

October 2, 2014

City of Brandon Planning & Building Safety Department Adoption of the 2011 National Energy Code

New regulations for energy efficiency will come into effect on December 1, 2014, with the adoption of the National Energy Code for Buildings 2011 (NECB) as the 2013 Manitoba Energy Code for Buildings (MECB). The new requirements will affect all buildings with a permit application date starting December 1, 2014. The Regulation can be accessed online at: <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/pdf-regs.php?reg=213/2013>

The new efficiency standards will apply to the building envelope as well as fenestration, lighting, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, service water heating, and electrical systems.

While the adoption of the MECB, as a provincial regulation through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the City of Brandon is mandated to enforce the regulations through its permit process. The City of Brandon will rely on professional certificates as a method of implementing compliance with the new MECB.

To this end, the City of Brandon will require a declaration of designer responsibility for the 2013 MECB at the time of permit application for projects subject to the specific building requirements, effective December 1, 2014. In addition, the design professional will be required to fill out and submit a 2013 Manitoba Energy Code for Buildings Compliance Tool Checklist, which can be found online at http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/codes_energy.html. Despite the fact that the MECB outlines prescriptive requirements (or compliance alternatives) for all design disciplines (i.e. Electrical, Mechanical, Structural, and Architectural), the requirements are connected and need to be coordinated by a single professional taking responsibility. Professionals who are considering fulfilling this role should refer to Table 2.2.2.3 of Division C of the 2010 MBC to ensure they are eligible to review the occupancy and size of the proposed building.

Additionally, the City of Brandon will require a single certificate of compliance from the coordinating professional post construction and prior to issuing a final certificate of occupancy. Since all the construction disciplines are required to be involved in compliance with the MECB, it is assumed that the coordinating or certifying professional will have a contractual relationship with the other professionals that will be supplying their (sub)-certifications to the coordinating professional. However, the plan is that the City of Brandon will only require submission of the coordinating certificate of compliance as it relates to compliance with the Energy Efficiency requirements of the 2013 MECB.