

NYC GREEN CODES LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE



EF7

GCTF Proposal

Minimize Air Leakage Through Building Exteriors

Enacted

Section 502.4 of the Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State

Summary

Energy code requirements for air barriers are insufficient to prevent air leakage both in and out of buildings. An effective air barrier permits controlled levels of ventilation, prevents drafts, lowers heating loads, and contributes to overall energy savings.

The amended New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code improves building efficiency by setting more stringent continuous air barrier requirements.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: December 28, 2010. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered when construction activity requires a permit for work covered by this section of the Construction Codes.

Amendments to the Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State, Section 502.4:

- Continuous air barriers must be installed, with all seams and joints sealed in a flexible manner. Penetrations can only be made in a way such that the integrity of continuous air barrier is maintained.
- There are three methods to demonstrate compliance. Under a pressure differential of 75 Pa, materials, assemblies, and buildings cannot exceed specific permeability rates.
- Other minor revisions include putting the standards in one place (instead of referencing another section), modifying the standards for window and door assemblies, outdoor air intakes and exhaust openings, and condensing the recessed lighting requirements.

Enforcement

These new and revised provisions are a standard part of the Construction Code. They will be enforced by the Department of Buildings in the same manner as any other element of the Construction Codes. Note: commercial buildings may still comply with code using Standard 90.1-2007, which does not include continuous air barrier or detailed compliance demonstration requirements.

Implementation

There are no known issues for implementation of this code. Air leakage was previously regulated.

