

Ministerial Interpretation

The Construction Codes Act

TIERED PRESCRIPTIVE PATH FOR NBC 2020 SECTION 9.36.

Issue Number: NBC 2020 - 003
Date Effective: May 15, 2025
Expires: The day the National Building Code of Canada 2025 comes into force in Saskatchewan.
Page: 1 of 3

Purpose

To provide for the voluntary use of a prescriptive-based path for compliance with Energy Performance Tiers 3, 4 and 5 specified in the National Building Code of Canada 2020 (NBC 2020) Division B, Section 9.36.

Discussion

The NBC 2020 introduced five energy performance tiers with increasing levels of improvement for houses and small residential occupancies. Saskatchewan has adopted Energy Performance Tier 1 as the minimum standard for the construction of new buildings to which Section 9.36. applies. Building owners and designers may voluntarily pursue higher tiers of energy performance for their buildings.

Two compliance options are specified in the NBC 2020 for achieving higher tiers of energy performance. These options include the tiered performance path specified in Subsection 9.36.7. and the tiered prescriptive path specified in Subsection 9.36.8. Code provisions for Tiers 3, 4 and 5 of the tiered prescriptive path are currently “reserved”. The absence of Code provisions for these energy performance tiers could prevent building owners and designers from voluntarily pursuing higher-tier energy efficiency targets for their buildings.

This interpretation provides the language necessary to allow owners and designers to voluntarily apply Energy Performance Tiers 3, 4 or 5 of the tiered prescriptive path to the design of their buildings.

Ministerial Interpretation – NBC 2020 – 003

Tiered Prescriptive Path for NBC 2020 Section 9.36.

Page 2 of 3

Ministerial Interpretation

NBC 2020 Section 9.36. shall be interpreted with Article 9.36.8.2. and Note A-9.36.8.2.(1)(b) removed and the following substituted:

“9.36.8.2. Compliance

- 1) Compliance with this Subsection shall be achieved by designing and constructing buildings to which this Subsection applies in accordance with Sentences (2) to (5).
- 2) The requirements of Subsections 9.36.2. to 9.36.4. shall be met, except where these requirements are specifically permitted by this Subsection to be waived. (See Note A-9.36.8.2.(2).)
- 3) The minimum sum of energy conservation points as specified in Table 9.36.8.2. shall be accumulated, by complying with one or more of the energy conservation measures prescribed in Articles 9.36.8.5. to 9.36.8.11., to attain the applicable energy performance tier.
- 4) The minimum sum of energy conservation points from building envelope measures as specified in Table 9.36.8.2. shall be accumulated, by complying with one or more of the energy conservation measures prescribed in Articles 9.36.8.5. to 9.36.8.8. and 9.36.8.11., to attain the applicable energy performance tier.
- 5) A minimum Airtightness Level of AL-3A or AL-4B as specified in Article 9.36.6.4. shall be achieved to attain Energy Performance Tiers 4 and 5.

Table 9.36.8.2.
Energy Performance Tiers
Forming Part of Sentences 9.36.8.2.(3) and (4)

Minimum Sum	Energy Performance Tiers				
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Energy conservation points	⁽¹⁾	10	20	40	75
Energy conservation points from <i>building</i> envelope measures ⁽²⁾	-	-	5	10	15

Ministerial Interpretation – NBC 2020 – 003

Tiered Prescriptive Path for NBC 2020 Section 9.36.

Page 3 of 3

Notes to Table [9.36.8.2.-B]:

- (1) Tier 1 represents compliance with the baseline energy efficiency requirements stated in Subsections 9.36.2. to 9.36.4.; therefore, this Tier has no energy conservation points associated with it.
- (2) Applicable measures include building envelope measures described in Articles 9.36.8.5. to 9.36.8.7., airtightness measures prescribed in Article 9.36.8.8. and building volume measures prescribed in Article 9.36.8.11

Note A-9.36.8.2.(2) Compliance Options.

The prescriptive requirements presented in Subsections 9.36.2. to 9.36.4. serve as the basis for the energy conservation measures presented in Subsection 9.36.8. Builders and designers can choose to apply one or more of the measures in order to accumulate the associated energy conservation points with a view to achieving compliance with more stringent Energy Performance Tiers. Energy conservation measures are provided only for certain building elements addressed in Subsections 9.36.2. to 9.36.4.; therefore, other building elements that comply with other Code provisions cannot be credited with any energy conservation points.”

Authority

Section 8 of *The Construction Codes Act*.

Jurisdiction

This interpretation will apply throughout Saskatchewan.

Original approved and signed by:

The Honourable Eric Schmalz
Minister of Government Relations