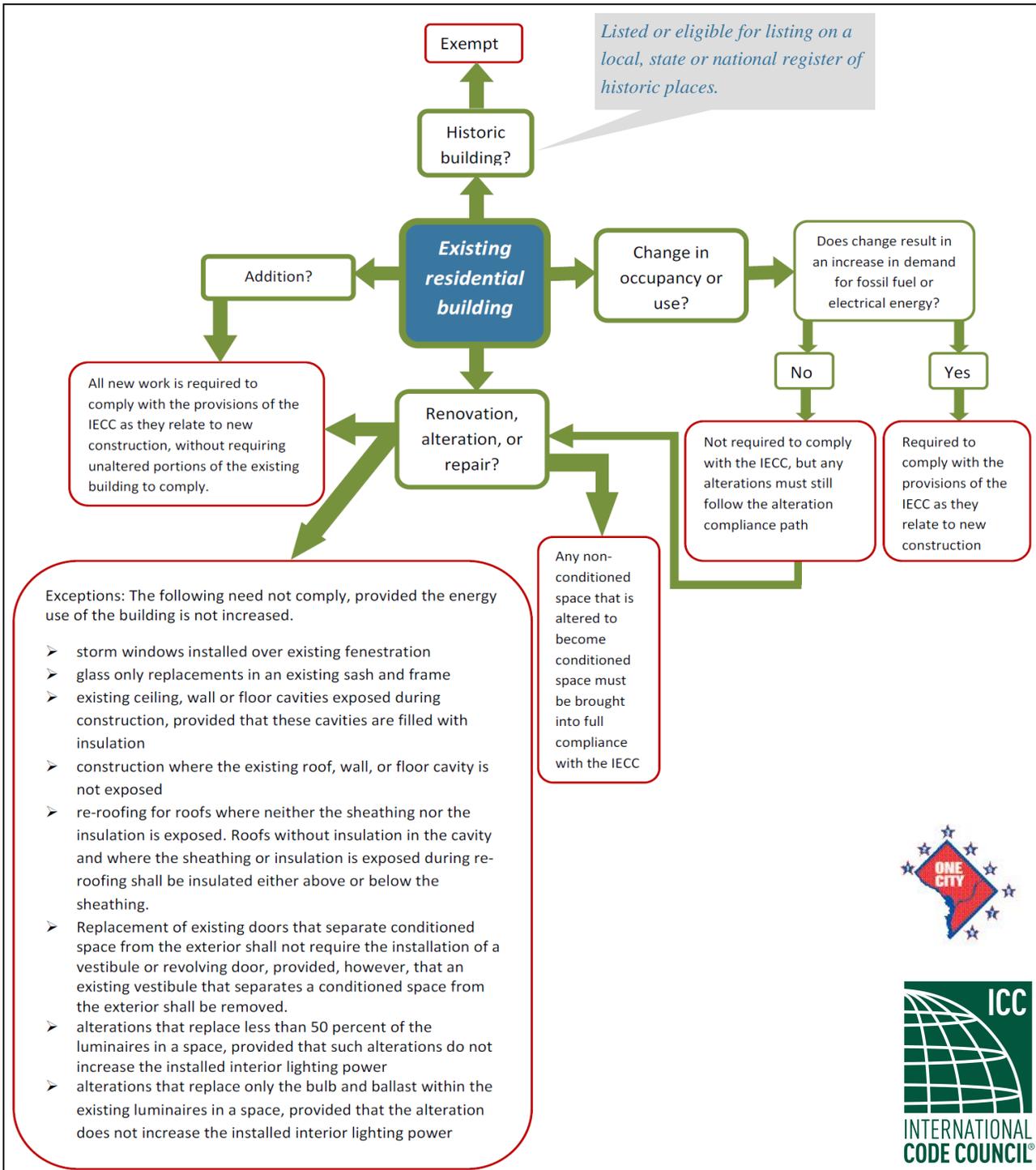
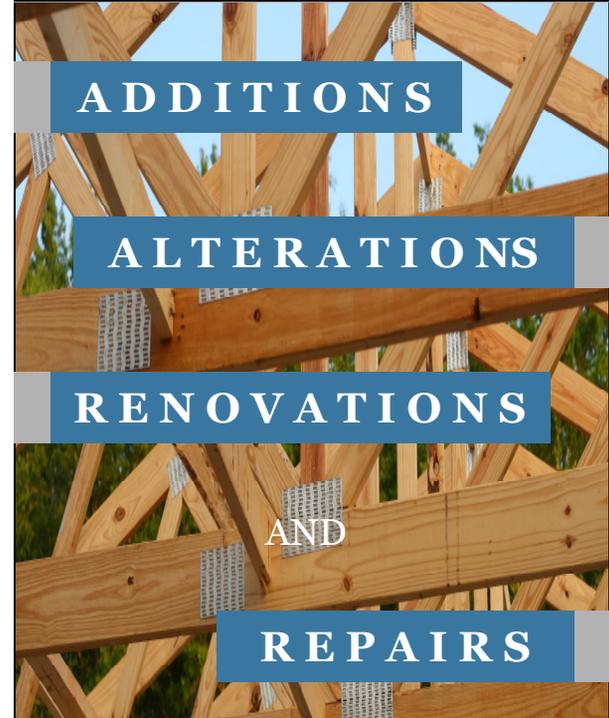


# DOES MY PROJECT HAVE TO COMPLY?



## The District of Columbia Energy Conservation Code as applied to:



## RESIDENTIAL HVAC



Phone: 202-442-4400

Web: [www.dkra.dc.gov](http://www.dkra.dc.gov)

# Definitions

**Alteration** is any construction or renovation to an existing structure, other than repair or addition, that requires a permit. Also a change in a mechanical system that involves an extension, addition, or change to the arrangement, type, or purpose of the original installation and that requires a permit.

**Repair** is the reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing building.

**Addition** is the extension or increase in the conditioned space, floor area, or height of a building or structure.

**Conditioned Space** is an area or space within a building being heated or cooled, containing uninsulated ducts, or with a fixed opening directly into an adjacent conditioned space.

**Residential Building** in the IECC includes single- and multifamily buildings (R-2, R-3 and R-4) three stories or less in height above grade.

**Building Thermal Envelope** is the basement walls, exterior walls, floor, roof, and any other building elements that enclose conditioned space. This boundary also includes the boundary between conditioned space and any exempt or unconditioned space.

# Requirements



Photo courtesy of Landis Construction



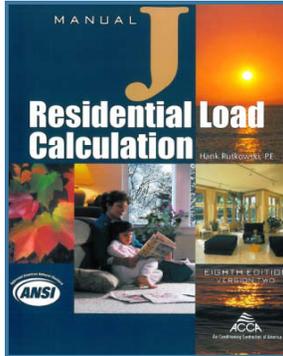
Photo courtesy of Landis Construction

Any attic or other non-conditioned space that is altered to become conditioned space shall be brought into full compliance with the IECC.<sup>1</sup>



Photo credit: U.S. Dept. of Energy

The replacement of a HVAC unit is required to comply with the IECC. This would include the sealing of the air handler, filter boxes, plenums and any connecting ductwork. Building framing cavities shall not be used as supply ducts.



When replacing an HVAC unit, or installing a new unit in an addition, it must be sized in accordance with the International Residential Code which requires sizing in accordance with Manual S based on Load Calculations according to Manual J.



When replacing mechanical system piping, it must be insulated to a minimum of R-3.

When replacing ductwork in an attic, it must be insulated to a minimum of R-8. All other ducts must be insulated to a minimum of R-6. Ducts must be sealed in accordance with the IECC.



Photo courtesy of Landis Construction

All portions of the addition shall comply with the IECC without requiring unaltered portions of the existing home to comply. An HVAC unit serving the existing home can only be used to serve the addition if doing so does not overload the system.

## Project Checklist



- Duct insulation
- Duct sealing
- Load calculations
- Mechanical piping insulation
- HVAC system replacement

<sup>1</sup>IECC is the International Energy Conservation Code and is published by the International Code Council (ICC). For more information about the IECC or to purchase a copy, visit [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

\*This brochure is NOT an ICC publication, but has been reviewed by ICC technical staff for accuracy. Specific code requirements and the interpretation thereof are the sole authority of DCRA.

Specific questions regarding your project should be directed to your local code official. Questions about this brochure can be directed to Ryan Meres: [ryan@imt.org](mailto:ryan@imt.org)