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GREENING THE BC BUILDING CODE: FIRST STEPS

(From the B.C. Office of Housing and Construction Standards)

On April 15, 2008, Minister responsible for Housing Rich Coleman announced that new Building Code requirements to increase energy and water efficiency would come into effect on September 5, 2008. These first steps in Greening the B.C. Building Code support the province's Throne Speech commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to buildings and construction. The new requirements have been developed in consultation with industry, local governments and the public:

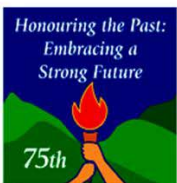
- 1. Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Houses and Smaller Multi-Family Residential, Commercial and Industrial Buildings**
 - Insulation standards for houses and multi-family residential buildings under five stories have changed. There are new insulation standards for small commercial land industrial buildings.
 - For housing, builders can choose to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 77 as an alternative to meeting the insulation requirements.
- 2. Energy Efficiency Requirements for High-Rise Multi-Family Residential Buildings and Larger Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Buildings**
 - Larger buildings must meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers 90.1 (2004) standard. ASHRAE 90.1 is an internationally recognized standard for energy efficiency in buildings.
- 3. Water Efficiency Requirements**
 - Ultra low-flow toilets (6 L) and other water-saving plumbing fixtures and fittings will become mandatory in new construction and renovations.

Details on the new requirements are available in the [Summary and Text of Code Changes](#).

Implementation

The new green requirements in the Code come into effect on September 5, 2008 and will apply to all new construction and renovations in BC. The new requirements will apply to building permit applications submitted on or after September 5, 2008.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 600 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.



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