

Subject: City of Houston Code Change Update



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TPREIA keeps Inspectors Informed

October 1, 2009

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Upcoming TPREIA
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October 23rd &
24th**

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Dear Mike,

TPREIA is providing you this City of Houston Code Update information to assist you in performing inspections within the City limits of Houston. Please read this article to familiarize yourself with these changes.

Code Update Newsletter

The Public Works and Engineering Department Planning and Development Services Division

"Providing information pertaining to the Codes and how they affect you."

Phased Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential Structures
October 1, 2009

In January the City of Houston adopted amendments to the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code & Chapter 11 of the 2000 International Residential Code. As part of the city's commitment to energy efficiency, the amendments included increased phased requirements effective October 1, 2009.

Beginning October 1, 2009, all new construction of Single Family Residential and Multifamily (3 stories in height or less) will be

required to achieve a 15% minimum improvement in energy efficiency above the Houston Residential Energy Conservation Code.

During our process of meeting with stakeholders to prepare for the implementation of the changes, we identified some areas that needed some modification to simplify compliance. These minor modifications were approved by City Council on September 30.

A summary of the modifications to the code are as follows:

Deleting the 15% above requirement for additions - only new constructions will need to comply.

Allowing other above code programs in addition to the Energy Star program - this will allow for other programs when approved by the Building Official.

Allowing other software programs to evaluate above code percentage.

Modified some of the prescriptive option packages minimum values/ratings. This was primarily to clarify the provision or revise when another option was deleted to maintain a 15% balance.

Added a new option package table for Multi-family structures for electric resistance heating - most multi-family new construction projects are built with electric compared to gas.

To assist in this process, we are also preparing a guideline and adding a supplemental page to the current City of Houston Energy Form for use with the option packages.

For questions, please email Lisa Fleming Brown at lisa.fleming@cityofhouston.net.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Plan Review Numbers:

Commercial- 713-535-7500

One- Stop- 713-535-7550 (Commercial Remodels and Residential)

Inspection Numbers:

Building- 713-535-7800

Mechanical- 713-535-7755

Electrical- 713-535-7600

Plumbing- 713-535-7700

Occupancy/Life Safety- 713-535-7730

Sign Administration- 713-218-5820

Permit Office Numbers:

General- 713-535-7897

Dacoma Office- 713-686-6224

Kingwood Office- 281-361-9586

Utility Releases- 713-535-7748

Other Information:

Administration- 713-535-7510

Customer Assistance & Code Development Office- 713-525-7039
or 7040

Automated Inspection Request Line- 713-525-7000

Other City Departments- Dial 311

For Additional Permit Information: You may obtain information
about permits by visiting our website at:

www.houstonpermits.org. You will then be linked to our
database of sold permits. If you have questions about any of
these permits, please contact our Code Enforcement Group at
713-535-7500.

To Reach Other City of Houston Departments:

<http://www.houstontx.gov> or dial 311.

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cooperation.

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