

CHAPTER 303  
STATE BUILDING CODE—REQUIREMENTS FOR  
ENERGY CONSERVATION IN CONSTRUCTION

[Prior to 12/21/05, see rules 661—16.800(103A) to 661—16.802(103A)]

**661—303.1(103A) Scope and applicability of energy conservation requirements.**

**303.1(1) Scope.** Rules 661—303.1(103A) through 303.3(103A) establish thermal and lighting efficiency standards for the design of new buildings and structures or portions thereof and additions to existing buildings which provide facilities or shelter intended primarily for human occupancy or use by regulating their exterior envelopes and selection of their heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, service water heating, electrical distribution and illuminating systems and equipment for the efficient use of energy.

**303.1(2) Applicability.** Rules 661—303.1(103A) through 661—303.3(103A) apply to design and construction of buildings which provide facilities or shelter intended primarily for human occupancy or use throughout the state of Iowa. All residential construction is covered, as is all nonresidential construction of public buildings; any building within a jurisdiction which has adopted the state building code, a local building code, or a compilation of requirements for building construction; or any construction of a building or facility with more than 100,000 cubic feet of enclosed space. Rule 661—303.2(103A) establishes standards for design and construction of low-rise residential buildings. Rule 661—303.3(103A) establishes standards for nonresidential and high-rise residential design and construction.

The occupancy of any building covered by this chapter shall be determined based upon the occupancy definitions in chapter 3 of the International Building Code, 2003 edition.

**303.1(3) Review by architect or engineer.**

*a.* The plans and specifications for all buildings to be constructed after January 1, 1978, and which exceed a total volume of 100,000 cubic feet of enclosed space that is heated or cooled shall be reviewed by a registered architect or licensed professional engineer for compliance with applicable energy efficiency standards.

*b.* Statement of review. A statement that a review has been accomplished and that the design is in compliance with the energy efficiency standards shall be signed and sealed by the responsible registered architect or licensed professional engineer. This statement shall be filed with the commissioner on the form furnished by the commissioner, prior to construction or the obtaining of any local permits.

*c.* Submission fee. Included with the statement shall be a remittance of \$15, made payable to the Treasurer, State of Iowa.

*d.* Additional buildings. If the plans and specifications relating to energy efficiency for a specific structure have been approved, additional buildings may be constructed from those same plans and specifications without need of further approval if construction begins within five years of the date of approval. Alterations of a structure which has been previously approved shall not require a review because of these changes, provided the basic structure remains unchanged and no additional energy is required for heating, cooling or lighting.

*e.* Changes to approved plans. No changes shall be made to any approved plan or specifications which either decrease or increase the amount of energy used for heating, cooling, or lighting, unless approved by the responsible registered architect or licensed professional engineer in writing and notice filed with the commissioner.

*f.* Local plan review. The review of plans and specifications for buildings constructed with a volume of less than 100,000 cubic feet of enclosed space which is heated or cooled shall be in accordance with local or other building code requirements pertaining to plan review, as required by Iowa Code section 103A.19.

**661—303.2(103A) Residential energy code.** The International Energy Conservation Code, 2006 edition, is adopted by reference as the residential energy code of the state of Iowa building code, applicable to low-rise residential construction throughout the state of Iowa on or after January 1, 2007, with the following amendments:

1. Delete sections 101, 103, 104, 105, and 106, and all sections contained within each of these.
2. Amend section 403.2.2 as follows:

403.2.2 Sealing. All ducts, air handlers, filter boxes, and building cavities used as ducts shall be sealed. Joints and seams shall comply with Section M1601.3.1 of the International Residential Code. Air handlers with a manufacturer's designation for an air leakage of no more than 2 percent of the design air flow rate when tested at an air pressure of 1-inch water gauge when all air inlets, air outlets, and condensate drain port(s) are sealed shall be deemed sealed. Air handlers with filter boxes shall be tested with the filter box in place.

3. Delete chapter 5.

EXCEPTION: Residential construction which begins prior to April 1, 2007, may comply with rule 661—303.2(103A) as it read prior to January 1, 2007.

**661—303.3(103A) Adoption of nonresidential energy code.** The International Energy Conservation Code, 2006 edition, published by the International Code Council, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600, Falls Church, VA 22041, is hereby adopted by reference as the nonresidential energy code of the state building code, applicable to nonresidential or high-rise residential construction within the state of Iowa on or after January 1, 2007, with the following amendments:

1. Delete sections 101, 103, 104, 105, and 106, and all sections contained within each of these.
2. Delete chapter 4.

EXCEPTION: Nonresidential construction which begins prior to April 1, 2007, may comply with rule 661—303.3(103A) as it read prior to January 1, 2007.

**661—303.4(103A,473) Life cycle cost analysis.** Any public agency as defined by Iowa Code section 470.1 shall prepare a life cycle cost analysis for any new construction having 20,000 square feet of usable floor space which is heated or cooled by a mechanical or electrical system or for any renovation where additions or alterations exceed 50 percent of the value of the facility and affect an energy system.

The life cycle cost analysis shall be prepared in compliance with Iowa Code chapter 470 and be submitted to the state building code commissioner before construction commences.

Any public agency which is a state agency as defined in Iowa Code section 7D.34 shall, within 60 days of final selection of a design architect or engineer, notify the commissioner and the department of natural resources of the methodology to be used to perform the life cycle cost analysis. Notice shall be provided on the forms provided by the department of natural resources for this purpose. A life cycle cost analysis prepared by a state agency shall be submitted in sufficient time ahead of the releasing of plans for bids to allow for revisions or additions which may be made to the plans.

**661—303.5(103A) Submission fee.** Included with the submission of documents for an energy review shall be a remittance of \$15, which may be by money order, check, or warrant made payable to Treasurer, State of Iowa.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 103A.

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