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NFPA 900

Building Energy Code

2007 Edition

This edition of NFPA 900, *Building Energy Code*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Building Systems and released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Building Construction and Safety Code. It was issued by the Standards Council on December 1, 2006, with an effective date of December 20, 2006, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 900 was approved as an American National Standard on December 20, 2006.

Origin and Development of NFPA 900

In late 2002, the Standards Council charged the Technical Committee on Building Systems with developing a new document, NFPA 900, *Building Energy Code*, to complement the *Comprehensive Consensus Codes*® (C3®). NFPA 900 incorporates the technical provisions of ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, and ASHRAE 90.2, *Energy Efficient Design of Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, with administrative provisions and appropriate annexes, tables of content, definitions, references, indices, and other information developed through the NFPA process to create a “stand-alone” building energy code.

This edition has updated the references for the technical provision to the 2004 editions of both ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, and ASHRAE 90.2, *Energy Efficient Design of Low-Rise Residential Buildings*.

The ASHRAE provisions, while incorporated into the document, cannot be modified by NFPA committees. They can only be modified through ASHRAE’s ANSI-accredited process.

Annex B, Supplemental Administrative Provisions, has been revised with material extracted from the 2006 edition of NFPA 5000®, *Building Construction and Safety Code*®.

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(Alt. to J. M. Jardin)

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Rep. TC on Structures, Construction, and Materials

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents or portions of documents on the design and construction of every building or structure, including structural design methods and techniques, as well as the design of integrated building systems for health, safety, comfort, and convenience.

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IL [I]
Rep. American Society for Heating, Refrigerating, and
Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

Alternates

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(Alt. to M. J. Reeser)
David Cook, Ralph Gerdes Consultants, LLC, IN [SE]
(Alt. to D. W. Bradshaw)
Charles C. Cottrell, North American Insulation
Manufacturers Association, VA [M]
(Voting Alt. to NAIMA Rep.)
Joshua D. Greene, The RJA Group, Inc., IL [SE]
(Alt. to S. Rondinelli)

Peter Leszczak, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
CT [U]
(Voting Alt. to J. W. Evolve)
Gary L. Nuschler, Otis Elevator Company, CT [M]
(Alt. to E. A. Donoghue)
Jack Wells, Pass and Seymour/Legrand, NC [M]
(Alt. to J. Pauley)

Allan Fraser, NFPA Staff Liaison

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the application of various building systems and features that relate to convenience, health, comfort, and access to a building.

Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	900- 5	Chapter 4 Technical Provision for All Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings	900- 6
1.1 Scope	900- 5	4.1 Technical Provisions	900- 6
1.2 Purpose	900- 5		
1.3 Application	900- 5	Chapter 5 Technical Provision for Low-Rise Residential Buildings	900- 6
1.4 Retroactivity (Reserved)	900- 5	5.1 Technical Provisions	900- 6
1.5 Enforcement	900- 5		
1.6 Code Title	900- 5	Annex A Explanatory Material	900- 6
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	900- 5	Annex B Supplemental Administrative Provisions	900- 6
2.1 General	900- 5	Annex C Sample Ordinance Adopting NFPA 900	900-13
2.2 NFPA Publications	900- 5	Annex D Informational References	900-14
2.3 Other Publications	900- 5	Index	900-15
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections (Reserved)	900- 5		
Chapter 3 Definitions	900- 5		
3.1 General	900- 5		
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions	900- 5		
3.3 General Definitions (Reserved)	900- 6		

NFPA 900

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule beside the paragraph, table, or figure in which the change occurred. These rules are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition. Where one or more complete paragraphs have been deleted, the deletion is indicated by a bullet (•) between the paragraphs that remain.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex D. Editorial changes to extracted material consist of revising references to an appropriate division in this document or the inclusion of the document number with the division number when the reference is to the original document. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex D.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. These regulations shall control the minimum energy-efficient requirements for the following:

- (1) The design, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, demolition, removal, inspection, issuance, and revocation of permits or licenses, installation of equipment related to energy conservation in all buildings and structures and parts thereof
- (2) The rehabilitation and maintenance of construction related to energy efficiency in existing buildings
- (3) The standards or requirements for materials to be used in connection therewith

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of the *Code* is to provide minimum design, construction, and maintenance requirements for the energy efficiency of all buildings, structures, and certain equipment within the jurisdiction as specifically regulated in this *Code*.

1.3 Application.**1.3.1 General.**

1.3.1.1 The provisions of this *Code* shall apply to all buildings except low-rise residential buildings to the extent required by the standard referenced in Section 4.1.

1.3.1.2 The provisions of this *Code* shall apply to low-rise residential buildings to the extent required by the standard referenced in Section 5.1.

1.3.1.3 When constructed in accordance with NFPA 501, *Standard on Manufactured Housing*, manufactured housing shall be exempt from the provisions of this *Code*.

1.4 Retroactivity. (Reserved)

1.5 Enforcement. This code shall be administered and enforced by the authority having jurisdiction designated by the governing authority. (See Annex C for sample wording for enabling legislation.)

1.6 Code Title. The provisions in the following chapters of this document shall constitute and be known as NFPA 900, *Building Energy Code*, hereinafter referred to as "this *Code*" or "the *Code*."

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this code and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 501, *Standard on Manufactured Housing*, 2005 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ASHRAE Publications. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc., 1791 Tullie Circle, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329-2305.

ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, 2004.

ASHRAE 90.2, *Energy Efficient Design of Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, 2004.

2.3.2 Other Publications.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections. (Reserved)

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this code. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3* Code. A standard that is an extensive compilation of provisions covering broad subject matter or that is suitable for adoption into law independently of other codes and standards.