

Important information for Industry: Adoption of National Energy Code

New regulations for energy efficiency in the construction of large buildings will come into effect on December 1, 2014 with the adoption of the **National Energy Code for Buildings 2011 (NECB)** as the **Manitoba Energy Code for Buildings (MECB)**.

The impact that these new requirements will be on all building permits applications - starting December 1, 2014.

In preparation for the adoption of this new regulation, the City of Winnipeg has posted a related **Information Bulletin for Industry** to our website – please see <http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/permits/pdf/InformationBulletins/Adoption-of-the-National-Energy-Code-for-Buildings.pdf>

The new Bulletin outlines the impact that these new requirements will have on permit applications.

Key details from the Bulletin are as follows:

- The new requirements will affect all building permits with a permit application date starting December 1, 2014.
 - Incomplete permit applications received prior to December 1 may be subject to the Regulation when the complete application is received.
- The Regulation can be accessed at: <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/pdf-regs.php?reg=213/2013>
- The new efficiency standards will apply to building insulation as well as lighting, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, water heating, and electrical systems for new, larger commercial and multi-residential buildings.
- While the adoption of the MECB as a provincial document is regulated through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the City of Winnipeg is mandated to enforce the regulations through its permit process.
- In keeping with its Council-approved Building Permit Strategy (2012), the City of Winnipeg will rely on professional certificates as a method of implementing compliance with the new MECB.
 - As such, the City's intention is to not engage in plan review or inspections specific to the elements of the MECB (except, potentially, by way of an audit).
 - To this end, the City of Winnipeg will require a declaration of designer responsibility for the MECB at the time of permit application for projects subject to the MECB, effective December 1, 2014.
 - Despite the fact that the MECB outlines prescriptive requirements (or compliance alternatives) for all design disciplines (Electrical, Mechanical, Structural and Architectural), the requirements are connected and need to be coordinated by a single professional taking responsibility.
 - Professionals who are considering fulfilling this role should refer to MBC, Division C – 2.2.2.3 (table) to ensure they are eligible to review the occupancy and size of building proposed.
- **Additionally, the City of Winnipeg will require a single certificate of compliance post construction and prior to the issuance of a final occupancy permit from the coordinating professional.**

- Since all construction disciplines are required to be involved in compliance with the MECB, it is assumed that the coordinating or certifying professional will have a contractual relationship with other professionals that will be supplying their (sub)-certifications to the coordinating professional.
- However, the current plan is that City of Winnipeg will only require submission of the coordinating certificate of compliance. (Note: The City may request (sub)-certifications of other disciplines from the coordinating professional in the event of an audit).

The City of Winnipeg has reviewed this conceptual approach with the ***Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba (APEGM)***, the ***Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC)***, and the ***Manitoba Association of Architects (MAA)***. The specific format/wording of the certificates or declaration of responsibility and compliance has yet to be developed and reviewed with the associations. It is expected that those documents will be released a number of months prior to December 1, 2014. For example, the coordinating professional will also be responsible to submit a completed NRC compliance document.

The new energy code provides many new challenges and opportunities, and will require further discussion and coordination between government and industry. Your patience and support in helping us provide the best solution for all is greatly appreciated in this process. Continued information will be released as it is made available. We ask that individual professionals provide their feedback directly to their respective professional organizations to allow communication with the City to be coordinated and consolidated.

For more information please contact:

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