



# 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition

## Tier 1

### Adoption & Implementation

The 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition (2023 NBC(AE)) will be implemented on May 1, 2024. The Government of Alberta has provided a transition period, where applications that are submitted prior to the May 1, 2024, implementation date will be reviewed under the 2019 NBC(AE), and all applications submitted on May 1 or after, will be reviewed under the 2023 NBC(AE).

The Province of Alberta has **adopted Tier 1** as the provincial standard for Alberta. As of May 1, 2024, all newly constructed homes will need to comply with Tier 1 of the tiered energy performance. The Province of Alberta has not determined a timeline for the adoption of the higher tiers. Authorities Having Jurisdiction do not have the ability to require higher energy efficiency than what is determined in Tier 1.

### Tiered Energy Code – Tier 1

#### Energy Efficiency

To comply with Tier 1, industry members are not required to meet a building envelope improvement, or percent energy improvement for the performance compliance path. There is also no requirement for any energy conservation points to be gained at Tier 1 for the prescriptive compliance path.

Tier	Performance Compliance		Prescriptive Compliance
	Building Envelope Improvement	Percent Energy Improvement	Energy Conservation Points
1	0%	0%	-
2	≥ 5%	≥ 10%	10
3	≥ 10%	≥ 20%	Reserved
4	≥ 20%	≥ 40%	Reserved
5	≥ 40%	≥ 70%	Reserved

#### Peak Cooling Load

As the 2023 NBC(AE) is written, the peak cooling load requirements of 9.36.7 or 9.36.8 do not apply to Tier 1. Peak cooling load will be a consideration for Tiers 2 - 5. A STANDATA providing clarification on the requirement and application of peak cooling load is expected to be published by Municipal Affairs.

#### Equipment Efficiency

- The efficiency of gas furnaces has increased to a minimum of 95 % AFUE.
- The metric for efficiency for service water heating equipment has changed. For the performance compliance path, the service water heating system calculations in 9.36.5.8. have reduced loads for energy model calculations.

## Airtightness

Airtightness testing is not required for Tier 1, and there is no minimum airtightness level that builders must comply with. A STANDATA providing clarification on the airtightness requirements is expected to be published by Municipal Affairs.

*Note: This document focuses on the energy efficiency parameters of Tier 1 of the 2023 NBC(AE). It does not include the important non-energy related changes, which can be found in BILD Alberta's [Code Change Highlights document](#).*