The Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code at a Glance

This document applies to new one- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, and dwelling units in R-use buildings four stories or less. Alterations, renovations, additions or repairs to existing buildings are exempt from the stretch energy code and are only required to comply with IECC Section R501 – R505 for matters relating to energy efficiency. All compliance paths must meet all mandatory requirements found on page two of this document.

Energy Rating Index Compliance Alternative

- A Home Energy System (HERS) Rating must be completed by a certified HERS Rater for all new construction
- Homes without onsite renewable energy systems must achieve a HERS Index score of 55 or less
- Homes with onsite renewable energy systems are allowed a 5- to 12-point increase in maximum HERS Index depending on the type and number of systems. See Table R406.4 for more detail
- Documentation:
  - Preliminary HERS report, description of energy features and a statement that the index score is "based on plans" for permit
  - Final HERS report, completed ENERGY STAR Thermal Enclosure checklist and copy of certificate required by R401.3 for C.O

ENERGY STAR® Certified New Homes

- The home must receive a certification from the EPA’s ENERGY STAR Certified New Homes Program, Version 3.1.
- The program requires verification to be performed by a Home Energy System (HERS) Rater
- Documentation:
  - Preliminary HERS report, description of energy features and a statement that the index score is "based on plans" for permit
  - ENERGY STAR Homes certificate, Final HERS Report, completed ENERGY STAR Thermal Enclosure checklist and copy of certificate required by R401.3 for C.O

Passive House

- The home must receive a certification from PHIUS or PHI
- The program requires verification by a Certified Passive House Consultant using PHIUS or PHI approved software
- Documentation:
  - A WUFI of PHI report demonstrating compliance with PHIUS+2018 (or newer) or PHI requirements, a statement that the report is "based on plans" and evidence of PHIUS or PHI precertification approval
  - An updated WUFI or PHI report demonstrating compliance with PHIUS+2018 (or newer) or PHI requirements, copy of Rater’s test results, a statement that report the is “based on ‘as-built’ conditions

Energy Code Questions? Call 855-757-9717 or email energycodesma@psdconsulting.com
Mandatory requirements

• Certificate (R401.3)
• Air Leakage (R402.4)
• Maximum fenestration U-factor and SHGC (R402.5)
• Controls (R403.1)
• Heat pump supplementary heat (R403.1.2)
• Duct sealing (R403.3.2)
• Duct testing (R403.3.3)
• Building cavities (R403.3.5)
• Mechanical system pipe insulation (R403.4)
• Heated water circulation and temperature maintenance system (R403.5.1)
• Hot water pipe insulation (R403.5.3) (Required for Path 1 only)
• Mechanical ventilation (R403.6)
• Equipment sizing and efficiency rating (R403.7)
• System serving multiple dwelling units (R403.8)
• Snow melt and ice system controls (R403.9)
• Pools and permanent spas (R403.10)
• Portable spas (R403.11)
• Lighting equipment (R404.1)