

Plan Review- COMcheck™ for an Existing Commercial Building 2015 IECC and 9th Edition: Commercial

Massachusetts Energy Code **Technical Support Program**







What Is Mass Save®?



- Mass Save[®] is an initiative sponsored by Massachusetts' gas and electric utilities and energy efficiency service providers, including
 - -The Berkshire Gas Company
 - -Cape Light Compact
 - -Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
 - -Eversource Energy
 - -Liberty Utilities
 - -National Grid
 - -Unitil
- · The Sponsors of Mass Save work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to provide a wide range of services, incentives, trainings, and information promoting energy efficiency that help residents and businesses manage energy use and related costs.



















Existing Buildings . . .



- ☐ Renovations dominate permit applications
- ☐ Compliance requirements can be confusing
- ☐ There are tremendous opportunity for energy savings
- ☐ Like new construction COMcheck[™] can assist with compliance documentation.

Today's Objectives



- ✓ Be able to determine the type of existing building project being proposed
 - 1. Addition
 - 2. Alteration
 - 3. Repair
- √ How to apply the Energy Code to an Existing Building Project
- √ How to apply the Energy Code to a Change of Occupancy or Use
- ✓ How to use COMcheck[™] for documentation

















Compliance and Plan Review



- ✓ In general, Energy Code does not apply to Existing Buildings (C501.2)
- ✓ Only those areas of a building impacted by the permitted construction are subject to compliance.
- ✓ Energy Code is <u>not</u> retroactive!
 - ✓ If existing systems are not impacted by new work; they are <u>not</u> required to be updated.

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Compliance and Plan Review



Example:

Project – Addition to existing offices

Background:

- Existing Offices supported by RTU w/out Economizer
- New Offices to use completely new and separate HVAC system and ducts

Compliance Requirements:

- ✓ Existing System does not need to comply with current codes
- ✓ New System for addition must comply
- ✓ If economizer is required (new system) by code it must be added; a FDD must be included
- ✓ New System may require commissioning

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Compliance and Plan Review



- ✓ Alterations, Additions, Repairs and Change of Occupancy/Use must comply with IBC, Energy Code and 9th Edition of 780 CMR 13.00: Energy Efficiency
- √ Historic Buildings are exempt from the Energy Code (C501.6)
- √ Where compliance is required Alterations, Additions, Repairs and Changes or Occupancy/Use may comply via ASHRAE 90.1-2013 path (C501.7)

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(C502) Additions . . . Chapter 2 defines an Addition as: ADDITION. An extension or increase in the conditioned space floor area or height of a building or structure. This reflects new construction added to existing buildings.

(C502) Additions . . .



✓ Addition may comply on its own merits

or

✓ The existing building and Addition may be combined for compliance

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✓ If the addition and all existing components do not increase the overall UA or energy use – the project complies.

Use COMcheck™ for the UA Calculation

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(C502) Additions . . .



- ✓ Only the Addition must comply with the Energy Code (C502.2) UNLESS the "Addition + Existing building" approach is used (previous slide)
- ✓ New Work must comply with current requirements
- ✓ Existing Building parts that are not "touched" do not have to be brought up to code.
- Any portion of the existing building that is uncovered or modified during the addition project must comply.
 - ✓ If a wall cavity is opened and found to be uninsulated the full cavity must be filled with material having an R-value of 3 per inch or greater.
- ✓ New Mechanical, SWH or Electrical must comply as if new construction

Compliance:

- ✓ Prescriptive shall comply with C502.2.1 through C502.2.6.2
- ✓ Addition can comply using ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA 90-1-2013

(C503) Alterations . . .



Chapter 2 defines an Alteration as:

ALTERATION. Any construction, retrofit or renovation to an existing structure other than repair or addition that requires a permit. Also, a change in a building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system that involves an extension, addition or change to the arrangement, type or purpose of the original installation that requires a permit.

This definition actually includes two separate definitions: one that applies to building construction and the other to building systems. An alteration is any modification or change made to an existing installation. For example, changing refrigerant types or heat transfer fluids in a system are considered alterations. This definition specifically excludes additions or repairs and also ties the term to situations where a permit is required. See Chapter 1 of the IBC, IMC, IPC and the *International Fuel Gas Code®* (IFGC®) for the information regarding when a permit is required.

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(C503) Alterations . . .



- ✓ As with Additions, new work must comply with current requirements for new work
- ✓ Any alteration to an existing system involving new work is subject to requirements of the Energy Code
- ✓ Alterations must not cause an existing building or system to be less compliant or use more energy than before changes were made.

(C503) Alterations . . .



Exceptions:

- 1. Storm windows installed over existing fenestration
- 2. Surface-applied window film installed on existing single-pane *fenestration* assemblies reducing solar heat gain
- 3. Existing ceiling, wall or floor cavities exposed during construction, provided that these cavities are filled with insulation.
- 4. Construction where the existing roof, wall or floor cavity is not exposed

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(C503) Alterations . . .



Exceptions (continued):

- 5. Roof recover
- 6. Air barriers shall not be required for roof recover and roof replacement where the alterations or renovations to the building do not include alterations, renovations or repairs to the remainder of the building envelope
- 7. Alterations that replace less than 50 percent of the luminaires in a space, provided that such alterations do not increase the installed interior lighting power.

(C503) Alterations . . .



- ✓ Changes in space conditioning
 - √ Any nonconditioned or low-energy space that is altered to become conditioned space must be brought into full compliance
- ✓ Building Envelope
 - ✓ New Building Envelope assemblies that are part of the alteration shall comply
- √ Roof Replacement
 - √ Roof replacement involves removing roof covering and replacing or repairing parts of the roof deck
 - ✓ The roof assembly is exempt if any exposed roof framing cavities are already
 filled with insulation and left unexposed
 - ✓ Most commercial applications have insulation above deck and therefore the insulation must be upgraded to meet code requirements

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(C504) Repairs . . .



Chapter 2 defines a Repair as:

REPAIR. The reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing building for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage.

- This definition makes it clear a repair is limited to work on the item and does not include complete or substantial replacement or other new work
- Repairs are not required to comply with the Energy Code

(C504) Repairs . . .



Work considered to be repairs . . .

- ✓ Glass-only replacements in an existing sash and frame
- ✓ Roof repairs
- ✓ Air barriers shall not be required for *roof repair* where the repairs to the building do not include *alterations*, renovations or *repairs* to the remainder of the building envelope.
- ✓ Replacement of existing doors that separate conditioned space from the exterior shall not require the installation of a vestibule or revolving door, provided that an existing vestibule that separates a conditioned space from the exterior shall not be removed
- ✓ Repairs where only the bulb, the ballast or both within the existing luminaires in a space are replaced, provided that the replacement does not increase the installed interior lighting power.

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(C505) Change of Occupancy or Use



- ✓ A change in occupancy that does not result in an increase in demand for either fossil fuel or electrical energy does not need to comply to the Energy Code.
- ✓ When the use of a space is changed to another use, the installed lighting wattage shall comply with Section 405.4

COMcheck™



COM*check*™ is a free software developed by the U.S. Department of Energy to assist designers, builders and contractor to determine whether new commercial buildings, additions, and alterations meet the requirements of the IECC and ASHRAE Standard 90.1.

COM*check*™ simplifies compliance for building officials, plan checkers, and inspectors by allowing them to quickly analyze a project.



Two versions are available:

- 1. COM*check*™ for Windows a desktop version
- COMcheck[™]- Web online version
 Available at:

https://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck

COMcheck™ reports are required per 9th Edition, 780 CMR

Image from www.energycodes.gov/comcheck

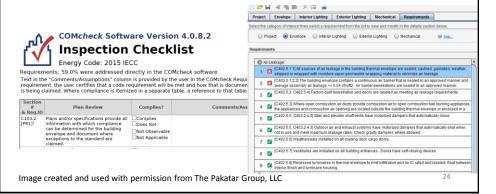
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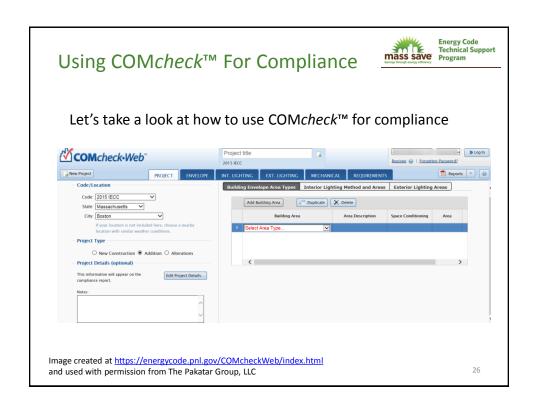
Help From COM*check*™

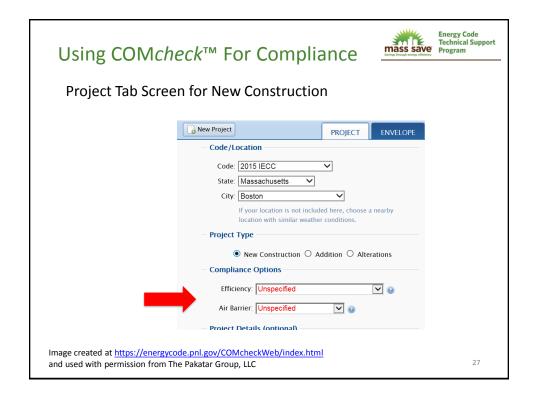


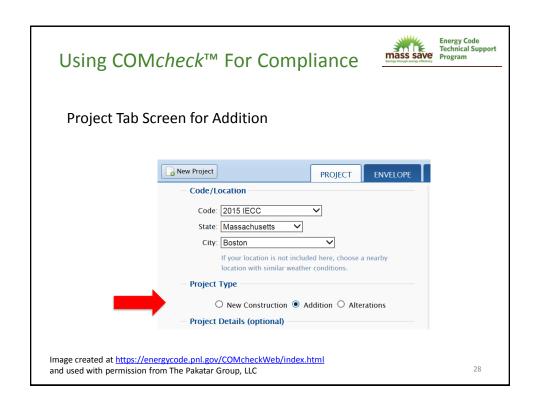
The Mandatory COM*check*TM documents are of great help in the Plan Review Process:

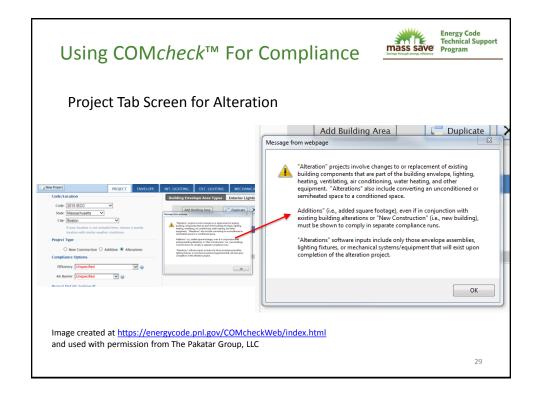
- Quality Control check for submitter
- Provides more complete submittal, saving time
- Provides plan review and site inspection document

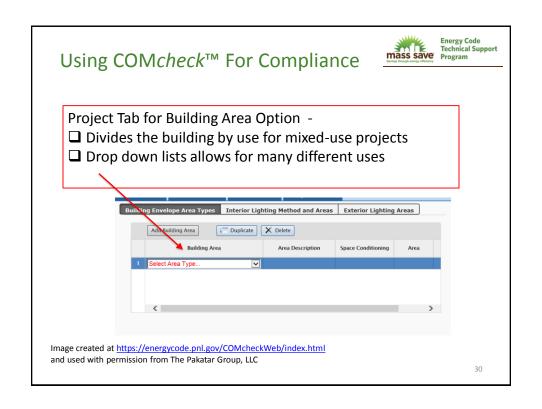


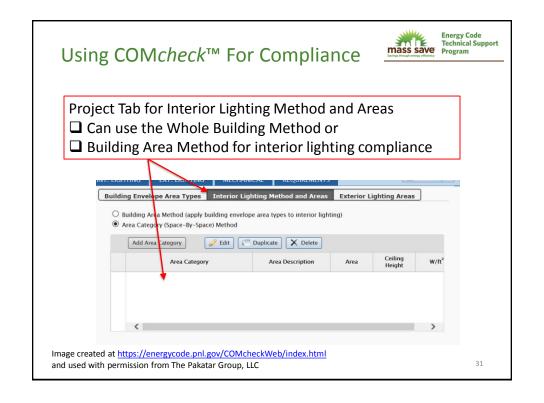


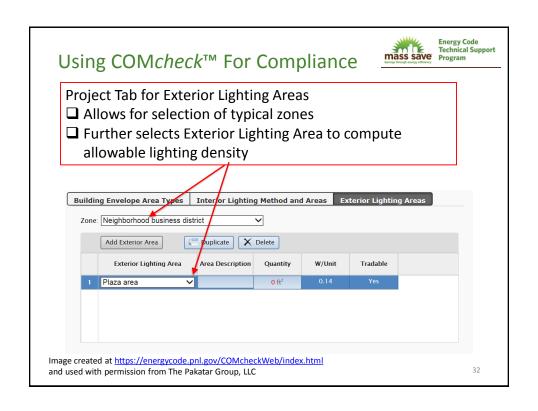


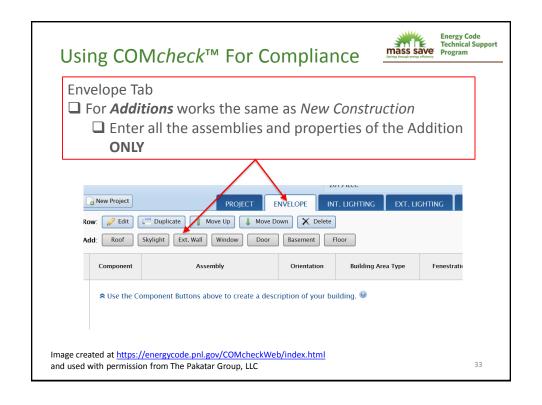




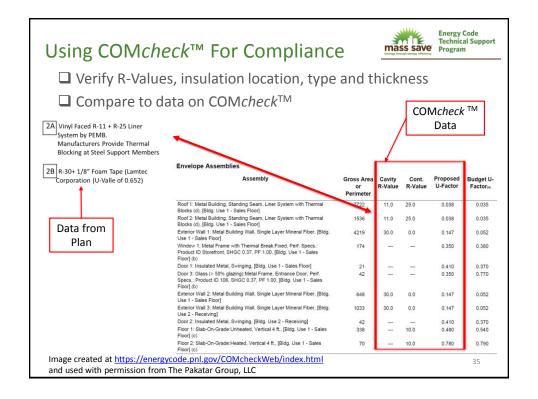


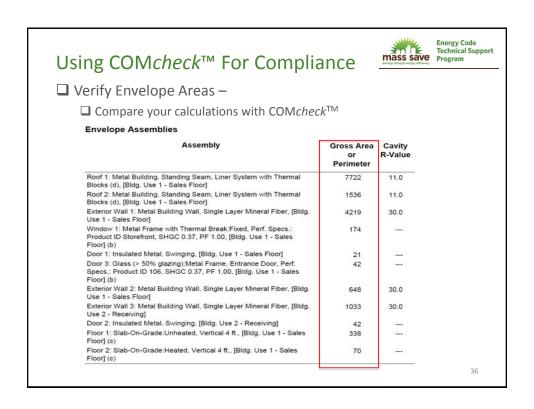


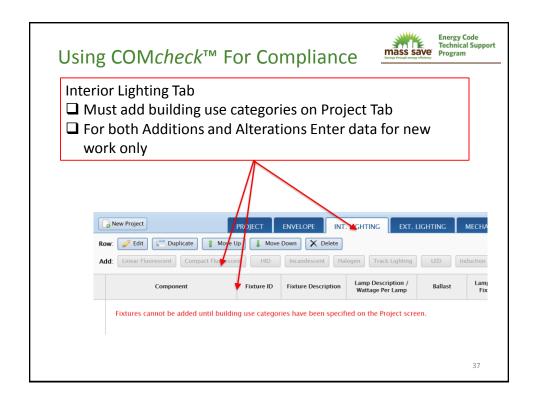


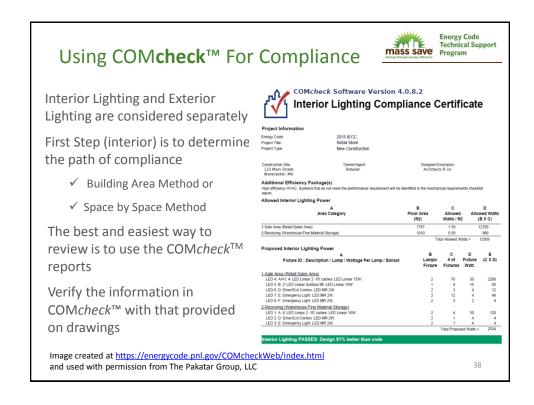


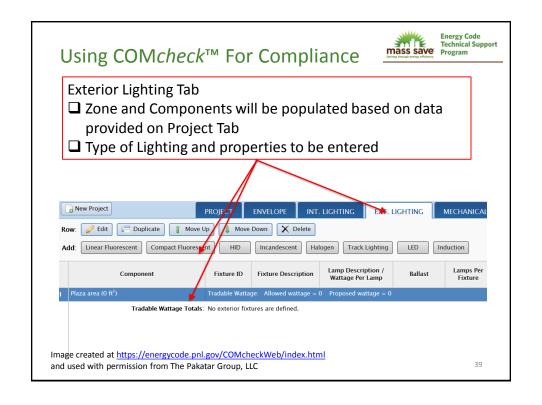


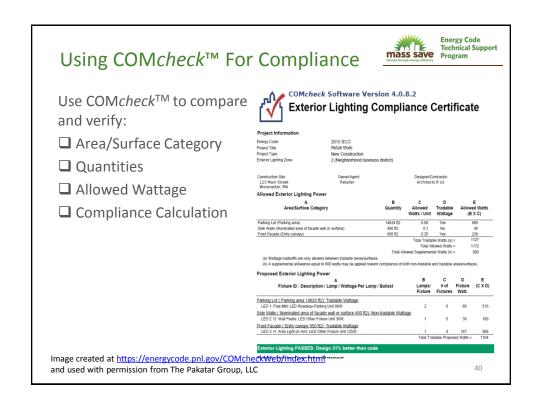


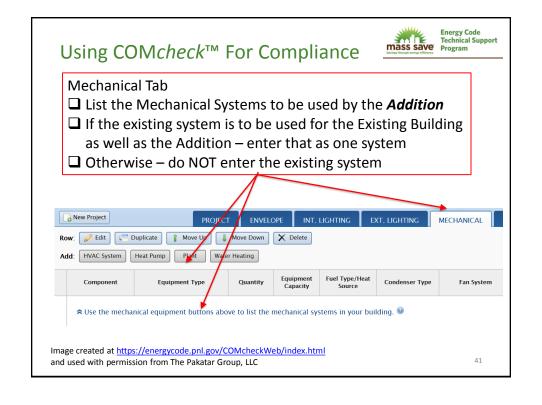


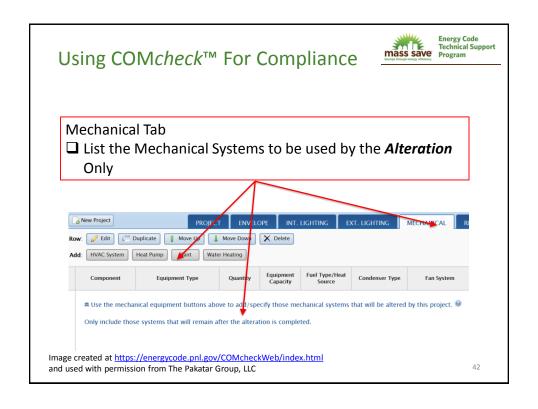


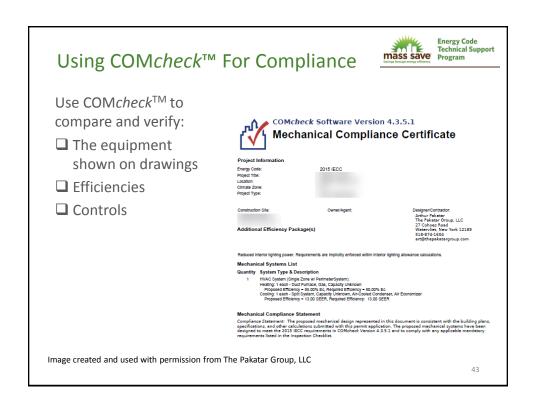














Energy Code Support



Questions about the energy code?

Energy Code Support Hotline:

855-757-9717

Energy Code Support Email:

energycodesma@psdconsulting.com

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New Buildings and Major Renovations – Commercial



- Incentives for efficiency levels beyond code and/or industry standard baselines:
 - Whole building incentives
 - System incentives including
 - Air Compressors
 - Chillers
 - Lighting and Lighting Controls
 - · Gas-Fired Heating Equipment
 - Variable Speed Drives
 - Custom Measures
 - And more

We also offer incentives and rebates for existing buildings.

Please visit www.MassSave.com for the details

