

Residential Energy Code TAG

Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, December 11, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid – Washington Room/WebEx

Call to order:

Steve Shold

Attendance:

TAG Members present: Steve Shold (DLI), Don Sivigny (DLI), Chris Rosival (DLI), John Smith (practical engineering applications), Rebecca Olson (MN Center for Energy & Environment), Eric Fowler (Fresh Energy), Eric Boyd (Housing First Minnesota), Alyssa Jagdfeld (MN AIA), Mike Allen (BAM). Steve Ubl (building officials), Alison Lindburg (Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance), Jim Kumon (Heirloom Properties)

TAG Members absent: Mike Robertson (Habitat for Humanity)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Greg Metz (DLI), Nick Erickson, Lucas Rutherford, Gary Thaden, Mark Mikkelson, Michael Johnson, Andrew Hasek, Ben Rabe, Brandon Jaeger, Eric Lacey, Gary Thaden, Heidi Erm, Jared Johnson, Jason Vandever, Joshua Harmon, Matt Spellman, Matthew Brown, Mike Moore, Scott Anderson, Jonny Kocher, Mike Wilson

1. Call to order
2. Worksheet review of 2021 IECC code sections R402.4.5 through R403.3.4 as described below

2021 IECC Section R403.1.1 Programmable thermostat

TAG members discussed that programable thermostats for mini splits are often proprietary, expensive, and not user friendly. The TAG consensus was it is difficult for the code to address those problems but would consider a code change proposal to address these problems if one was submitted.

2021 IECC Section R403.3.1 Ducts located outside conditioned space

TAG members compared this section to Table R403.2.1 of the 2015 Minnesota Residential Energy Code. Table R403.2.1 includes requirements for exhaust ducts and requires any duct outside the conditioned space to be insulated to R-8 while section R403.3.1 does not address exhaust ducts and permits ducts less than 3 inches in

diameter to be insulated to R-6. A code change proposal will be submitted to modify section R403.3.1 and maintain the current requirement of Table R403.2.1.

2021 IECC Section R403.3.2 Ducts located in conditioned space

TAG members discussed concerns about the requirements of this section for cold climates and creating moisture transmission. Section R403.3.2, item 3.3 requires a minimum R-19 insulation installed in the cavity width that separates the duct from unconditioned space and currently R-30 is installed. Item 3.1 requires a continuous air barrier to be installed between the unconditioned space and the duct, which is the cold side. TAG members expressed concerns about the requirements when applied to ducts located in bonus rooms above garages or located between the house and garage. TAG members considered revising this section and section 402.2.7 for consistency. These sections will be discussed further in an upcoming meeting.

2021 IECC Section R402.3.3 Ducts buried within ceiling insulation

This section requires further review because it does not require the full attic insulation over the duct and permits the duct to be insulated to R-19.

2021 IECC Section R402.3.3.1 Effective R-value of deeply buried ducts buried

TAG members will review this section further to determine if duct insulation provisions are being weakened. Requirements for vapor barriers must also be considered.

2021 IECC Section R403.3.4 Sealing

TAG members reviewed the requirements for sealing ducts and duct testing. TAG members discussed whether visual inspection is adequate to determine ducts are sealed or if duct testing is necessary. The TAG consensus is to accept the 2021 IECC requirements.

Next Meeting:

Date: Monday, December 18, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Hybrid – Minnesota Room/WebEx Event

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 PM

Prepared by: Steve Shold