

STANDATA interpretation 19-BCI-026

Building

Energy efficiency exemptions for oil and gas industrial buildings

Date Issued: December 2021

Page 1 of 2

Purpose

To assist in identifying certain types and uses of buildings in the oil and gas industry that shelter processing equipment which have been determined to be exempt under the National Building Code-2019 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)) Section 9.36 or the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2017 (NECB 2017).

Discussion

The NBC(AE) Section 9.36 and the NECB 2017 are the current enforced energy efficiency requirements for buildings developed by the National Research Council Canada and Natural Resources Canada as part of the commitment to improve energy efficiency of buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The NBC(AE) Section 9.36 and NECB 2017 cover a wide range of building components and systems, including building envelope, electrical, and mechanical systems.

Industrial occupancies are generally not exempt from complying with the energy efficiency requirements regardless of whether the project needs to comply with NBC(AE) Section 9.36 or NECB 2017.

Some exemptions are permitted in both codes regardless of the occupancy classification of the building. The application of an exemption is based on use, occupancy, and specific building types and is determined on a case-by-case basis. The designer needs to provide the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) with sufficient information and references to the energy code indicating why a building may be exempted.

The type or intended use of some buildings may be such that compliance with Section 9.36 or NECB 2017 requirements would be impractical.

Sentence 2.2.1.1.(2) of Division C of the NECB 2017 permits the AHJ to review such special cases and to permit exemptions.

Sentence 9.36.1.3.(5) of the NBC(AE) provides for exemptions where the building is not required to be conditioned space.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Building Code-2019 Alberta Edition

Issued by the Provincial Building Administrator

[Original Signed]
Paul Chang

Alberta Municipal Affairs – Technical and Corporate Services
Phone: 1-866-421-6929 Email: safety.services@gov.ab.ca

To sign up for our List Subscription Service go to: municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/am_list_subscription_services

www.alberta.ca/building-standata.aspx

©2021 Government of Alberta | Published: December 2021



Code references

NECB 2017 Sentence 2.2.1.1.(2) of Division C states:

2.2.1.1. Conformance with Administrative Requirements

2) The *authority having jurisdiction* may exempt a *building* or part thereof from some or all of the requirements of this Code where it can be shown that the nature or duration of the *occupancy* makes it impractical to apply them. (See Note A-2.2.1.1.(2).)

NBC(AE) Sentence 9.36.1.3(5) of Division B states:

5) *Buildings* or portions of *buildings* that are not required to be *conditioned spaces* are exempted from the requirements of this Section. (See Note A-9.36.1.3.(5).) (See also Article 9.25.2.1.)

Application

This interpretation applies to buildings used in the midstream and upstream sectors of the oil and gas industry, under F1, F2, or F3 occupancy classification sheltering process equipment and not intended to be normally occupied by persons. This interpretation does not apply to retail outlets.

This interpretation is intended to provide guidance but may not be applicable to every possible scenario. For irregular or unique cases, designers should contact the AHJ.

Interpretation

The following types and uses of buildings are exempt from mandatory compliance with the NBC(AE) Section 9.36 and NECB 2017.

1. Industrial occupancy process buildings used within the oil and gas industry and not normally occupied by persons (no offices, washrooms, etc.). These buildings are intended to shelter equipment and have limited access to workers who occasionally enter to perform specific tasks, for example maintaining or servicing of equipment.

Equipment could include but is not limited to compressors, pumps, heaters, boilers, turbines, air compressors, separators, treaters, dehydrators, chemical packages, refrigeration, deluge control systems, fire water pumps, electrical substations, power distribution, instrumentation packages, motor control centers (MCC), variable frequency drive (VFD) units, and pumping equipment.

2. Tents, air-, cable-, and frame-supported membrane structures.

This INTERPRETATION is applicable throughout the province of Alberta.