Attention all permit holders

Effective February 8, 2016, the 2015 Michigan Residential Code takes effect. The new energy code is now incorporated in the residential code as Chapter 11. If you do not have a copy of the new code edition, it can be purchased online at the following websites:

www.iccsafe.org

OR

2015 Code MRC books can be purchase through our office at our member rate.

Listed below are some of the significant changes to the new code edition that will affect current construction procedures and methods:

Chapter 5

Sec. 507 Exterior Decks has been added. This section now includes allowable spans for deck beams and deck joists, minimum post size requirements and new requirements for post to beam connections.

Chapter 6

Sec. R602.7.5 Supports for headers.

Table 602.7.5 has been added to show minimum number of full height studs required adjacent to each end of the header for spans given for exterior walls.

(Please note the table refers to table R602.3.5 for stud spacing)
The number of studs required is based upon the REQUIRED stud spacing of the wall in question. Not the actual stud spacing.

Chapter 11

Energy Efficiency

(Formerly known as the Michigan uniform energy code)

Energy code compliance options have changed, see sec. N1101.15. for all options.

Third party visual inspection option for air leakage has been deleted (formerly sec. 402.4.2.2)

Blower door tests are MANDATORY and must not exceed 4 ACH per Sec. N1102.4.1.2. This is to include new construction, additions, alterations, renovations and certain repairs. (The practical application of the code in certain cases may be technically infeasible, so outside of new construction, this may be addressed on a case by case basis, feel free to contact KABA during the planning phases of your project to discuss compliance options.)

Please note that LARA has also required that blower door testing providers have proof of completion of an approved certification program. They may provide a copy of completion with their blower door test results.

Sec. N1101.16 A permanent certificate must be placed on or in the electrical panel with all required information as spelled out in this section.

The trade-off method of compliance (most commonly used is REScheck) is still accepted, however REScheck is fully compliant with the 2015 IECC and the state of Michigan has made its own amendments to the code that differ from the IECC. The state of Michigan's energy efficiency requirements are less restrictive than the IECC. This will affect any REScheck compliance reports generated for our climate zone.

If you choose to continue to use REScheck as your compliance method please note the following:

1. Be sure to choose 2015 IECC for the code edition used for the report.
2. Enter all information as required. (Please be sure to input the accurate gross areas for all wall, window, door types etc.)
3. If the report generated does NOT pass, proceed with the following:

    a) Replace the ceiling R-value for your project to R-49.
4. If it still does not pass, replace the basement wall value to R15/19.
5. If it still does not pass, you will need to re design the project for compliance.

If substitutions have to be made in order for the compliance report to pass, please submit the original failed report along with the report that passed to KABA at time of application.

Chapter 39

Sec. 3901.9 Garage receptacles. Must be on a dedicated circuit and must have not less than one receptacle outlet for each motor vehicle space.

3901.11 Foyers that are not part of a hallway and are greater than 100 sf. shall have a receptacle located in each wall space that is 3 feet or wider.

3902.10 Kitchen dishwasher branch circuit. Ground fault circuit interrupter protection shall be provided for outlets that supply dishwashers in dwelling unit locations.

Post Frame structures

All post frame building header to post connections are to be a compression load (notched into post) as specified in Sec. 507.7.1 and Sec. 502.6. (Beams/headers must have not less than 1 ½" bearing)

For all framing inspections:

Please provide spec sheet for all recessed housing light fixtures (can lights) so that we may verify energy code compliance and IC rating per Chapter 11 Sec. N1102.4.4 of 2015 MRC.

Please note that a lot of framing inspections result in corrections that need to be made prior to approval, some of the most common deficiencies include:

1. Truss drawings must be on site for framing inspection.
2. Lateral and rotational truss bracing as required by the truss drawings and by the BCSI 1-03 Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing and Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.
3. Proper uplift connection requirements, specifically for girder trusses and beams supporting trusses.
4. Point load support transferring concentrated truss loads through walls and floor systems to foundation (continuous load path).
5. Bearing enhancements (blocks) and minimum bearing width support for certain heavily loaded trusses.

   Please be sure to examine the truss drawings for any of these requirements during framing.

For all final inspections:

Please provide same recessed lighting fixture spec sheet as required for the framing inspection, along with spec sheet for trims used to verify compliance. (Some units are rated based upon trim style that is used)

Please provide access to the attic at time of final inspection to verify insulation requirements per Chapter 11 Sec. N1101.12.1.1 2015 MRC.

In an effort to keep you informed of the latest code information, KABA will strive to continue to update and address pertinent and common code issues as they arise.

Feel free to Contact KABA at any time if you have code related questions. Our KABA inspectors will be happy to assist you in any way possible.