

BLUEPRINT

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
EFFICIENCY DIVISION

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2025 Energy Code Adopted

The California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted the 2025 Energy Code. The **2025 Energy Code** will go into effect on January 1, 2026, following approval by the California Building Standards Commission. The 2025 Energy Code updates focus on these areas:

- Building envelope efficiency
- Heat pumps for space conditioning and water heating in single-family and select nonresidential buildings
- Multifamily water heating, electric-readiness, and ventilation
- Pool and spa water heating systems
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage systems for select buildings
- Electric-readiness for commercial kitchens
- Covered processes pipe insulation, laboratory and factory exhaust systems

The 2025 Energy Code includes changes to improve clarity and consistency, correct errors, streamline requirements, and align

with national standards and other parts of the California Building Standards Code.

For more information, please see the **2025 Energy Code Fact Sheet** and visit the **2025 Energy Code webpage**.

Energy Code Support Center

The Online Resource Center is now the **Energy Code Support Center**. The support center provides educational assistance to the building industry and enforcement communities related to the Energy Code. In partnership with California utility companies, the CEC develops resources including fact sheets, frequently asked questions, guides, presentations, training classes, videos, and provides links to additional resources.

Recently launched with a new name and look, the support center has been reformatted to improve user experience. It now includes frequently asked questions and reduces scrolling while browsing Energy Code topics. Some highlights of the recent changes are:

Hotline Submission Form

The **Energy Code Hotline Submission Form** is a simple online form designed to collect the necessary information about Energy Code questions, allowing the Hotline to respond to questions without first needing to reach out for more information.

Training Resources

A new 2022 Accessory Dwelling Units training presentation for the 2022 Energy Code is available on the Energy Code Support Center **Overview webpage**.

For more information, please visit the **Energy Code Support Center webpage**.

Acceptance Testing

The Energy Code requires acceptance testing for lighting controls, mechanical systems, fenestration, and covered processes in nonresidential and multifamily buildings. Acceptance testing consists of visual and functional performance testing of installed equipment. Acceptance testing helps ensure that the installed equipment operates as designed and complies with the Energy Code.

Only certified acceptance test technicians (ATTs) may perform required tests for lighting controls and mechanical systems in nonresidential and multifamily buildings. The CEC approves

Acceptance Test Technician Certification Providers (ATTCPs) to train, certify, and oversee the technicians and their employers. The tests and ATTs are subject to quality assurance inspections by the ATTCP. For more information on the ATTCP program, please see the **ATTCP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) webpage**.

A current review of ATT field test data has revealed that compliance with the acceptance testing requirements is low. Specifically, applicable acceptance tests and forms are not being specified on the respective nonresidential certificate of compliance (NRCC), and subsequently the applicable acceptance tests and nonresidential certificate of acceptance (NRCA) are not being completed after installation.

The authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) are responsible for enforcement of the acceptance testing requirements in nonresidential and multifamily buildings. Relying on the ATTCP program to ensure the Energy Code requirements are met helps reduce the time and effort required of AHJs at plan review and site inspection. At plan review, AHJs should review the NRCCs which identify the mechanical and lighting control systems acceptance tests that must be performed by a certified ATT. At inspection, the completed NRCAs

must be made available to the AHJ before issuance of the certificate of occupancy per **Section 10-103(a)4C**. The AHJ should verify the ATT's certification status on the ATTCP's website and that the NRCAs are watermarked with the ATTCP logos.

CEC staff is available upon request to provide training to AHJs on the ATTCP program for lighting controls and mechanical systems. AHJ staff are encouraged to complete a free Inspector and Design Professional Training provided by the **National Energy Management Institute (NEMI)**. The NEMI course outlines the requirements for physical testing and verification of the mechanical NRCA forms. It helps AHJs understand how the design objective is met and complies with the 2022 Energy Code. It is accredited by the International Code Council (ICC) for continuing education units.

For questions on the ATTCP program or to request free ATTCP training, please contact the Standards Compliance Branch at **SCO@energy.ca.gov**. For more information, please visit the **ATTCP webpage**.

Acceptance Testing Resources

Acceptance testing resources are available on the **ATTCP webpage** under educational resources.

- Inspector Field Sheet
- CBECC 3.1 updates to trigger acceptance tests on the NRCCs

Updated 2022 Energy Code acceptance testing resources



The CEC welcomes feedback on Blueprint.
Please contact the editor at
Title24@energy.ca.gov

are available on the [Energy Code Support Center webpage](#) under acceptance test technicians.

- 2022 ATTCP counter card
- 2022 ATTCP presentation

HERS Program Updates

The CEC has approved CHEERS as a provider of a low-rise multifamily data registry under the 2022 Energy Code.

CalCERTS has ceased operations as a HERS provider. Please visit the updated [Home Energy Rating System providers](#) webpage and see the Advisement - CalCERTS Closure on the [Regulatory Advisories webpage](#) for additional guidance.

For more information about the HERS program please visit the [HERS program webpage](#).

ENERGY CODE

HOTLINE

Available to help with
Energy Code
(Title 24, Part 6) questions

✉ SUBMISSION FORM
www.energy.ca.gov/energy-code-support-center

☎ CALL
800-772-3300 | 916-654-5106
Toll free in CA | Outside CA

Q&A

Nonresidential Economizers

Does adding an economizer to an existing chilled water cooling system trigger the 2022 Energy Code requirements?

Yes. A newly installed economizer added to an existing chilled water cooling system would need to meet [Section 140.4\(e\)](#). Per [Exception 4 to Section 141.0\(b\)2C](#) the economizer prescriptive requirements in [Section 140.4\(e\)](#) are applicable to systems, other than single package air-cooled commercial unitary air conditioners and heat pumps, with cooling capacity less than 54,000 Btu/h.

Can the design capacity be used to avoid installing an economizer per [Section 140.4\(e\)](#) of the 2022 Energy Code if the actual total design cooling capacity of the unit is only 31,000 Btu/hr but the equipment rated cooling capacity is 36,000 Btu/hr?

No. The total design capacity is the total rated capacity of the equipment. Per [Section 140.4\(e\)](#) each cooling air handler that has a design total mechanical cooling capacity over 33,000 Btu must comply with economizer prescriptive requirements unless it meets an exception. Consider the performance approach to model this project to trade-off the economizer requirements with other efficiencies.

Demand Response Noncritical Zones

Is a grocery store with zonal HVAC direct digital controls considered a noncritical zone that needs to meet the demand responsive requirements in [Section 110.12\(b\)](#) of the 2022 Energy Code?

Yes. HVAC systems with zonal direct digital controls in noncritical zones are required to have the capability to receive demand response signals per [Section 110.12\(b\)](#) of the 2022 Energy Code. The Energy Code [Section 100.1\(b\)](#) defines a critical zone as a zone serving a process where a reset of the zone temperature setpoint during a demand shed event might disrupt the process, including but not limited to computer rooms, data centers, telecom and private branch exchange rooms, and laboratories. Grocery stores do not meet the definition of a critical zone and would be considered a noncritical zone. Demand responsive controls would automatically reduce the energy load when a demand response signal is received if the building is signed up to participate in the utility's demand response program.

Nonresidential Fan Alterations

Do altered fans need to meet the fan energy index requirements in Section 120.10 of the 2022 Energy Code?

No. Per **Section 141.0(b)1D** alterations to fans do not need to meet the fan energy index requirements in **Section 120.10**. However, if the alteration includes any new or replacement fans, the new or replacement fans need to meet the fan energy index requirements in **Section 120.10**.

Nonresidential Lighting Alterations

Does removing a lighting fixture trigger the nonresidential lighting alteration requirements in Section 141.0(b)2I of the 2022 Energy Code?

No. Removing one lighting fixture with no other work being done, would not trigger any Energy Code lighting or control requirements.

Single-Family Water Heating Alternatives

Can a project show compliance with the 2019 Energy Code if the heat pump water heater that was modeled is no longer available for sale in California?

Yes. Projects that used the 2019 Energy Code software where the heat pump water heater model shown on the CF1R-PRF is no longer available for sale can demonstrate compliance by installing a heat pump water heater that meets the requirements of NEEA Advanced Water Heater Specification in the same tier or higher. The volume of the water heater shall be the same or larger than the original model on the CF1R. The final version of CBECC-Res 2019.2.0 was approved September 8, 2021 for demonstrating performance compliance for low-rise residential projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Energy Code Support Center:

www.energy.ca.gov/energy-code-support-center

Home Energy Rating System (HERS):

www.energy.ca.gov/HERS

Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider Program (ATTCP):

www.energy.ca.gov/ATTCP

2022 Approved Compliance Software:

www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2022-building-energy-efficiency-1

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For additional help with the Energy Code, see Energy Code Ace's **online offerings** of trainings, tools, and resources.

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Blueprint newsletter serves as a resource to assist stakeholders in complying with the Energy Code. It does not provide legal advice. Please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6 for specific requirements.



**CALIFORNIA
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