

Methods of Compliance with the 2015 MRC

Emmet & Surrounding Counties – Zone 6A

- **Prescriptive method:** Follow the chart and sections of the 2015 MRC for R Values of insulation on foundations, floors, walls, ceilings and the U values for doors, windows, skylights, etc.
 - Basements – Minimum R15 continuous insulation or R19 framed cavity insulation around the inside of the foundation.
 - Crawlspace – Minimum R15 using continuous insulation, or R19 framed cavity insulation around the perimeter of the foundation.
 - Floor slab – Minimum R10 4' depth
 - Floors – Minimum R30 over any unconditioned spaces.
 - Walls – Minimum R20 framed cavity insulation or a combination of minimum R13 framed cavity insulation + minimum R5 foam sheathing.
 - Ceilings – Minimum R49 (R38 allowed if full R38 extends out over wall exterior wall plates. Promotes the use of energy heal trusses).
 - Door and window U Value equal to or less than .32
 - Skylight U Value equal to or less than .55
 - Replacement windows, doors, skylights – same as for new construction.
 - Building thermal envelope sealed – joints caulked, doors and windows sealed and/or flashed, openings around doors, windows, skylights, etc, utility penetrations, walls and ceilings separating garages from conditioned spaces, behind tubs and showers on exterior walls, attic access openings, rim joist junctions, other possible sources of air infiltration.
 - Air sealing verification by third party blower door test.
 - Wood burning fireplaces to have tight fitting flue dampers and outdoor combustion air.
 - Recessed lighting to be of an approved type.
 - Programmable thermostat for forced air heating systems
 - Duct insulation in unconditioned spaces, attics – R8, all other locations R6.
 - Mechanical piping systems – Minimum R3 if carrying fluids above 105 degrees F. or below 55 degrees F.
 - Circulating hot water systems – Minimum R3 insulation
 - Mechanical ventilation intakes and exhausts to have automatic or gravity dampers that close when system is not in operation.
 - Minimum 75% of lamps installed in permanently installed fixtures to be high efficacy lamps.
- **Simulated Performance Alternative (Performance)**
 - Building shall be provided with all of the prescriptive requirements considered to be mandatory in accordance with Section 401.2, all supply and return air ducts not completely inside the building thermal envelope are insulated to a minimum R6, and the proposed design to be shown to have an annual energy cost that is less than or equal to the annual energy cost of the standard design for the same building.
 - Show compliance through a software based compliance program such as ResCheck (free download from Dept. Of Energy website).
 - Energy Star rated certificate of compliance.
 - HERS rated certificate of compliance.
- **Commercial Buildings** – Required to meet ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1 2007

*Compiled by Emmet County Planning, Zoning & Construction Resources Office
based on the requirements of the 2015 Michigan Residential Code – effective February 8, 2016.*

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