

This bulletin serves as an insight of the changes to the energy efficiency prescriptive packages in the Ontario Building Code for residential houses.

For permit applications submitted after January 1, 2017, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has released the updated energy efficiency requirements for houses. The changes are designed to provide minimum 15% energy efficiency improvement over existing packages.

Building Code Compendium, 2012 SB-12

Summary of changes to the current prescribed energy efficiency packages include:

- HRV/ERV will be a required component of the ventilation system
- Drain Water Heat Recovery units shall be installed to receive drain water from all showers
- R-60 attic insulation will be required for most packages
- Continuous insulation (ci), or exterior insulation board, will be required for most packages for walls above grade and basement walls
- Increased energy efficiency requirements for furnaces, hot water heaters, and HRV's
- Slight increase in window efficiency

Furthermore, there will be an option to decrease the efficiency of one of the insulation, window, HRV or furnace components in exchange for a measured airtightness target; however, airtightness measurement is not mandatory unless the design incorporates this option.

To view the full document of changes to SB-12, please follow the link to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing site: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=15116>.

Plan Review Services

What further information will City of Barrie Building Services require to verify compliance with the increased energy efficiency requirements?

No additional information will be required at the plans examination stage beyond what is currently required to verify compliance with energy efficiency. The information contained within the Energy Efficiency Design Summary form, Ventilation Design form and typical permit drawings package will be sufficient.

Inspection Services

What additional services will be required for inspection?

The inspector will need to verify the installation and testing of all required Drain Water Heat Recovery units. Therefore, they should be installed and incorporated into the testing of drains and water supply during the rough-in plumbing inspection.

Where ci is incorporated into the insulation values, this assembly will need to be inspected, preferably during another required inspection such as insulation or air barrier inspection. Otherwise an additional inspection for insulation would be necessary.