Manual.
Q&A

TOWNHOUSES VS. DUPLEXES

Is there any difference in classification between a duplex with stacked dwelling units and a duplex with side-by-side dwelling units in the 2016 Energy Code?

No. The Energy Code classifies all group R-3 occupancy buildings with any number of stories, including duplexes, as low-rise residential. The 2016 California Building Code (Title 24, Part 2) classifies buildings that do not contain more than two dwelling units as a group R-3 occupancy. The enforcement agency has the final authority on classifying the occupancy for all buildings.

Since a townhouse has shared walls and no shared ceilings or floors, are side-by-side duplexes also considered townhouses?

No. A duplex is not considered a townhouse. The 2016 Energy Code defines townhouses as having three or more attached dwelling units. Duplexes are only two units, which can be either stacked or side-by-side, while townhouses are only side-by-side.

Are all duplex buildings, regardless of the configuration or the number of habitable stories, modeled as two separate single-family low-rise buildings?

Yes. All duplexes are modeled as two separate single-family buildings using Energy Commission approved compliance software for residential buildings. For more on how to model low-rise residential buildings, see the CBECC-Res 2016 User Manual.

Are low-rise residential townhouse dwelling units modeled as individual single-family buildings?

Yes. Low-rise residential townhouses are modeled as individual single-family units. For more on modeling low-rise residential buildings, see the CBECC-Res 2016 User Manual.

Are high-rise residential townhouse buildings modeled as multi-family buildings?

Yes. High-rise residential townhouses are modeled as one multi-family building using Energy Commission approved compliance software for nonresidential buildings. For more on how to model high-rise residential buildings, see the CBECC-Com 2016 User Manual.

Need Help? Energy Standards Hotline
(800) 772-3300 (toll-free in CA)
Title24@energy.ca.gov