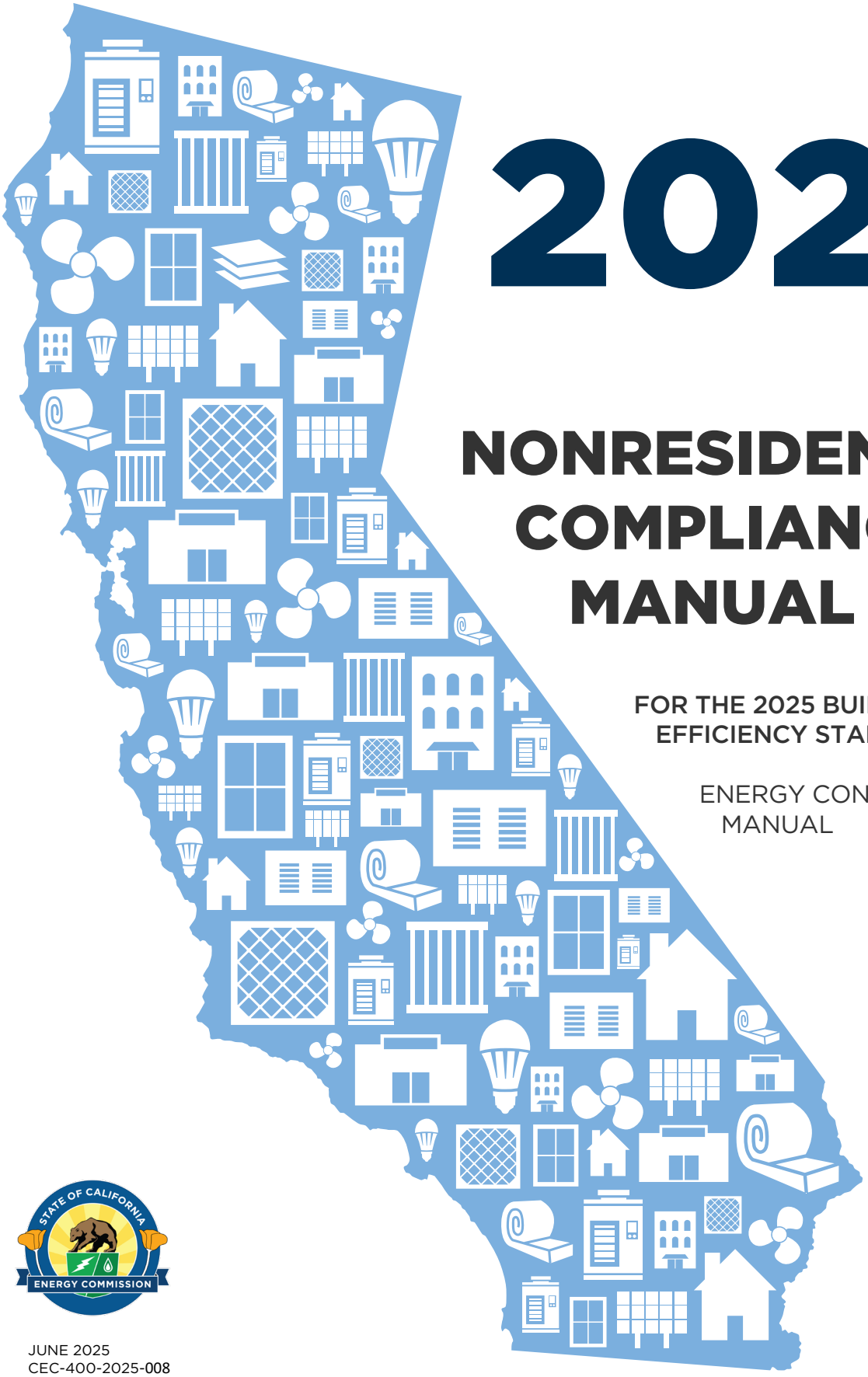

2025

NONRESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE MANUAL

FOR THE 2025 BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

ENERGY CONSERVATION MANUAL

JUNE 2025
CEC-400-2025-008

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Gavin Newsom, Governor

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

California Energy Commission

STAFF REPORT

2025 Nonresidential Compliance Manual

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2025 Energy Code Conservation Manual

June 2025 | CEC-400-2025-008

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The Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code) were first adopted by the California Energy Commission and put into effect in 1978 and have been updated periodically as directed by statute. The Energy Code are a unique California asset that have placed the state on the forefront of energy efficiency, sustainability, energy independence, and climate change issues. These standards also have provided a template for national standards within the United States, as well as for other countries around the globe. They have benefitted from the conscientious involvement and enduring commitment to the public good of many persons and organizations along the way.

The 2025 Energy Code development and adoption process continues a longstanding practice of maintaining the standards with technical rigor, challenging but achievable design and construction practices, public engagement, and full consideration of the views of stakeholders. The 2025 Energy Code revision and the supporting documents were updated through the work of California Energy Commission (CEC) staff and consultants working under contract to the CEC. Support was provided by the utility-organized Codes and Standards Enhancement (CASE) Initiative. Input was also gained by the participation of stakeholders and the contribution of formal public comments.

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ABSTRACT

California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards were adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in 1976 and have been updated periodically as directed by statute. In 1975, the California Department of Housing and Community Development adopted rudimentary energy conservation standards under State Housing Law authority that were a precursor to the first generation of the standards. However, the Warren-Alquist Act was passed one year earlier with explicit direction to the CEC, formally titled the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to adopt and implement the standards. The CEC's statute created separate authority and specific direction regarding what the standards are to address, what criteria are to be met in developing the Energy Code, and what implementation tools, aids, and technical assistance are provided.

The standards contain energy and water efficiency requirements (and indoor air quality requirements) for newly constructed buildings, additions to existing buildings, and alterations to existing buildings. Public Resources Code Sections 25402 subdivisions (a)-(b) and 25402.1 emphasize the importance of building design and construction flexibility by requiring the CEC to establish performance standards, in the form of an "energy budget" by building type in terms of the energy consumption per square foot of floor space.

Public Resources Code Section 25402.1 requires the CEC to support the Energy Code with compliance tools for builders and building designers. The Compliance Manuals provide information supplemental to the Energy Code regulations. The manuals are intended to help plans examiners, inspectors, owners, designers, builders, and energy consultants comply with and enforce California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

Keywords: California Energy Commission; mandatory; envelope insulation; California Building Code; prescriptive; HVAC; California Building Energy Efficiency Standards; performance; building commissioning; Title 24, Part 6; valuation; refrigeration; 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards; ducts in conditioned spaces; exhaust; residential; high-performance attics; compressed air; nonresidential; high-performance walls; acceptance testing; newly constructed; high-efficacy lighting; data collection; additions and alterations to existing buildings; water heating; cool roof; windows; on-site renewable; 2025 Energy Code; indoor air quality; field verification and diagnostic testing; swimming pool; photovoltaic; PV; battery; solar ready; electric-ready

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