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British Columbia Raises Energy Code Stringency

British Columbia has changed the province's building code in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase water efficiency. Changes include:

1. ***Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Houses and Smaller Multi-Family Residential, Commercial and Industrial Buildings***
 - Insulation standards for houses and multi-family residential buildings under five stories have changed. There are new insulation standards for small commercial and industrial buildings.
 - For housing, builders can choose to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 77 as an alternative to meeting the insulation requirements.
2. ***Energy Efficiency Requirements for High-Rise Multi-Family Residential Buildings and Larger Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Buildings***
 - Larger buildings must meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers 90.1(2004) standard. ASHRAE 90.1 is an internationally recognized standard for energy efficiency in buildings.
3. ***Water Efficiency Requirements***
 - Ultra low-flow toilets (6 L) and other water-saving plumbing fixtures and fittings will become mandatory in new construction and renovations.

The changes take effect on September 5, 2008. Builders will be able to choose between new prescriptive insulations standards or a performance code requiring a minimum EnerGuide Rating of 77. For more information, visit <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm>.