LOUISIANA RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODE

SUMMARY OF KEY RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE REQUIREMENTS

The 2009 IECC was adopted in Louisiana and went into effect on **January 1, 2020**. This document summarizes the building envelope-related requirements in the updated code for Louisiana.

CODE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Louisiana adopted the 2015 IRC on January 1, 2020. However, Chapter 11 of the 2009 IRC was substituted for Chapter 11 of the 2015 IRC.
- Visual building envelope inspection is acceptable if items listed in Table 402.4.2 are field-verified.
- A state of Louisiana Insulation Certificate shall be permanently posted in a utility area.

BUILDING ENVELOPE REQUIREMENTS

CODE PATH	2009 IECC CODE SECTION	CHANGE SUMMARY	
		CLIMATE ZONE 2	CLIMATE ZONE 3
Prescriptive	**R402.1.1 – Wood Frame Wall**	R-13 / U-0.082	R-13 / U-0.082
	R402.1.1 – Ceilings	R-30 / U-0.035	R-30 / U-0.035
	R402.1.1 – Slab	N/A	N/A
	R402.1.1 – Crawl Space Walls	N/A / U-0.477	R-13 or R-10 ci / U-0.136
	R402.1.1 – Fenestration	U-0.65	U-0.50

DUCT LEAKAGE

MEASUREMENT	CFM25 / 100 SQ. FT.
Rough-in	6
Post-construction (leakage to outside)	8
Post-construction (total leakage)	12

AIR LEAKAGE

CLIMATE ZONE	MEASUREMENT
2	7 ACH50
3	7 ACH50

Note: *All R-values are minimums and U-factors maximums.*

MORE INFORMATION ON THE LOUISIANA RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE CAN BE FOUND HERE:

http://lsuccc.dps.louisiana.gov/pdf/UC_Codes_Amendments_2020.pdf

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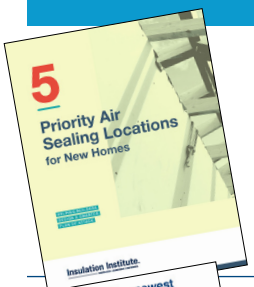
This summary is offered for informational purposes only. It does not purport to be an exhaustive analysis of code changes or provide advice that will ensure guaranteed compliance with any energy code provision. Please consult with local authorities before finalizing your installation plans.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT, COST-EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION WITH FIBERGLASS AND MINERAL WOOL INSULATION

As code levels advance, **keep informed about innovative practices** to meet or exceed code requirements using cost-effective fiberglass and mineral wool insulation.

The following resources in the table below are just a subset of the many guides available from the **Insulation Institute** to help you achieve new performance requirements with proven approaches.

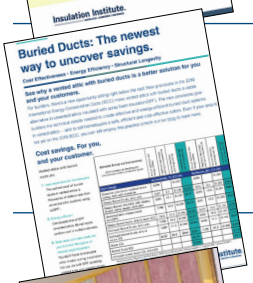
INSULATION INSTITUTE RESOURCES



Air Leakage

As states adopt more stringent energy codes, some builders may experience challenges meeting new mandatory air leakage requirements. Fiberglass and mineral wool insulation is the low-cost solution for homebuilders to meet or surpass code air leakage rate requirements of 3 or 5 air changes per hour depending on climate zone. For homeowners, an airtight building envelope results in energy savings and increased thermal comfort.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/N090-5-Air-Sealing-Locations-for-New-Homes.pdf



Ducts Buried Within Ceiling Insulation

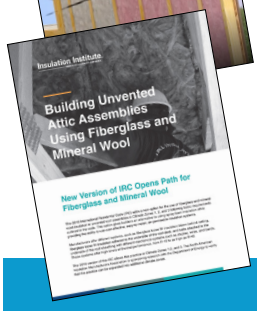
Deeply buried ducts in attics is an easy way to lower energy code compliance costs for builders using the simulated energy performance path. Homeowners can benefit from energy savings realized from lower-capacity, lower-cost HVAC systems.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/N087-Buried-Ducts-The-newest-way-to-uncover-savings.pdf

Proper Installation of Insulation

Grade I installation delivers superior energy efficiency and is increasingly required by state energy codes. Insulation installation jobs that fail to meet Grade I criteria can mean construction delays due to callbacks, HERS rating penalties, and failed code inspections. Grade I installation is readily achievable by following basic guidelines as recommended by manufacturers. NAIMA offers free online training for installers.

www.grade1insulation.org



Unvented Attics Using Fiberglass and Mineral Wool Insulation

Unvented attics can be constructed by installing fiberglass or mineral wool insulation below the roof deck instead of using more costly materials like spray foam. In addition, fiberglass and mineral wool insulation products are green certified and do not carry recommended occupancy restrictions due to product off-gassing after installation. Starting with the 2018 IRC, this practice is outlined in detail within the code. Homeowners benefit from lower construction costs and the use of a safe product.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BuildingUnventedAtticAssemblies-N089.pdf

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ERI COMPLIANCE PATH HERE:

www.energycodes.gov/resource-center/training-courses/2015-iecc-%E2%80%93-energy-rating-index-eri-compliance-alternative

Get the Facts for a Stronger Business

Learn more about fiberglass and mineral wool insulation at InsulationInstitute.org

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