

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0137**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	September 21, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Application of Energy Step Code to Part 9 Buildings
Keywords:	Energy Step Code, Part 9 Buildings, Part 10
Building Code Reference(s):	Div B: 10.2.1.1., 9.36.1.3.(1), 9.36.6.1., Div A: 1.3.3.3.(1)

## Question:

Does the Energy Step Code apply to Part 9 buildings?

## Interpretation:

Yes, but only for Group C occupancies and the requirements of the local authority.

The Energy Step Code applies to Part 9 buildings, but not all of them. Sentence 9.36.1.3.(1) provides compliance options for energy efficiency which includes Subsection 9.36.6. for Energy Step Code. See Table A-9.36.1.3. for compliance options for Part 9 buildings.

Please note that the Energy Step Code is an optional compliance path that each local government may adopt if they wish to require a level of efficiency that goes above and beyond the BC Building Code. Energy targets and implementation strategies may vary from one municipality to another, so it is best to contact your local government to learn more about energy regulations in your jurisdiction.

**Table A-9.36.1.3.**  
**Energy Efficiency Compliance Options for Part 9 Buildings**  
Forming Part of Note A-9.36.1.3.

Building Types and Sizes	Energy Efficiency Compliance Options			
	9.36.2. to 9.36.4. (Prescriptive)	9.36.5. (Performance)	9.36.6. (Energy Step Code)	NECB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>houses with or without a secondary suite</li><li>buildings containing only dwelling units with common spaces <math>\leq</math> 20% of building's total floor area<sup>(1)</sup></li></ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>buildings containing Group D, E or F3 occupancies whose combined total floor area <math>\leq</math> 300 m<sup>2</sup> (excluding parking garages that serve residential occupancies)</li><li>buildings with a mix of Group C and Group D, E or F3 occupancies where the non-residential portion's combined total floor area <math>\leq</math> 300 m<sup>2</sup> (excluding parking garages that serve residential occupancies)</li></ul>	✓	X	X	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>buildings containing Group D, E or F3 occupancies whose combined total floor area &gt; 300 m<sup>2</sup></li><li>buildings containing F2 occupancies of any size</li></ul>	X	X	X	✓

### Notes to Table A-9.36.1.3.:

(1) The walls that enclose a common space are excluded from the calculation of floor area of that common space.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.